



Newsletter

Sunday 6th January 2019



Day		Celebration	Psalter	Saint Michael's Masses		Saint Joseph's Masses	
Saturday	5	Saturday of Christmas Season		6:00pm	Warman Family	11-12 noon	Confessions
			Week 1				
Sunday	6	Epiphany of the Lord	Solemnity			9:00am	Neil Marsden
				11am	Parishioners		
						5pm	Fr John Murphy
Monday	7	Weekday after Epiphany		9:15am	Bernard Campbell	9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday	8	Weekday after Epiphany		9:15am	No Mass or Service	7pm	Tom Costigan
Wednesday	9	Weekday after Epiphany		9:15am	Celebration of Word & Communion	9:15am	Theresa Shannon
Thursday	10	Weekday after Epiphany		9.15am	Michael James	9.15am	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday	11	Weekday after Epiphany		12:30pm	Funeral Service Alice Sealeaf	9.15am	Louise Barthelmy
Saturday	12	St Aelred	Memorial	6:00pm	Caron Andrews	11-12 noon	Confessions
			Week 1				
Sunday	13	Baptism of the Lord	Solemnity			9:00am	Andrew Murphy
				11am	Parishioners		
						5pm	Tommy Wilmitt

Words to reflect... Manifestation.

Today the Christmas season is completed. The Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by those few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But today the Light bursts forth to all nations fulfilling the prophecy: "The Gentiles will come to the light, and kings in the brightness of your dawn." (Isaiah 60:3) Epiphany lifts our eyes from the family celebrations and calls us to include in our vision "all the ends of the earth." (Psalm 98) Like the three wise men, we should have the courage to follow the light of the star that we have seen, no matter the journey; our faith, like that of the wise men, now illuminated should be so strong that we are able to see and recognize our Lord and Ruler in however He may present Himself to us; and that having recognized Him, we should bow down and adore Him, offering Him our total loyalty.

Fr Chris writes..... Welcome to this week's newsletter and Happy New Year!

Today we keep the great Solemnity of the Epiphany, one of the 'showings' or 'revealings' of The Christ. This Epiphany was a revealing of the Christ to the gentiles, to you and to me. In many ways today is our feast day, the day we come to know who The Christ is and that He came to save you and me. Let us give glory and praise to God!

This weekend our Diocesan seminarians begin their pastoral placements; please keep them all in your prayers, especially Deacon Owen who has been placed in Wallasey and Alec who will be in Ellesmere Port. Please also remember Jordan who today moves to Shrewsbury Cathedral to begin a time of discernment for priestly formation. We pray daily in our parishes for an increase in priestly vocations, and the Lord is answering our prayers; men from our parishes are responding to the Father's invitation to serve him as priests. Let's make sure we keep up the prayers!

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.

Deepening your faith: knowing Jesus better

On Wednesday 9th Jan at 7.30pm in the Hazlehurst Room of Saint Joseph's Presbytery and then on Thursday 10th January at 2pm in Saint Michael's Parish Room we will continue our look at the important place of Mary in our faith, 'Queen of Heaven' and 'Mary: Mother of All', respectively, are the topics for the beginning of our new year. Please come along and join us.

Churches Together In Saint Joseph's parish we are praying this week for those in the following roads: **Cheviot Close, Cheviot Rd, Cleehill Rd, Fountain St, Frodsham St, Gayton Ave & Glover St.**

Saint Joseph's SVP This Sunday Saint Joseph's SVP brings the season to its close as they host Christmas Lunch for senior members and housebound of the parish in the Parish Centre. Please pray for those involved giving thanks that we remember the body of Christ extends beyond the walls of the church.

Charismatic Prayer For your diaries please note our meetings are on 1st February, 1st March and 5th April in St Joseph's Hazlehurst Room.

First Holy Communion For all Parents in Saint Joseph's Parish whose children **are not at the school** there will be a meeting on January 7th 2019 at 6pm in the

Hazlehurst Meeting Room in the Presbytery. Please bring your child with you to this meeting. You can register your interest by handing in your child's name and contact details to the Parish Office.

