



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 07710 717207
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
Livestream: <https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>
E-mail: info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org

12th April 2026 - Second Sunday of Easter

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 1. THE PREPARATION OF THE SUPPER. "MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FOR US THERE" (MK 14:15)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us continue our Jubilee journey in the discovery of the face of Christ, in whom our hope takes shape and consistency. Today we will start to reflect on the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let us begin by meditating on a word that seems simple but holds a precious secret of Christian life: prepare.

In the Gospel of Mark, it is told that "on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?'" (Mk 14:12). It is a practical question, but also filled with anticipation. The disciples perceive that something important is about to happen, but they do not know the details. Jesus' answer seems almost to be a riddle: "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water" (v. 13). The details become symbolic: a man carrying a jar, a typically feminine gesture at that time; an upstairs room already prepared; an unknown host. It is as if everything has been arranged in advance. In fact, this is exactly the case. In this episode, the Gospel shows that love is not the result of chance, but of a conscious choice. It is not a simple reaction, but a decision that requires preparation. Jesus does not face his passion out of fatalism, but out of fidelity to a path freely and carefully accepted and followed. This is what comforts us: knowing that the gift of his life stems from conscious intention, not a sudden impulse.

That "upstairs room already prepared" tells us that God always precedes us. Even before we realize we need to be welcomed, the Lord has already prepared a space for us where we can recognize ourselves and feel we are his friends. This place is, fundamentally, our heart: a "room" that may seem empty, but which awaits only to be recognized, filled and cherished. The Passover, which the disciples must prepare, is in reality already present in Jesus' heart. He has already thought of everything, arranged everything, decided everything. However, he asks his friends to do their part. This teaches us something essential for our spiritual life: grace does not eliminate our freedom, but rather awakens it. God's gift does not eliminate our responsibility, but makes it fruitful.

OUR PARISH VISION & MISSION

We are a warm & welcoming community of faith rooted in the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Belonging is at the heart of what we do as members of the body of Christ. We believe worship is not just found in prayer; it's something expressed in everything we do.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026

For Priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions Fr Peter Walton R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Fr Ambrose Henley OSB at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Anna Coughlan (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Jackie Sui R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Ellen Roche R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Paul Huson	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Lourecin & Requelin Rodrigues R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Anne Gillet, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Jean Ann Nolan, Joseph O'Leary, Deacon Ben Tomnay.

PARISH

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30th July to 7th August and by air 31st July to 6th August. Brochures

can be found on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS – with Bishop Mark is to be held on Saturday 6th June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.

MISSIO RED BOXES are now due for emptying. Please ring Angela Hawkesworth on 0151 653 0884 to arrange their collection or drop them off in the sacristy at either church for collection.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – are available for collection now. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week. Over the past several years the Diocese has supported us around £20000, at the end of April I will publish the accounts for this year with a comparison for the past few years. About half of the subsidy each year from the Diocese is covered by the Gift Aid claimed from your donations. Over the coming months we also need to think about costs which can be cut along with an increase in giving to begin to tackle that deficit. Ways to help can be to consider increasing your weekly contribution even if just by £1 or £2; an easy way is if you do not already Gift Aid then please consider doing so. We are also facing an increase in bank charges; therefore, we are being encouraged to have people contribute more by either Standing Order or contactless using either the Dona station at Our Lady's or online.

EASTER SUNDAY RAFFLE – Congratulations to the winners and for a list of winners & to collect unclaimed prizes please see a helper at the back of church. Thank you for your continued support.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY will be holding their first focus group of 2026 at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL on Tuesday 21st April, at 7pm. This will be open to any Hospitality members, even if you haven't attended previous Focus Groups. You will be encouraged to review the commitments made last year to improve the way of working with each other. Fr Sean Henry, Chaplain to the Hospitality, will be attending. Please confirm your attendance by emailing secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026 – a concert will be held on Friday 24th April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS – How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm–8:30pm; 21st April – 9th June

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY RETREAT DAY to help you find out more about what is involved and what help is needed. There will be presentations on the Mission of Marriage, a Reflection on the Book of Tobit and Holy Mass at Midday. Saturday 18th April, 9:30am–4pm in Saint John Vianney parish hall, Saint Wilfred's church, Witton street, Northwich CW9 5NP. To register contact Monika: monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org / 07549 226794

MARRIAGE SUPPORT (RETROUVAILLE) – From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - if you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

A&K COMMUNITY HUB - for information about this & other activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com

SVP BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - During April 2026 the SVP will be running a series called "At a Loss" It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com.

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE - to be held at Saint John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry, CH62 5BJ on Friday 1st May at 7pm.

PIETY STALL - A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise?

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 4th April was 52, & as there was no winner the money will rollover to next week's draw If you would like to join, the next payment is due by 3rd May for draw's commencing Saturday 9th May 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! *Our latest payout was an amazing £171.35!!!!* Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

PARISH FINANCES

Sunday 5th April 2026

Offertory £813.20 (Cash); £26.25 (Standing Orders)

£57 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £13

Holy Places (Good Friday collection) £208.88

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



JOB VACANCIES

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEMBER

Both vacancies are 35 hours per week including evening and weekend work, salary is competitive dependent upon experience. SYMT is tasked by Bishop Mark to give witness in the parishes and schools of the Shrewsbury Diocese and to invite young people to youth retreats, formation days and events which the team will organise, facilitate and lead. For more information visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Closing date for both is 29th April 2026. Please send applications to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK -The immediate shortages are Shampoo, Tinned Fruit & custard, Tinned vegetables. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's. Please see the poster in the porch for further details or visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk.

STAMPS & GLASSES – These are donated to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of each church for any used stamps or glasses you have.

USED TABLET BLISTER PACKS TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY – can be donated at each church but **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ITEMS.**