NEWSLETTER

SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 29 November 2026

SERVING THE CHURCHES OF SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS AND SAINT JOSEPH

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	28	**Ferial**		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Holy Souls Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	**29**	**First Sunday of Advent**	**Week I**			
During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the word of God: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Pat Gallimore RIP Samuel Pickering RIP 50 Years Ronnie Connors RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	30	**St Andrew**		9.30am	St Michael's School Advent Mass	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	1	**Ferial**		7.00pm	Fernando & Maria Cristalina Viegas RIP	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	2	**Ferial**		9.15am	Fr Malachy birthday intention	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	3	**St Francis Xavier**		9.30am 1.30pm	Sam Pickering anniversary Funeral Mass for Michael Davies	Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Friday	4	**Ferial**		9.15am	Bridgie McCann's intentions	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	5	**Ferial**		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Special intention (MF) Adoration & Confessions Confessions Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	**6**	**Second Sunday of Advent**	**Week II**			
During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the word of God: Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Shirely Allen RIP Pat Egan John & Margaret Clarke RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes…..

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This weekend we begin a new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent in Year B of the Sunday Cycle of Readings. Advent is two periods; the first part up to the 17th December focuses on the many ways God comes to us each day through Word and Sacrament, in each other, and in the different circumstances we are in. This opens the way for Christ's coming to culminate time. From the 17th December we focus on recalling the first coming of Christ as the Baby of Bethlehem. This time is an opportunity to renew our 'awareness'. The theme of this Sunday is 'stay awake and alert' to God's presence. As we enter into this time let us seek to be a little more aware and allow God's presence to come anew through, and in, us

Prayer to the Holy Spirit – please pray this prayer every day

Come O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Parish Team:
Parish Priest: Canon Niall Mullaley
Assistant Priest: Father Malachy Ogbede
In Residence: Father Sijo Poulose (*Syro-Malabar Rite*)
Deacons: Reverends Gerard Boyle, Patrick Regan, Les Arch, Paul D'Ambrogio & John Birch

Parish Office: *The Parish Office is usually open 9am to 12.00 noon Monday – Friday*
10 Willowbank Road Birkenhead Wirral CH42 7JY
0151 652 5767
admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk
www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk
@stsjoeandmike StMaAAandStJosephs stphilipneribirkenhead
Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch
Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

St Joseph's Primary School Ofsted: Mr Alex Turner, the Headteacher of St Joseph's Primary School writes: "We are delighted to share the wonderful news from St Joseph's recent Ofsted inspection! I am immensely proud of our staff, governors, and wonderful children for their hard work and dedication, which earned us a **Strong standard** for personal development and wellbeing alongside **Expected standards** across all other areas. Inspectors praised our caring ethos, noting that *"pupils' behaviour is superb"* and that *"they treat each other with kindness and respect."* Thank you to our parish family for your continued prayers and support. You can read the full report on the Ofsted website (reports.ofsted.gov.uk) by searching for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Birkenhead."

St Michael's School Advent Mass: The St Michael's Mass at 9.30am on Monday morning, 30th November will be an Advent Celebration Mass with St Michael's School leading the readings, intercessions and music etc.

Livestream at Services with Children: Just to remind you all, especially with School Christmas Events and Concerts coming up in Church, that for Safeguarding reasons we are obliged to turn off the Livestream at such times.

First Holy Communion for those children who don't attend the Parish Catholic Primary Schools: The programme will start in January for those not attending a Catholic Primary School. Parents who wish their children to be prepared to receive their first Holy Communion are invited to send in your child's details to the Parish Office. Please give your Child's Name, date of birth, Parents names, address, contact number and email address. You will then be contacted with details and dates by the catechist. Thank you.

'Don't Wait' CAFOD Appeal for Gaza Families: There are CAFOD Prayer Cards in both our Churches this weekend with a 'QR Code' to scan and light a 'Digital Candle' and make a donation for families in Gaza suffering terrible hardship this winter. CAFOD have a group of supporters who will match each donation £1 for £1, doubling your donations. You can also go to: www.cafod.org.uk for more information

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for '**Wise Leadership in our World'.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **'All Working for Peace & Reconciliation'.** Please write your intention out and place it with an offering (we suggest £5 to cover the cost of the candle) in an envelope marked "Marian Lamp". We ask Our Blessed Lady to carry these prayers to her Son and to intercede for us.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE, SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2.30 p.m. ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
We held a very successful and well attended Carol Service at St Joseph's church last year. The Service will be held in St Michael's church this year. Do come along with your families and friends to gather together with our whole parish community to share readings, music and refreshments after the service.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Mellor Rd, Mendip Close, Mendip Rd, Milton Rd, Milton Rd East, Mossley Rd & Mounsley Rd.

Charity Christmas Cards from Transform Trade and CAFOD are available to buy at St Joseph's. Please bring cash. The packs containing 10 cards will be £4 and £5 also packs of 20 cards for £8.

Christmas Raffle: We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in December to raise money for Parish funds. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and boxes of biscuits for raffle prizes. Please leave at the back of St Michael's or in the Sacristy at St Joseph's. Many thanks for your generosity**. Tickets are now on sale at the back of Mass £1 a strip,** the draw will take place at the beginning of December.