Youth Ministry:

Happy New Year! May 2019 be filled with many blessings for you all.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany - we are told in our first reading that 'your light has come'. In other words, Jesus has come to us, to be a light for us, to guide us, to be with us. However, we cannot keep this light to ourselves, we must go out and be a light to others – at home, at school, in the Parish and in the wider community. How are you going to be a light for others or share this light in 2019?

There will be a meeting for those interested in working with our Young People on Wednesday 9th January 7pm in Saint Michael's Old Presbytery. If you want to find out more, please get in touch.

clare.williams@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

My latest blog post has been published - take a look!

<http://parishyouthminister.co.uk/>

Saint Michael's Ladies' Group Saint Michael's Ladies will meet on Thursday January 10th at the Railway in Hoyle at 7pm. If you haven't booked a meal and wish to join us, please contact Sally Collins on 07907122556.

Saint Joseph's Ladies' Group Our first meeting of the new year is on Wednesday 9th January at 8pm. This is an open evening with an opportunity to chat and discuss ideas for future meetings.

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

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

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.

Thank you from St Michael's SVP A huge thank you for your great generosity during our Advent collections! The magnificent sum of £889.86 will enable us to continue to help people in need in our parish. We have already put a considerable amount of it to good use over the Christmas period and helped to bring a little cheer into the lives of many people not as fortunate as ourselves. On their behalf thank you once again.

Marking of Door Posts Today sticks of Chalk will be blessed for you to take home and mark the entrance to your home **20 † C † M † B † 19** the numbers are the date, the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing

*Christus mansionem benedicat, which means,
May Christ bless this house.*

This custom has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death; likewise, the Epiphany practice serves to protect Christian homes from evil spirits until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated. This act also represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi (and all Gentiles); it thus serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God in one's home.

Saint Joseph's School PTA They 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.

Confessions Please note that there will not be an opportunity for confessions at St Joseph's on Saturday 19th January

What's on this week?

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

Sunday 6th Epiphany

12noon SVP Christmas Lunch @StJ

Mon 7th

6pm F.H.C. Parents Meeting @StJ

8pm SVP @StJ

Tues 8th

7:30pm RCIA @StM

Wed 9th

8:30am Adoration @StM

10am Craft group @StJ

7pm Meeting for Youth Leaders @StM

7.30pm Deepening Faith @StJ

8pm St Joseph's Ladies Group @StJ

Thurs 10th

9.45am Church Cleaning @StM

10am Art Group @StJ

2pm Genealogy @StJ

2pm Deepening Faith 'Mother of all' @StM

6pm Choir Rehearsal

7pm St Michael's Ladies @ Railway Meols

Fri 11th

9.45am Church Cleaning @StJ

Sat 12th

11am Confessions @StJ

5.15pm Confessions @StM

Sun 13th Baptism of the Lord

Blessing of Water

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Alice Sealeaf whose funeral service is at 12:30am on

Friday 11th January in St Michael & All Angels

Rosaleen Thompson whose funeral service is at 10am on

Tuesday 15th January in St Joseph's

Brendan Fortune whose Requiem Mass is at 11am on

Thursday 17th January in St Michael & All Angels

Natalie Jordan whose funeral service is at 12noon on

Thursday 17th January in St Joseph's

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon	<i>Mal 3:1;1 Chr 29:12</i>	<i>Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; And kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.</i>
Reading 1	Isa 60:1-6	<i>Above you the glory of the Lord appears.</i>
Psalm	Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 r. cf. 11	<i>All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.</i>
Reading 2	Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6	<i>It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	Matt 2:2	<i>We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.</i>
Gospel	Matt 2:1-12	<i>The visit of the Magi</i>
Communion Antiphon	Matt 2:2	<i>We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.</i>

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:	<i>The Parish Office is usually open 10am to 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.</i>		
	📍	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	£389.50
Standing Orders	£391.25 per month
Raffle	£170.50

Saint Joseph's Offertory Collection

Plate/Envelopes	£646.33
Standing Orders	£1358 per month

Saints Club Winners (December)

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

Development Society 30th December

£100	569	M. Nayland
£50	222	M. Hyland

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