

Remember your mercies O' Lord.



Day		Celebration	Psalter	Saint Michael's Masses		Saint Joseph's Masses	
Saturday	16			6:00pm	Mary McCrudden	11-12 noon	No Confessions
Sunday	17	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Week II			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
Monday	18	St Cyril of Jerusalem	Optional Comm	9:15am	Teresa Williams	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday	19	St Joseph Husband of BVM	Solemnity	9:15am	No Mass or Service	11am 7pm	Mass Bert Williams
Wednesday	20		Ferial	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Tim, Catherine & Family
Thursday	21		Ferial	9:15am	Chris Hanlon	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday	22		Ferial	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Pauline's Mum
Saturday	23	St Turibio of Mogrovejo	Optional Comm	6:00pm	Ted Wooley	11-12 noon	Confessions
Sunday	24	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Week II			9:00am	Celia Wilcock
Pray for Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers				11am	Bridgit Doyle	5pm	People of the Parish

Father Chris writes.....

Welcome to this week's newsletter.

This coming Tuesday (19th) is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph - the patronal feast day of one of our parishes (Saint Michael get's his feast day in September!). To mark the feast day there will be Mass at 11am in Church with the parish primary school and at 7pm in the evening. Please come and join us for one or other or both of our celebrations. The 7pm Mass will be followed by a glass of fizz or two! It is important to mark our patronal feast days: it offers us a chance to celebrate together, an opportunity to give thanks for those priests and people who have served the parish so faithfully and have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, to ask Saint Joseph to intercede for us - the parish family and your own families. Please do come and join us. May Saint Joseph pray for us all.

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*

Music at Mass during Lent: To reflect the more sombre tone of Lent, you may hear a sung Lord Have Mercy, often using the Greek words Kyrie eleison, during the Penitential Rite. The Gloria is omitted, and the Alleluia is replaced by a Lenten Gospel Acclamation. Instrumental music, other than to accompany the singing is also kept to a minimum. You may also notice that the setting of the parts of the Mass – Holy Holy etc change with the season, and one or two responsorial psalms can be used as common psalms throughout Lent, rather than a different psalm each week.

The hymn-book number for the Gospel Acclamation, the Mass setting and the words of the common Psalm which will be used during Lent at St Joseph's, 9.00 Mass can be found in the newsletter each week.

Psalm Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord. Gospel acclamation: 184 Mass setting: 553

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.

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

Saint Michael's: At Mass on Thursday (21) we will be joined by Year 4 for their class Mass - we look forward to celebrating with them

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 Those receiving **Cancer treatment at Clatterbridge** the Lamp at St Joseph's burns for the **Intentions and Recovery of Philip Rowland**. 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: **Wharfedale Ave, Wharfedale Rd, Willowbank Rd, Woodchurch Lane, Woodchurch Rd, Woodville Rd, Wycherley Rd, Wye Close & Yelverton Rd.**

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.

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

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.

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.

Today we are told to listen to Jesus by a voice from heaven, we have to give ourselves time to do this – Lent is the perfect opportunity to make more time for prayer and to change our ways. What are you doing this Lent to help yourself change and grow closer to God? How are you getting on with the Lenten Challenges from the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team?

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 or call 07803414669

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.

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: 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 without 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: Last Friday was Family Fast Day, please ensure that you have made your donation using the Envelopes provided and completed the gift aid details. Your donation is a lifeline, together we can reach out with love to children, women and men in Gods family across the globe.

Urgent Appeal for Volunteers: Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury supports children, families and communities. We are in urgent need of volunteers to help us to support families, to help with the running of our groups at our new Centre in Seacombe and to assist in our groups in local schools. We need male and female volunteers of all ages who can reliably offer 2-3 hours per week.

