



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD
SERVING THE CHURCHES OF SAINT MICHAEL
& ALL ANGELS AND SAINT JOSEPH

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 9 August 2020

Day	Date	Celebration	Psalter	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Church
Saturday	8	Saint Dominic		10.30am 11am 6pm	Vocations to the Priesthood Adoration and Confessions Katie & Les Ball RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Sunday	9	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Week III	Ordinary Time		
During Ordinary Time (Summer) ie up to September we are asked to pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers				9.30am 11.00am 5pm	Brian McLoughlin (RIP) Fran Davies (Sick) Father Humphrey Ordination Anniversary	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's
Monday	10	Saint Lawrence		9.15am	Veronica (Vera) Allen RIP	Saint Michael's
Tuesday	11	Saint Clare		7pm	Parishioners	Saint Joseph's
Wednesday	12	Ferial		9.15am	Nigel Healy	Saint Joseph's
Thursday	13	Ferial		9.15am	Margaret Brannock	Saint Michael's
Friday	14	Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe		9.15am	Ian Marchant RIP	Saint Joseph's
Saturday	15	Ferial		10.30am 11am 6pm	Bernadette McGrory RIP Adoration and Confessions Eric Catral RIP	Saint Joseph's Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's
Sunday	16	The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary	Week IV	Ordinary Time (Week Twenty)		
				9.30am 11.00am 5pm	Priests Intention Joe Green RIP Parishioners	Saint Joseph's Saint Michael's Saint Joseph's

Father Chris writes.....

Welcome to this weeks newsletter. Please note that from this weekend face coverings in church are mandatory, unless for medical reasons you are exempt. It is very important that the face covering covers both your nose and mouth and that you avoid touching it, except for removal to receive Holy Communion. Please do follow the guidance of our wonderful volunteer stewards who are working extremely hard to keep you safe whilst you are in church. We continue to pray for all those who are suffering from Covid-19, for those caring for the sick, and for their families. Please also hold in prayer those working hard to find a cure. There is that saying 'May you live in interesting times' - I think I'm praying for uninteresting times at the moment!!

Wishing you a blessed week ahead.

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

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle 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 by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

Ministers of the Word: Readers please the advice sent to you separately about face coverings and sanitising your hands.

Congratulations to Alec Davey who received the Ministry of Lector from Bishop Mark last weekend in the Cathedral. Alec was on placement with us in January and is also a parishioner. Please keep Alec in your prayers as he continues his formation for priestly ministry.

Finances: As a lot of people and charities are, we as a parish are now really really struggling financially. This has nothing to do with the merger of the two parishes - Saint Michael's was financially viable and Saint Joseph's had been just about holding its head above water for the last few years. Sadly our income, not just from the offertory collection, but from social events, funerals, weddings, and baptisms has all dropped significantly if not completely. We are well aware people are struggling too and this is not trying to guilt trip anyone - we are so sorry to have to raise the issue of money at this time. We are now classed as an extremely poor parish - I can't put it any simpler than that - we have no money. But just like you at home our bills still have to be paid, and we have tightened our belts significantly. One of the new costs has been the necessary cleaning materials and PPE necessary for our wonderful stewards - these were and continue to be unexpected costs but vitally important ones. Can you help? You may have an amazing fundraising idea or you might be willing to do a sponsored event (swim, dog walk, balancing act). Do you shop online? Then please please please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk first, search for stphilipneri and then when you do buy online lots and lots of shops will make a donation to us that will cost you absolutely nothing - it is free money for the parish. Yes, it does take a few more clicks of the mouse, but the benefits for the parish are great. Don't forget there is a donation link on our parish website or you might want to set up a standing order. Please do give this some thought and prayer - thank you.

Clergy Cafe: The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team have been running an online series called 'Clergy Cafe' on their YouTube channel each Wednesday at 4pm. Our parish has featured quite a lot in recent episodes with Father Chris, Deacon Gerard, and last week Matthew Edwards starred in the special Lourdes episode (I think another member of the team might be a future star too!). Do have a look and watch out for future episodes - well worth a watch. Links are also available on our parish social media.

Pause for Reflection - Weekly Video Reflections: The Fourteenth reflection, featuring Deacon John Birch,

should be available on YouTube and Facebook this coming Monday from 7.45am.