Dates for your diary



Sunday 13th December
2.30 pm Parish Carol Service at St Michael's Church

Christmas Services:

Thursday, 24th December – Christmas Eve
5.30pm Vigil Mass for Christmas at St Michael's
9.00pm Mass for Christmas Night at St Joseph's

Friday, 25th December – Christmas Day
9.30am Mass at St Joseph's
11.00am Mass at St Michael's

Saturday, 26th December – St Stephen's Day Mass
12.noon at St Joseph's

Tranmere Rovers Carols on the Kop: Tuesday 15th December From 4pm with real reindeer, festive activities, food stalls and a very special visitor all the way from the North Pole. At 6pm we head to the Kop for the main event: an hour of the carols you know and love, sung together under the lights. Visit carolsonthekop.co.uk to book your free ticket and for further details.

Stay Connected with Our Diocesan Family; Keep up to date with news, events, inspiring stories and opportunities to grow in faith across the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The diocesan e-newsletter brings together the latest news from parishes, schools and communities, alongside reflections, upcoming events and ways to deepen your faith. Sign up to receive the newsletter directly to your inbox and stay connected with all that is happening across our diocesan family.
Subscribe at: http://eepurl.com/SZQOAtiYCi

Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality invite everyone to join them at Mass to celebrate the feast of The Immaculate Conception at 7.00pm on 8th December at St Hugh and St John Timperley - car park post code WA14 5HL

Hearts in Search of God: The aim of the 'Hearts in Search of God' project is to promote walking pilgrimage in England & Wales by developing Pilgrim Ways in every Catholic diocese of England & Wales. Bishop Patrick McKinney, the Bishop of Nottingham, is the project patron and promotes walking pilgrimage with the bishops of England & Wales. In the medium to long term its success will depend on the Pilgrim Ways becoming embedded in the dioceses. It is therefore important to have one or two volunteers in each diocese who will promote the diocesan Pilgrim Way and walking pilgrimage more generally. We have left out some copies of the 'Walking Pilgrimage' Promoter Role in our Churches, or for more information please go to https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk

Affordable Catholic Family Retreats In The Lakes : Castlerigg Manor is the youth retreat centre of Lancaster Diocese, located in Keswick in the Lake District. Every year, they offer retreats to families with children under 18. A great opportunity for families to enjoy the lakes and for people of all ages to spend some time reflecting, praying, and doing creative activities. The next one is December 11th to 13th, followed by March 12th to 14th. Prices start at £175 En-suite for a family of four. Email director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or check out castleriggmanor.com/events.

Advent Retreat Day for Young Adults (Age 18-35 ish) : On **Saturday 5th of December** there will be a day of recollection for young adults at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Stockport, led by Fr Joseph Fawcett-Wood and Fr Sean Davidson. Please bring a packed lunch. Schedule: 12pm Rosary with Meditations, 12:20pm Talk, 1:15pm Lunch. 2:15pm Talk, 3pm Coffee Break, 3:30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Confessions, 4:30pm - Benediction, 5pm - Mass for anyone who wishes to stay, 6pm onwards - Social. (No need to register in advance, but if you have questions please contact: stockportshrine@gmail.com)

Welcome to Jacob Richardson who was baptised in our Parish last weekend

Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Mary Boyle, Michael Davies, Christine Quinn and all those who have died recently
May they rest in peace,
in the arms of the Good Shepherd

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Cf. Ps 24:1-3	*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted: let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame*
Reading 1	Isa 63:16-17; 64:3–8	*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down.*
Psalm	Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19	***Bring us back; O God: let your face shine forth and we shall be saved.***
Reading 2	1 Cor 1:3-9	*We are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
Gospel Acclamation	Ps 84:8	*Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation*
Gospel	Mark 13:33-37	*Stay awake-for you do not know when the master of the house will come*
Communion Antiphon	Ps 84:13	*The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase*

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 22nd November £975.37 Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner:22nd November £50 108 Mary Dyer

DIGITAL DONATIONS : All banks have now significantly increased their handling charges for cash deposits made by the parish and our Wi-Fi connections here in church have proved problematic to us for some time now. For these reasons we are asking that if it is at all possible please use this QR Code with your mobile phones to make donations for your offertory rather than cash on the plate. The link will take you to Dona Donations Site used throughout the Diocese which enables us to also claim back 25p every time an individual donates £1 up to the value of £30 for each act of giving as GIFT AID

OFFERTORY PLEASE SCAN TO MAKE A DONATION

Saint Michael & All Angels Catholic Primary School
New Hey Road, Woodchurch, CH49 5LE
Head Teacher: Mrs Susan Ralph
0151 677 4088
schooloffice@stmichael-allangels.wirral.sch.uk

Saint Joseph's Parish Centre
0151 652 8487 evenings
0345 241 2485
bhj@ypcevents.com

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Woodchurch Road, Oxton CH43 5UT
Head Teacher: Mr Alex Turner
0151 652 6781
schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral/sch.uk

The parish of Saint Philip Neri sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

Saint Michael's Church Tour Video view on the website or the QR codes on the posters at Church