If you feel you would like to join our team of reliable and friendly volunteers, please contact Rachel Hughes (Caritas Volunteer Coordinator) on 0151 652 1281 or by email: rachel.hughes@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

From the Headteacher of St Joseph's Last month, we were honoured to be invited by Frank Field to take some children down to Hamilton Square to meet the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

We took our Prefects, who represented the school brilliantly (as we knew they would!) Meghan spoke to them and asked the question "What would you like to do when you're older?". Quick as a flash, one of our girls answered "be a mental health nurse". She went on to explain how she feels this area is vital and how just like her mother, who is also a mental health nurse, she wants to dedicate her career to helping others. Mental health of children and young people is high on the current agenda, and rightly so - we are finding more and more under 10's who are exposed to the kind of stresses, worries and anxieties that we used to think were only to be found in older people. As a school, and as a community, we need to work to keep mental health as prioritised as physical health. Our school Mission statement is 'Love One Another'. We pray that we have the strength to fulfil this mission, but perhaps we should also remember to 'Love Ourselves' - we remind the children of looking after our own health and wellbeing, and where to turn to for help when it is needed.

Called to Holiness, Gifted for Mission: The second of 4 diocesan talks will be by Fr Jonathan Brandon, Wed 20th March in St Columba's, Chester (7pm-9pm). It will be repeated in Shrewsbury the following Saturday. Details on the diocesan website.

Wirral Knights of St Columba: In their centenary year invite you to an hour of prayer in St Anne's Parish Monday 18th March at 11am

Church Cleaning: On Saturday 30th March beginning at 9:30 in St Joseph's come along and join in cleaning the church making it a welcoming and tidy home.

What's on this week?

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

Sunday 17th Second Sunday of Lent

Monday 18th

1:00pm Mum's n Tots @StJ

Tuesday 19th

11am Feast Day Mass in Church @ StJ

2.30pm Funeral Service @StM

7.00 Feast Day Mass @StJ

Wednesday 20th

10am Craft group @ StJ

4:30pm Junior Youth Club @StJ

7.30pm Catholics making a difference @SJ

Thursday 21st

9.45am Church Cleaning @StM

10am Art Group @StJ

2pm Catholics making a difference @StM

6pm Choir Rehearsal @StJ

5pm Clergy Team Meeting @StJ

Friday 22nd

9.45am Church Cleaning @StJ

7pm Stations of the Cross @StM

Saturday 23rd

11-12noon Confessions @StJ

5pm Silent Meditation @StM

5.15pm Confessions @StM

Sunday 24th Third Sunday of Lent

Blessed
Broken
Poured out
Shared

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Sheila Sharkey whose funeral service is in St Michael's on Tuesday 19th March at 2:30pm followed by cremation at Landican and
Sheila Harding whose Requiem Mass is in St Joseph's on Wednesday 27th March at 10am followed by burial at Bebington.



Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	Ps 26:8-9	<i>Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, o Lord, that I seek: hide not your face from me.</i>
Reading 1	Gen 15:5-12, 17-18	<i>God enters into a Covenant with Abraham, the man of faith.</i>
Psalm	Ps 26:1. 7-9, 13-14 r. 1	<i>The Lord is my light and my help.</i>
Reading 2	Phil 3:17-4:1	<i>Our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes Christ to transfigure us.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 17:5	GLORY AND PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST <i>From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'</i>
Gospel	Luke 9: 28-36	<i>Jesus is transfigured before them</i>
Communion Antiphon	Matt 17:5	<i>This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well please; listen to him.</i>

Words to Reflect.... Change

After the stark reading about the temptations of Jesus in last Sunday's gospel we hear the gospel of the Transfiguration on the second Sunday of Lent. The story, found in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, is an extraordinary one, narrating a mysterious event which deeply struck the disciples. Jesus is seen transformed by three of his disciples. His face is changed and he wears brilliant clothing, which suggests the life of the resurrection. Moses and Elijah are with him. These two great figures from the Scriptures. Luke says that they speak with Jesus of his 'passing' his leaving this world to return to the Father, that journey through suffering and death. It is as if they provide encouragement as Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem and to death. The story of the Transfiguration is very elaborate. We read it in Lent both to focus on the triumph of Jesus beyond the cross, and to hear again the words: This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him!

Above all it invites us to accompany Jesus as he journeys through death to the life of the resurrection, a life which God prepares for us too, a life we can scarcely imagine. This week we pray for courage as we face the difficulties of life.

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 £ n/a
 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 £811.12
 Standing Orders £1358 per month

Development Society (3rd March)

£100 483 Mandy Summers
 £50 235 Margaret Upton

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