How have you found coming back to Mass? Some people are still unsure about coming back to our church buildings to celebrate Mass, can you share your experience to help them? Simply answer the question, 'How have you found coming back to Mass?' you might want to include how did it feel when you arrived, during and as you left and any words of encouragement to help those who are still unsure. Please email your responses to our Parish Youth Minister Clare at clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Your responses will be anonymised and used on social media and in the newsletter to help encourage and give people confidence.

Face Coverings: It is now mandatory to wear a face covering inside the church building, even if you are sitting within your household. Face coverings must cover the mouth and nose, but does not need to be a mask. When receiving Holy Communion, please leave your face covering in place until you have received the Consecrated Host in your hand and stepped to one side (notice the cross on the church floor) then slip your face covering off sideways and place the Host in your mouth. If you are wearing a mask DO NOT pull it down under your chin. As you leave church make sure you use the hand sanitiser provided.

Sunday Obligation: Please remember that the Obligation to attend Sunday Mass still remains lifted, so if you are still shielding or vulnerable you do not need to attend. Please also stay at home if you display any Covid symptoms or feel unwell.

Stewards & Cleaners: We have been very blessed with a small but very very dedicated team of volunteers who have helped us to open both our church buildings for private prayer. We still need more volunteers to enable us to open for Mass. Every time we open for Mass (and for funerals or baptisms in the future) we need a minimum of two stewards on duty. Without these volunteers we can't open for Mass. Please think and pray carefully to see if you can help, and if you can please contact Steve Goulding (Saint Michael's) or Paul Davenport (Saint Joseph's) via the Parish Office to offer your services. Again an apology in advance: if you arrive for Mass and the doors are closed it means we don't have enough stewards or cleaners to open - sorry.

Holy Communion: For the time being the distribution of Holy Communion will take place at the end of Mass under one kind only. After the final blessing please follow the directions of the stewards who will guide you out row by row. Once you have received Holy Communion you will be guided to exit the church to

head home. Holy Communion will only be distributed in the hand at this time and you are asked to extend your arms fully, the priest/deacon will extend his arms fully and place the Host into your flat open hands. There will be no verbal response to make at this time. Once you have the Host in your hand step to one side, slip your face covering off sideways and place the Host into your mouth, replace your face covering and use the hand sanitiser on the way out.

Altar Servers: for the time being we ask our wonderful Altar Servers to sit with your families.

Candles: For the moment there will be no votive candles available to light. Please think about requesting the Marian Lamp to burn for any intentions you may have.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: will be available in the Sacred Heart chapel each Saturday during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 10.30am Mass at Saint Joseph's. Please be aware of the social distancing measures in place. Confessions are also available on request at other times (subject to clergy availability) in the open air.

Funerals, Weddings & Baptisms: Until we are confident that we can manage the stewarding and cleaning of our church buildings we will be unable to host funerals, weddings or baptisms inside our church buildings. We will be reviewing this regularly.

The parish weekly rosary continues each Monday at 1.15pm from the comfort of your own home.

Newsletter Deadline: 9am Thursday morning.

Mass Intentions: We are now just about out of intentions – if you see 'Priests Intention' it means, there is no intention for that Mass. If you would like a Mass Intention please put it in an envelope with the intention and a donation and post it through Saint Joseph's Presbytery door or post it to the Parish Office.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's church we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Acrefield Court, Acrefield Rd, Bedford Dr, Beech Rd, Ben Nevis Rd & Bowness Ave.**

The Marian Lamp: burns each week in both our churches for particular prayer intentions. This week the Lamp in Saint Joseph's burns for Intentions of Alec Davey. The Lamp in Saint Michael's burns for Dave Cooper. Please keep both of these intentions in your prayers. If you would like the lamp to burn for a particular prayer intention, then please write your intention out and place it with an offering (we suggest £5) in an envelope marked "Marian Lamp". We ask Our Blessed Lady to carry these prayers to her Son and to intercede for us.

