



Day		Celebration	Psalter	Saint Michael's Masses		Saint Joseph's Masses	
Saturday	9	St Frances of Rome	<i>Op Comm</i>	6:00pm	Mary MCCrudden	11-12 noon	No Confessions
Sunday	10	1 st Sunday of Lent	<i>Week I</i>			9:00am	Margaret O'Sullivan (Ann)
Pray for Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers				11am	Our Seminarians	5pm	People of the Parish
Monday	11			9:15am	Annie & Jack Cronin	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday	12			9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	7pm	No Mass
Wednesday	13			9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Edith L Cain
Thursday	14			10:30am	Requiem Teresa Williams	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday	15	Special day of Prayer for the needy and hungry of the world		9.15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Saturday	16			6:00pm	Mary MCCrudden	11-12 noon	No Confessions
Sunday	17	2 nd Sunday of Lent	<i>Week II</i>			9:00am	Andrew Wallace
Pray for Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers				11am	People of the Parish	5pm	Agnes McGinn

Father Chris writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

Here we are on the First Sunday of the great season of Lent, and it is a great season. Too often we only see Lent as a time of repentance, and it is, but it is so much more than that! With repentance comes God's mercy which is transformative enabling us to become what God always intend us to be, to become holy (or fully happy), to be a joy filled disciple of Jesus Christ. Lent is not a time to be downhearted but a time to rejoice in the love, mercy and grace of our God. So cheer up!

Wishing you a blessed Lent

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*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*

Thank you to Bishop Brian for celebrating our 11am & 5pm Sunday Masses this weekend enabling Father Chris to be at the Rite of Election in the Cathedral. The Rite of Election is the formal moment when the Church recognises those seeking to become Catholics at Easter. Please pray for all those who will be baptised or received into the Church this Easter, especially Chris from our parishes.

Lenten Prayer – A time to Meditate: During Lent at St Michael's you are invited to join in a time of Silent Meditation beginning at 5pm before Mass of a Saturday Evening in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

First Confessions: This coming Tuesday evening at 6pm our children at St Michael's will be making their First Forgiveness. Please keep them, their families and their teachers in your prayers.

Stations of the Cross: On Friday evenings at 7pm throughout Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St Michael's

Deepening your faith Knowing Jesus better: The talks challenging us as Catholics to make a difference in the world around us in the areas of social action, human rights and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Speakers include the late Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Lord Alton and others. Come and join us either Wednesday night at 7.30pm in the Hazlehurst Room at Saint Joseph's or on Thursday at 2pm in the Old Presbytery at Saint Michael's. Everyone welcome and it's free too!!

The Marian Lamps: The new lamp (candle) burns at the statue of Our Lady in both our churches. The Lamp burns to ask Our Lady for a particular intention. This week the Lamp at Saint Michael's burns for our First Holy Communion Children and at Saint Joseph's the Lamp burns in Remembrance of Cyril & Dolly Brookes. If you would like the lamps to burn for a particular intention, then please contact the Parish Office or write out the intention and place it in an envelope with a £5 donation and pass it to one of the clergy. If you want a particular week, then let us know and we will try and accommodate it, but obviously we can't guarantee it.

Churches Together: In Saint Joseph's parish we are praying this week for those in the following roads: [Acuba Grove](#), [Adelaide Rd](#), [Agnes Rd](#), [Albany Rd](#), [Albert Rd](#) & [Ash Rd](#).

London Marathon: A Charity Night Fundraiser in Saint Joseph's Parish Centre on Friday 15 March tickets just £5 available from Ann Holmes. All monies raised in support of MNDA. As Ann rigorously prepares to run the marathon in London please pray for her.

St Joseph's Ladies' Group – The meeting this month will be held on Wednesday 13th March when a demonstration of Irish Dancing will be given. Please come along and get those hands clapping and feet tapping.

Companionship: At Saint Michael's after 11 am Mass every Sunday there is an opportunity to have a Cup of Tea and a Slice of Toast, as well as chat with fellow parishioners. So why not join us instead of dashing straight off home????

