

***Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul***

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**14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024 – 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**CATECHESIS. THE PASSION FOR EVANGELIZATION: THE APOSTOLIC ZEAL OF THE BELIEVER. 21. SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA: WITNESS OF THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS**

In our journey of catechesis on apostolic zeal – we are reflecting on apostolic zeal – today we let ourselves be inspired by the witness of Saint Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese saint. Unfortunately, for months Sudan has been torn by a terrible armed conflict, of which little is said today; let us pray for the Sudanese people, so they might live in peace! But Saint Bakhita's fame has exceeded every boundary and reached all those to whom identity and dignity are denied.

Born in Darfur – battered Darfur! – in 1869, she was abducted from her family at the age of seven and made a slave. Her abductors called her “Bakhita”, which means “fortunate”. She had eight different masters – each one sold her on to the next. The physical and moral suffering she experienced as a child left her with no identity. She suffered cruelty and violence: on her body she bore more than a hundred scars. But she herself testified: “As a slave I never despaired, because I felt a mysterious force supporting me”. In the face of this, I wonder: what was Saint Bakhita's secret? We know that a wounded person often wounds in turn: the oppressed easily becomes the oppressor. Instead, the vocation of the oppressed is that of freeing themselves and their oppressors, becoming restorers of humanity. Only in the weakness of the oppressed can the strength of God's love, which frees both, be revealed. Saint Bakhita expresses this truth very well. One day her tutor gave her a small crucifix and she, who had never owned anything, treasured it jealously. Looking at it, she experienced inner liberation, because she felt she was understood and loved and therefore capable of understanding and loving: this was the beginning. She felt she was understood, she felt loved, and as a consequence, capable of understanding and loving others. Indeed, she would go on to say: “God's love has always accompanied me in a mysterious way... The Lord has loved me very much: you have to love everyone ... you have to have pity!”. This is Bakhita's soul. Truly, to feel pity means both to suffer with the victims of the great inhumanity in the world, and also to pity those who commit errors and injustices, not justifying, but humanizing. This is the caress she teaches us: to humanize. When we enter the logic of fighting, of division among us, of bad feelings, one against the other, we lose our humanity. And very often we think we are in need of humanity, of being more humane. And this is the work that Saint Bakhita teaches us: to humanize, to humanize ourselves and to humanize others.

When Saint Bakhita, became Christian, she was transformed by the following words of Christ, upon which she meditated every day: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). That is why she used to say: "If Judas had asked Jesus for forgiveness, he too would have found mercy". We can say that St Bakhita's life became an existential parable of forgiveness. It is nice to be able to say about someone: "he was capable, she was capable of forgiving, always". And she was always capable of forgiving; indeed, her life is an existential parable of forgiveness. To forgive because we will be forgiven. Do not forget this: forgiveness, which is God's caress to all of us. Forgiveness set her free. Forgiveness she first received through God's merciful love, and then the forgiveness given, made her a free, joyful woman, capable of loving.

<b>MASSES FOR THE WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Saint Bonaventure	<b>9am</b>	Fr David Peters R.I.P	<b>OL</b>
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	Ferial	<b>9:30am</b>	Members of the Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	<b>9am</b>	Russel Cooke R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Saint John Plessington	<b>9:30am</b>	Thanksgiving	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	<b>16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Bosco Viegas R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*Those who are sick*

*Irene Fortune, Susan Edwards, Fr Febin Thomas CMI, Canon Philip Moor, Mgr Peter Walton, Fr Bernard Forshaw, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer, Michael Coughlan, Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Laurence Barron*

*Those who have died*

## **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 JULY 2024**

For the Pastoral Care of the Sick – that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

## **SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

This week the lamp burns for Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing) at Our Lady's and for Hannah & Dave Simpkins (Wedding Anniversary) at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

## **PARISH**

**PARISH BBQ – TODAY** in the presbytery garden after 11am Mass. There will be refreshments as well as a bottle stall and raffle. Thank you to everyone who has supported our ongoing fundraising efforts across the two churches in our parish. Enough money has been raised that you also have paid for the BBQ held on Thursday evening for our post Confirmation group & their families, any extra funds will be used to continue to support our Confirmation & post Confirmation youth groups in the academic year ahead.