Sponsored walk to Walsingham for Youth and Families

As a way of praying and raising money for our Parish of Saint Philip Neri, young people and their families are invited to virtually walk the 196 miles (315km) to Walsingham! Each young person/family will be asked to complete a set number of miles to help us complete the journey – you could walk or cycle them! The aim is to complete our miles by the Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham on 24th September and join together for a time of prayer. Details about sponsoring our young people and families will be available soon.

If you would like to take part in this please email Clare as soon as possible so mileage can be worked out – clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Development Society Winners During the "Lockdown", whilst Church was closed, the draw for the Development Society was suspended but has now been reinstated. A huge thank you to all who responded to the appeal which appeared in the Newsletter the last two weeks. It has been necessary to adjust the level of winning payments to £50 each week and a tenth week win of £500 to reflect the money that was received. The payments will continue to be adjusted to reflect the income as it is received each week. See list below for winners since the last draw to date.

Date	Amount		
12 Apr	£1000	110	Mary Strickland
	£100	286	Mike Kivlehan
	£50	938	Peter Tarpey
19 Apr	£50	236	Phil Rigby
26 Apr	£50	430	Linda Dagnall
3 May	£50	652	Marie Langdon
10 May	£50	077	Ron Eyre
17 May	£50	161	Paul Davenport
24 May	£50	564	Ann White
31 May	£50	123	Mike Barrie
7 June	£50	250	Julie Barrie
14 June	£50	138	Sue Corr
21 June	£500	108	Mary Dyer
28 June	£50	392	Tony Burness
5 July	£50	263	Vicky Bonnett
12 July	£50	353	Teresa Arrowesmith
19 July	£50	159	Phil Rigby
26 July	£50	076	Chris Eyre
2 Aug	£50	033	Carmel Pryce

The Safeguarding Representatives for our parishes are Saint Michael's - Marie Gelling mobile 0771636925 & Saint Joseph's - Marie Fisher 01516701767

**Please Pray for the Soul of
Veronica (Vera) Allen and Francis Mallon from Saint
Michael's
and Phil Marchant from Saint Joseph's**

*May they rest in peace in the arms of the Good
Shepherd*

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Psalm 73:20, 19, 22, 23	<i>Lord, be true to your covenant, forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; do not ignore the shouts of your enemies</i>
Reading 1	1 Kings 19:9,11-13	<i>Stand on the mountain before the Lord</i>
Psalm	Psalm 84	<i>Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help</i>
Reading 2	Romans 9:1-5	<i>I would willingly be condemned if it could help my brothers</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Luke 19:38,2:14	<i>Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!</i>
Gospel	Matthew 14:22-23	<i>Tell me to come to you across the water</i>
Communion Antiphon	Psalm 147:12, 14	<i>Praise the Lord, Jerusalem; he feeds you with the finest wheat</i>

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Christopher Matthews AChLJ BA (Hons) MA
 Assistant Priest: Reverend Father Humphrey Agbim
 Deacons: Reverends Gerard Boyle, Patrick Regan, Les Arch, Paul D'Ambrogio & John Birch
 Parish Sisters: Sister Catherine Bibby FCJ & Sister Mary Hill CSN
 Youth Minister: Clare Williams ✉ clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org ☎ 07803414669

Parish Office: **The Parish Office is usually open 10am to 1pm 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

Mass at Saint Michael's is live streamed: www.churchservices.tv/woodchurch

*Our Parishes receive no outside funding and rely completely on your generosity.
 Please consider remembering the Parish in your will.*

Saint Michael's Offertory Collection

Offertory Not currently av
 Standing Orders £466.50 per month

Saint Joseph's Offertory Collection

Offertory Not currently av
 Standing Orders £1193.50 per month

Saints Club Winners

Suspended until further notice

Development Society

See inside for winners

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 & All Angels Catholic Primary School

New Hey Road, Woodchurch, Wirral CH49 5LE

Head Teacher: Mrs. Susan Ralph
 School Tel: 0151 677 4088

schooloffice@stmichael-allangels.wirral.sch.uk

Saint Joseph's Parish Centre

Greenbank Road Birkenhead
 Manager: Mrs Marge Penrose
 0151 652 8487 (after 7pm)

Closed from 23 March until further notice

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Woodchurch Road, Oxtton CH43 5UT

Head Teacher: Mr. Alex Turner
 School Tel: 0151 652 6781

schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk