



Someone is coming!  
He will baptise you with the  
Holy Spirit and with fire.



Day		Celebration	Psalter	Saint Michael's Masses		Saint Joseph's Masses	
Saturday	12	St Aelred	Memorial	6:00pm	Eileen & Val Bevan	11-12 noon	Confessions
			Week I				
Sunday	13	Baptism of the Lord	Solemnity			9:00am	Andrew Murphy
				11am	Parishioners		
						5pm	Tommy Willmet
Monday	14	Week 1 Ordinary Time	Ferial	9:15am	Rita McDonald	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday	15	Week 1 Ordinary Time	Ferial	9:15am	No Mass or Service	7pm	Maureen Perham
Wednesday	16	Week 1 Ordinary Time		9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Dorothy Bancroft
Thursday	17	St Antony	Memorial	11.00am	Brendan Fortune (Requiem)	9.15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday	18	Week 1 Ordinary Time	Ferial	12:30pm	Celebration of Word & Communion	9.30am	Mass in School
Saturday	19	St Wulstan		6:00pm	Parishioners	11-12 noon	No Confessions
			Week II				
Sunday	20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time				9:00am	Mass of Enrolment
				11am	Brenda McKay		
						5pm	Judith Owens

*Fr Chris writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter.*

*Today we keep the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas Season (now you can take down your decorations and lights!). From today the decorations in church will be packed away, but the Holy Family will remain in the crib scene until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on the 2 of February, which was the traditional end of the Christmas Season. During these next few weeks you will still have the opportunity to contribute financially to the great work undertaken by Caritas on our behalf. Caritas are the social welfare arm of the diocese and reach out to those in need on our behalf. Caritas used to be called the Catholic Children's Society and with the name change came an increased area of work – please do support them if you can. Wishing you a blessed week ahead*

*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.*

**Donations:** A very big thank you to those who have made donations towards parish funds recently. Saint Joseph's received a one off donation which enabled us to purchase the new set of chalices we use for Mass, replacing the ones that have aged badly. Another donation was given specifically towards the purchase of the Gold set of vestments we used for the first time at Christmas. We have received other generous donations too – thank you. As parish communities we are not financially well off, so thank you for all your support. You may want to consider including the parish in your will?

**Distribution of Holy Communion in church:** A reminder that space has been set aside at the front of both our churches for those who require extra assistance or are wheelchair users. Please do come and sit at the front or encourage others to do so. If you cannot walk to receive Holy Communion please come and sit at the front and you will receive Holy Communion first. If you can't manage the walk to the front of church we will try to bring you Holy Communion in your seat, but it will only be under the form of the Host (we receive the fullness of the Body and Blood of Christ in either the Host or the Precious Blood). This is to ensure there are no undignified accidents and spillages of the precious Blood. If you are unsure, please do speak to one of the Welcome Team.

**Saint Michael's Statue of the Holy Family:** Does anyone know where the statue of the Holy Family is? The statue never made its return journey after traveling around the parish during Advent. Any information gratefully received but hopefully no ransom notes!

**Deepening your faith:** knowing Jesus better On Wednesday 16th Jan at 7.30pm in the Hazlehurst Room of Saint Joseph's Presbytery our reflection will be on 'Mary: Mother of All' and then on Thursday 17th January at 2pm in Saint Michael's Parish Room we will continue our look at the important place of Mary in our faith with ' Mary Queen of Heaven '. Please come along and join us.

**Father Roger:** has now left us to return to his beloved Latin America for the next few months; he will return after Easter. We are very grateful to Father Roger for his help in celebrating one of our Sunday Masses. Please do be patient with Father Chris now that he has to celebrate all four of our Sunday Masses again. This number of Masses is too much for one priest and is exhausting for him.

**Hospital:** if you are going into hospital for planned treatment and would like the Sacrament of the Sick please contact the Parish Office (01516525767). Father Chris will arrange to celebrate the Sacrament with you at home or in church before you go into hospital.

**Church Heating:** as the weather turns colder please help us to keep our churches warm by closing doors and not turning heaters off. Our heating bills are very high and we can all help keep the costs down by playing our part. At Saint Joseph's turning just one heater off prevents the others from working making the whole church colder! Thank you for your support.

**Parish Fund Raising** There is an opportunity to win this handmade quilt and pair of cushions made by Mary Arch as



we raffle these beautiful items to raise funds to maintain our parishes. Over the next four weeks tickets will be on sale after weekend Masses in both churches. Tickets are £1 each and the draw will take place after the 9am Mass on Sunday 10th February.

**Saint Joseph's School PTA** Will be holding a fun night on Friday 1st February with the return of Pig Racing to St Josephs' Centre. Sponsorship is being sought for both the Races and the Pigs in each race. If you are interested then please speak to Cathy Rigg or any member of the School PTA. Tickets for the evening will be on sale from next week at £10 for a family of up to 5 persons or at £3 per single ticket.

**Youth Ministry:** I bet there are not many of us who can remember our own baptism as it was probably when we were babies. When we were baptised, we became part of a great family – the family of God. Naturally we tell stories about our families, what we've done with them and funny stories about family members. Being part of God's family is no different – we have to tell others stories about Him and his love for us. Yes, this takes great courage, but can also be done so easily and in today's world very quickly with social media! So, this week, a little challenge, why not tell someone a something about God or your faith, personally or by sharing a post on social media.

We'll be starting youth meetings in February – watch this space and the noticeboard for more information or visit <http://parishyouthminister.co.uk/> [clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**Diocesan Year Book:** These are available at the back of church at £5 per copy.

**Retreats and Holidays:** At Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-Sands on the edge of the Lake District in Cumbria you can find a Retreat Centre which offers not only guided retreats but also Guest House facilities. Perhaps it is just the quiet kind of place you have been looking for? Further information can be obtained from

[www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)

**Baptism of the Lord:** Last week we marked the entrance to our home 20 † C † M † B † 19. May Christ bless this house. Today we remember our own Baptism with Holy Water and anointing with oil marking us as Christians with a mission. Take home after Mass today a bottle of blessed water to use and remind us that we have been cleansed and empowered to do Christ's work.

**First Holy Communion:** At Saint Joseph's next Sunday (20 January) we welcome our First Holy Communion children and their families to the 9am Mass for their Mass of Enrolment. Please offer them the best Saint Joseph's welcome, and support those who perhaps are not as familiar with Mass and being in church as we would hope. These young people are the 'Church of today and the hope of tomorrow' (Saint Pope John Paul II) and the future of this parish. Please also keep them in your prayers over the coming weeks and months.

**Churches Together:** In Saint Joseph's parish we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Cambridge Rd, Carlaw Rd, Cecil Rd, Elm Rd, Everest Rd, Fairview Rd & Fieldway.**

**Flame 2019** is a national gathering of youth held at Wembley Arena for young people and young adults – it's a great day filled with music, drama performances, talks and a great opportunity to meet with other young Catholics from across the country. Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team are organising tickets and transport - if you are interested in going please contact Clare Williams.

### **Vocations Weekend for young women**

Theme: Follow your Heart - Discernment and Vocation.

Dates: 15 - 17 Feb 2019. Location: Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them

### **What's on this week?**

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

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord**

Please take home your holy water

#### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

3:30pm First Communion Parents Meeting @StM

7.30pm Pastoral Parish Team Meeting @ StJ

#### **Wed 16<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Adoration @StM

10am Craft group @StJ

7.30pm Deepening Faith 'Mary Mother of All' @StJ

#### **Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>**

9.45am Church Cleaning @StM

10am Art Group @StJ

2pm Deepening Faith 'Queen of Heaven' @StM

6pm Choir Rehearsal

7pm Clergy Team Meeting @StJ

#### **Fri 18<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am Mass at St Joseph's School

9.45am Church Cleaning @StJ

#### **Sat 19<sup>th</sup>**

11am NO Confessions @StJ

5.15pm Confessions @StM

#### **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Peace Sunday**

### **RIP**



*Please pray for the repose of the souls of:*

**Rosaleen Thompson** whose funeral service is at 10am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at St Joseph's

**Brendan Fortune** whose Requiem Mass is at 11am on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January at St Michael & All Angels

**Natalie Jordan** whose funeral service is at 12noon on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January in St Joseph's

**Veronica (Vera) Donovan** whose requiem Mass is at 1pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at St Michaels.

**Pauline Burke** whose requiem Mass is at 10.30am on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January at St Joseph's

**Andrew Wallace** whose funeral service is at 11am on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February in St Joseph's

## Readings at Mass

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	Matt 3:16-19	<i>After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.</i>
<b>Reading 1</b>	Isa 40:1-5, 9-11	<i>The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.</i>
<b>Psalm</b>	Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30 4. 1	<i>Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.</i>
<b>Reading 2</b>	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	<i>He saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	Luke 3:16	<i>Some is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.</i>
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 3:15-16, 21-22	<i>While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	John 1: 32,34	<i>Behold the one whom John said: I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God</i>

**Words to Reflect...** Jesus' name day, today, in his Baptism the Spirit anoints his human nature in a new way, equipping him for his mission to battle the oppressive powers of sin, Satan, and death, and to lead his people into freedom. He is anointed or "christened" not just as saviour-king, but as perfect prophet who speaks God's final word and perfect priest who offers the perfect sacrifice taking away all sin. In our Confirmation we receive our mission and the power to carry it out. Being a "Christian" is not about just "getting saved." It's about sharing in Christ's anointing to transform the world. The mission is an essential part of the package, not an option. That's why we are called "Christians" or anointed ones. Every single one of us is called and anointed. And that's why confirmation is one of the essential sacraments of initiation. Without it, we are not fully incorporated into the Church, a missionary community. The question for those of us who have received this power-packed sacrament is – what are we doing with it?

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:stjosephsbh1@hotmail.com) [saintmichaelandallangels@hotmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelandallangels@hotmail.com)  
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 🐦 @stsjoeandmike 📘 StMaAAandStJosephs

### Saint Michael's Offertory Collection

Plate/envelopes £423.91  
 Standing Orders £391.25 per month

#### Saints Club Winners (December)

1<sup>st</sup> St Adrian Freda Johnson £100  
 2<sup>nd</sup> St Teresa of Avila Chris Hawkswell £50  
 3<sup>rd</sup> St Peter Marie Ainsworth £20

### Saint Joseph's Offertory Collection

Plate/Envelopes £642.36  
 Standing Orders £1358 per month

#### Development Society (6<sup>th</sup> January)

£100 432 T. Heaney  
 £50 379 G. Buckley

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephs-birkenhead.wirral.sch.uk)