**SEA SUNDAY – TODAY Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July** is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a retiring collection after each Mass to support the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. Donation collection envelopes are available at the back of each church.

**'GO TELL THE PRIESTS TO COME IN PROCESSION'** is the theme of this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 26<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August (depending on travel). We are expecting more pilgrims to journey with us this year, and it will be our largest pilgrimage since the pandemic. There are still some places available if you would like to join us. For more information, please see the pilgrimage website [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk) or phone the Pilgrimage Office on 07970943940.

**CARING CONNECTIONS – RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1pm–3pm in Our Lady's parish centre. The event is free of charge & the bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks. Hot & Cold drinks & food will be served. Caring connections aims to reduce social isolation in our local community.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHET ISAIAH** – next session, Tuesday evening (16<sup>th</sup> July) 7pm in Our Lady's. We will be looking at chapters 55–60 of the Prophet Isaiah.

**CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD?** – Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see [shrewsburyvocations.org](http://shrewsburyvocations.org) If you would like to explore God's call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath [vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**THE CHESTER ACROSS GROUP** are going to Lourdes by Jumbulance from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August. We travel overland in an adapted coach, which has seven beds on board.


Therefore, we can take some sick or disabled pilgrims and so far, we have a doctor and two nurses and several helpers. However, we need two more helpers and there is a place for someone who is sick or disabled. *The cost is £1,095 but help with costs is available. Current Passport required.* Travel Insurance is available for £65. Visit our website for an example of our care <http://www.across.org.uk/?s=AI> For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or email [tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk).

**SAINT PHILIP NERI PARISH SUMMER PARTY** – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2pm–5pm, with full afternoon tea, games & stalls. In Stella McGann’s garden or Saint Joseph’s parish centre if the weather is wet. Admission by ticket, which cost £7 available from the parish office or choir members.

**NEW LECTONARIES** – Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the cost of them. There will be People’s Sunday Missal’s available for people to buy in October, priced £20 each.

**STRONGER TOGETHER COMMUNITY GROUP** empowers members to address daily life challenges in a supportive environment. Tuesday mornings (9:30am–12pm) in Saint Joseph’s parish centre, North Road. The group is facilitated by Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

**PLANNING A PARTY OR A CELEBRATION AFTER A BAPTISM, A WEDDING, OR A FUNERAL?** Our Lady’s parish centre is available to hire for all family occasions with food available on request. Contact Linda for bookings on 07971501345.

<p><b><u>PARISH FINANCE – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024</u></b></p> <p><b>Offertory £464.30 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £20 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £19.50</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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**STANDING ORDERS** – You can set a standing order up through your online banking or via the form which is available from the parish office. If you are a UK taxpayer, please gift aid these payments.

**EASY FUNDRAISING** – Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). Thank you to everyone who supports our parish by using Easy Fundraising. ***Our latest payout was £42.94***

**SUNDAY RAFFLE** – This week’s raffle will be held during the Parish BBQ with all proceeds going to support other Parish social events. Donations of gifts/bottles etc for future prizes will be gratefully received. Last week we raised £45.70 & the winning ticket was 456.

**BONUS BALL SCHEME** – Congratulations to the winner for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July with bonus ball number 13. Payment is now due for 13<sup>th</sup> July draw so can those who would like to take part please give in your £5 ASAP. Numbers are still available to buy so please see Carol at Saint Paul’s or anyone at the back of Our Lady’s church to join the scheme for the next month.

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## **CHARITY**

**WIRRAL FOODBANK** extends a warm invitation to our Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 18th July, starting at 7pm. The meeting will be held at St Albans Parish Centre, St Albans Road, Wallasey, CH44 5UD. This will be an opportunity to share with you the work of Wirral Foodbank over the past 12 months. We will be considering in particular the cost-of-living crisis and the impact

it is having on many people in our community. Should you have any questions for the meeting please feel free to email me at [manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk)

Donations for Wirral Foodbank can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's. *The foodbank is URGENTLY in need of Tins of fish, meat, vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes, fruit & rice pudding as well as UHT milk, deodorants and shampoo.*

TABLET BLISTER PACKS - please donate used ones to support the Marie Curie charity.