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Each year the diocese sets out on a pilgrimage to Lourdes and for many years a group of young adults has gone from St Joseph's Parish to help care for the pilgrims in need of assistance. This year we are inviting both parishes to come together as a Pilgrim Group for all ages and join the Diocese in Lourdes between 26th July and 2nd August. The intention is to fly from Liverpool and all stay in the same hotel. At the back of both churches there are booking forms. Please return them via the parish and not directly to the pilgrimage office.

Misio Boxes: At St Michael's can you bring your Misio Boxes into the Sacristy before the end of March.

Request for Toiletries: In preparation of fund raising for the sick to Lourdes Fund we are requesting donations of Toiletries for raffle prizes to be left in the collection boxes at the back of Saint Michael's church

Youth Ministry: Clare will be running Youth Alpha starting in May for those in Year 7 and above – can you help? It will be running on Wednesday evenings and will also involve 1 Saturday. It would be great to get a team together who can help in various ways – if you want to know more contact Clare – clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07803414669

Family Mass

There will be a Family Mass where the young people and children are invited to take on various ministries during Mass – please contact Clare if you or your child would like to be involved in some way.

What have you decided to do this Lent to strengthen your friendship with Jesus? Have you been tempted to give in yet? We heard today how the devil tried to tempt Jesus to do various things...but he never gave in. If you give in Lent isn't over...just try a little harder.

The next youth event will be on Sunday 31st March 12 noon – 1:30pm – hotdogs and art. Consent forms will need to be filled in – you can get these from Clare Williams clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Diocese of Shrewsbury Education Department: Two important opportunities have arisen for a Deputy Director of Schools and a Diocesan Religious Education Coordinator to implement sector leading support and advice within the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The roles will require individuals who demonstrate absolute commitment to delivering the highest standards of support to schools. Please see the notice board or further details of the role including an application form can be found at <http://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/curia/vacancies>

Saint Joseph's Parish don't forget to pick up the parish groups market place flyer at the end of Mass. Lent offers us an exciting time to rebuild our sense of community. See the flyer for more details.

Saint Michael's works to the roof: A reminder that work to erect the scaffolding on the church has begun before work on the roof can start. There will be limited access and parking during this work - please be patient and generous. Thank you in anticipation of your support and good will!

Rite of Election: Next Sunday all those in the Diocese who will be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church this Easter will gather with Bishop Mark in the Cathedral to be formally 'Elected' by the Church. Please keep all those seeking Communion with us in your prayers, especially Chris from our parishes.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: The fourth Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be echoing those words first heard by the Sea of Galilee, "Follow me" (Mt. 4:19). As pilgrims we will be reminded how each of us has received the invitation to follow Christ as we re-trace his footsteps on earth from Bethlehem to Jerusalem to Galilee. The pilgrimage is 21st - 28th October 2019. A few detailed itineraries are available to view at the back of church. A brochure can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website

www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org. If there are any young adults interested in making this pilgrimage, then please speak with Fr Chris.

Offertory Envelopes: St Joseph's parishioners please note that the new Offertory Envelope boxes will be placed at the back of church on Saturday 23rd March. To comply with new data protection regulations your boxes will not have your address printed on them. The boxes will be arranged in alphabetical order so please ensure that you collect the correct box by checking your Christian initial especially those with shared Surnames.

Gift Aid Donors: As the tax year comes to an end the Parish will undertake the process of claiming back the Gift Aid on donations made in the Tax year 2018/9. If you are in St Joseph's parish and your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax 9or if for any reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please contact Tom Heaney on 0151 608 4225 before the 5th of April, otherwise the assumption will be made that you have paid sufficient tax in order that the parish can claim the Gift Aid on your donations during the Tax Year.

Anonymous Letters: please be aware that anonymous letters get shredded with out being read. If you have concerns about parish life please speak to Father Chris, one of the deacons or Andy Collins (Chair of Saint Michael's Parish Pastoral Council) or Lyn Ireland (Chair of Saint Joseph's Parish Pastoral Team). If you would rather write, please sign your letter.

Cafod Family Fast Day: On Friday 15th March please eat a simple meal and donate what you save to support the vital work of Cafod. Your donation is a lifeline, together we can reach out with love to children, women and men in Gods family across the globe. Please return your envelope and remember to complete the gift aid details if you pay tax.

