NEWSLETTER

SAINT PHILIP NERI
CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Sunday 8 November 2026

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

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	7	**Ferial**		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Barney & Lucy McCartan RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Special intention Mary Quinn	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	**8**	**Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**Week IV**			
During Ordinary Time (Autumn) i.e. from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest; the fruits of Human work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Intentions of Philippa Elvins Fran & Steve Davies remembrance Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	9	**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica of the Most Holy Redeemer**		9.30am	Martina Pickering birthday remembrance	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	10	**St Leo the Great**		7.00pm	Margaret McMullin Anniversary	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	11	**St Martin of Tours**		9.15am	For all who have died in War	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	12	**St Josaphat**		9.30am	Stephen Cheers RIP	Saint Michael's
Friday	13	**Ferial**		9.15am	Holy Souls	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	14	**Ferial**		10.30am 11.00am 5.15pm 6.00pm	Patsy Williams RIP Adoration & Confessions Confessions Francis & Sharmila Wedding Anniv	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Michael's
Sunday	**15**	**Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**Week I**			
				9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	Gerald McGinn Anniversary Deceased Brothers & Family Members of Catenians Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Canon Niall writes….. Welcome to this week's newsletter. As this 'Liturgical Year' comes toward a close the Liturgy focuses on being alert to the signs of the coming of God, both to complete creation, but also each day, in the circumstances of our lives. Today Jesus told a story to get a point over about not being complacent, but being prepared and ready. In the story, the parable, he uses the picture of ten bridesmaids (called 'virgins' in the new translation) in the style of a Wedding of the time. These bridesmaids have oil lamps to light the way for the bridegroom to enter into the wedding hall after dark. Five of them think they'll be OK, and don't worry too much, the other five plan ahead and have spare oil just in case. The bridegroom is late arriving, when he comes the five who had brought extra oil are ready and go into the wedding hall with him. The other five's lights go out, they try to come later when they have re-lit their lamps: "*Afterwards the other virgins (bridesmaids) came also, saying. "Lord, Lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you". So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour*." The message is clear, to not grow complacent in our service and living our faith life, but by our seeking to follow God's way through our worship, prayer and life style, we are 'tuned into' God's way, so that with God's gift of 'Wisdom' from the First Reading, God's way becomes part of our way and attitude. This enables us to stay alert in the situations of our lives, and in the people we are involved with, the circumstances we are in, the choices we have to make, we will naturally respond and act with the heart and mind of God

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*

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Live Stream: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch
Parish YouTube Channel: via www.saint-philip-neri.co.uk

November Service of Remembrance for all the Faithful Departed: The Annual Service to Remember our loved ones in this month of the Holy Souls will take place on Thursday, 19th November, 7.00pm at St Michael's Church. There will be scripture reading, reflection, and then you will have the opportunity to write the names of those who you are remembering, then these will be brought up, placed in a basket, and then you can light a candle for them. We will then pray together for those we specially remember.

QR Code and DONA Pay Stations Update: Both the Contactless Payment Stations at St Joseph's and St Michael's are now working again. The Contactless Payment Station at St Joseph's is now by the door to the Sacristy by the old votive stands. The QR Code on the Newsletter, Cards and Website is also accepting payments again. Thank you to all who have helped get these back up and running again, and thanks to everyone for your understanding

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for '**Sheila James welfare'.** The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for **'All those who have died in War'.** 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.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: Osmaston Rd, Palmwood Close, Parkside Rd, Parkstone Rd, Parkvale Rd, Pinewalks Ridge & Poplar Grove.

Vacancy in the Diocesan Finance Office: A vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Fundraising and Planned Giving Manager. Hours: Full time. Rate of pay: Competitive, commensurate with experience.
Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website:
https://dioceseofshrewsb27ury.org/careers/fundraising-and-planned-giving-manager-2
Closing date: 27 November 2026. Please contact Pauline McCulloch: recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form.

Foundation Governor for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: 'Foundation Governors' are appointed by Bishop Mark to help support the Catholic Identity of our Schools. In a Catholic School the majority of the Governing Body are Foundation Governors. One of our Parish Primary Schools, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, are looking for a Foundation Governor. If you are a practising Catholic and would be interested to help, please contact the school for further information, please see the contact details on the back page of the Newsletter and see the link below....
https://educationshrewsbury.org/governance/

St Michael's Church Cleaning: this Thursday 12th November after the 9.30.am Mass, All help greatly appreciated, thank you.

Christmas Cards: Charity cards from Transform Trade and CAFOD will be available to buy at St Joseph's from 22nd November. Please bring cash. The packs containing 10 cards will be £4 and £5 also packs of 20 cards for £8.

On behalf of Iona Waterson from SVP ST Werburgh's. A huge thank you to St Josephs parishioners for their support for the SVP Christmas toy appeal which helps families in the Birkenhead area. Donations raised £190 following the cake and coffee event after last Sundays Mass. This is a fantastic amount and special thanks goes to Margaret and Cathie for their fabulous baking, Thank you for your continued support. God Bless.

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.

Advent: This is the season of preparation for the coming of the Lord but how ready are you for Advent? Have you examined your Prayer life? Have you thought about reflecting upon the scriptures for the season?

November List:
We are approaching the time of year when as a church we remember those who have died. Each year we write up a

Book of Remembrance

to display in the church throughout the month of November. If you would like names of friends or family members entered into the book this year then please make an offering and request using the envelopes provided at the back of church or write Month of the Holy Souls on an envelope with the names of those you wish to be included and place them on the usual offertory collection. Mass will be offered each week during the month of November for all whose names have been placed in the envelopes under the title of 'Holy Souls'. (**Those whose funerals have been held in our Parish over the last year will already be included in the book)**



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th November – 7pm St Michael's Church
Bereavement Service

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

Please Pray for the Repose of the soul of Doreen Colman 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 87:3	*Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord*
Reading 1	Wis 6:12-16	*Wisdom is found by those who seek her.*
Psalm	Ps 62:2-8 r.2	***For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.***
Reading 2	1 Thess 4:13-18	*Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep*
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 24:42.44	*Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect*
Gospel	Matt 25:1-13	*Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.*
Communion Antiphon	Cf. Ps 22:1-2	*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me*

Income: Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Collection: 1st November £769.53 Monthly Standing Orders: £1654

Development Society Winner: 1st November £50 395 Anne Williams

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