Envelopes are available in both churches.

What's on this week?

Morning Prayer is celebrated in both churches at 9am Monday – Friday

Sunday 10th First Sunday of Lent

Monday 11th

1:00pm Mum's n Tots @StJ

Tuesday 12th

6pm First Forgiveness @StM

7.30pm RCIA meeting @StM

NO MASS @ StJ

Wednesday 13th

10am Craft group @ StJ

4:30pm Junior Youth Club @StJ

8pm Ladies Group @StJ

Thursday 14th

9.45am Church Cleaning @StM

10am Art Group @StJ

10:30am Requiem Teresa Williams @stM

6pm Choir Rehearsal @StJ

7pm Clergy Team Meeting @StJ

Friday 15th

NO MASS @ StJ

9.45am Church Cleaning @StJ

7pm Stations of the Cross @StM

Saturday 16th

A Deacon Day of Reflection

11-12noon Please note **No** Confessions @StJ

5pm Silent Meditation @StM

5.15pm Confessions @StM

Sunday 17th Second Sunday of Lent

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Teresa Williams whose requiem is at St Michael's at 10.30pm on Thursday 14th March.



Welcome

To Freddie & Isabella Cowley, Amaya Rose Donnelly and Grace Catherine Hoskinson, who were baptised at Saint Joseph's last weekend.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Ps 90:15-16	<i>When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.</i>
Reading 1	Deut 26:4-10	<i>The creed of the chosen people.</i>
Psalm	Ps 90:1-2, 10-15 r. 15	<i>Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.</i>
Reading 2	Rom 10:8-13	<i>The creed of the Christian.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 4:4	PRAISE TO YOU, O'CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY <i>Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.</i>
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13	<i>Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.</i>
Communion Antiphon	Ps12: 6	<i>I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.</i>

Words to Reflect.... Temptations

It is an ancient tradition of the Church that we read the gospel of the temptation of Jesus on the first Sunday of Lent. There is the obvious connection that Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness, but there are deeper reasons. In each of the gospels we are told how, before his ministry begins, Jesus, filled with the Spirit, encounters the spirit of evil. It is what his ministry is all about. It is what our lives are all about. To overcome evil with goodness is the constant challenge of the gospel.

Sometimes we think only of the divinity of Jesus and forget how difficult these temptations must have been for the human Jesus. We face far lesser temptations everyday some we resist and some we give into. Jesus understands our difficulty. He will be there for us. All we need to do is ask for his help.

Let us pray for the strength of God's Spirit to put our lives to right this Lent.

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Christopher Matthews
 In Residence: Reverend Father Joseph Anchanictal Sebastian (SyroMalabar Chaplain)
 Deacons: Revs Gerard Boyle, Patrick Regan, Les Arch, Paul D'Ambrogio & John Birch
 Parish Sisters: Sister Catherine Bibby FCJ & Sister Mary Hill SCN
 Youth Ministry: Clare Williams ✉ clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org ☎ 0780 341 4669

Parish Office: **The Parish Office is usually open 10am to 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.**

✉ 10 Willowbank Road Birkenhead Wirral CH42 7JY
 ☎ 0151 652 5767 0151 522 0231
 ✉ stjosephsbh1@hotmail.com saintmichaelandallangels@hotmail.com
 💻 www.stjosephsbirkenhead.co.uk www.stmaaa.co.uk
 🐦 @stsjoeandmike  StMaAAandStJosephs

Saint Michael's Offertory Collection

Plate/envelopes £376.47
 Standing Orders £391.25 per month

Saints Club Winners (February)

1st St Thomas a Beckett Geoff Bevan £100
 2nd St Kevin Doreen Joyce £50
 3rd San Calogero Paul D'Ambrogio £20

Saint Joseph's Offertory Collection

Plate/Envelopes £683.19
 Standing Orders £1358 per month

Development Society (3rd March)

£100 504 Keith Blackmunn
 £50 728 Cilla Helen

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)

Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Woodchurch Road, Oxtou CH43 5UT

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

schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk