

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

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**20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Easter Sunday**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 15. THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. JOY**

The joy of the Gospel, evangelical joy, unlike any other joy, can be renewed every day and become contagious. “Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. ... Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 8). It is the dual characteristic of joy as fruit of the Spirit: not only is it not subject to the inevitable wear of time, but it multiplies when it is shared with others! A true joy is shared with others; it even spreads.

Five centuries ago, a saint called Philip Neri lived in Rome – here in Rome. He has passed into history as the saint of joy. Listen to this carefully: the saint of joy. He used to say to the poor and abandoned children of his Oratory: “My children, be cheerful; I do not want qualms or melancholy; it is enough for me that you do not sin”. And again: “Be good, if you can!”. Less well known, however, is the source from which his joy came. Saint Philip Neri had such love for God that at times it seemed his heart might burst in his chest. His joy was, in the fullest sense, a fruit of the Spirit. The Saint participated in the Jubilee of 1575, which he enriched with the practice, maintained thereafter, of the visit to the Seven Churches. He was, in his time, a true evangelizer through joy. And he had this, like Jesus who always forgave, who forgave everything. Perhaps some of us might think: “But I have committed this sin, and this will not be forgiven...”. Listen to this carefully. God forgives everything, God always forgives. And this is joy: being forgiven by God. And I always say to priests and confessors: “Forgive everything, do not ask too many questions; but forgive everything, everything, and always”.

The word “Gospel” means glad tidings. Therefore, it cannot be communicated with a long face and sombre countenance, but with the joy of those who have found the hidden treasure and the precious pearl. Remember Saint Paul’s exhortation to the believers of the Church of

Philippi, which he now addresses to us all, and which we heard at the beginning: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5).

**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.

<b>MASSES FOR THE WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Anna & Kevin Coughlan Catherine & William O'Mahoney	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Monday of the Easter Octave</i>	<b>10am</b>	Billy Boylan 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	<i>Tuesday of the Easter Octave</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Nigel Salisbury R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Wednesday of the Easter Octave</i>	<b>9am</b>	Sr Marie Molloy RSC R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<i>Thursday of the Easter Octave</i>			
Friday	<i>Friday of the Easter Octave</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	<b>HC</b>
Saturday	<i>Saturday of the Easter Octave</i>			
Sunday	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Judith Christley R.I.P.	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>OL</b>

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for Peter Thomas & Family at Our Lady's and Anna Coughlan at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

<p><b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</b></p> <p><u><i>Those who are sick</i></u></p> <p><i>Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe &amp; Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Philip Smith, Eileen &amp; Julia Ward &amp; Sarah Williams.</i></p> <p><u><i>Those who have died</i></u></p> <p><i>Christine Bridge, Margaret MacPhee, Frank Morris, Edward O'Neil, Maureen Richards &amp; Brenda Wilson.</i></p>
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**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025**

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person and will help us face the crises of our time.

## **PARISH**

ASSISTED DYING BILL – this legislation returns to parliament in the coming weeks after Easter, please read the pastoral letter from the Bishops of England & Wales which was enclosed with last week's Newsletter. Please also write to our MP Alison McGovern asking her to oppose this bill, you can use the postcard which are available at the back of each church.

REQUIEM MASS FOR FRANK MORRIS – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 11am in Our Lady's church.

CAFOD's BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR - You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL – Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST COLUMBA, ST ANDREW & ST MARGARET – will be at St Annes Church, Rock Ferry from 5 pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April, with Holy Mass at 6pm & Veneration & confession at 7pm until 8pm; Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Mass at 10am , Veneration from 11am – 3pm, a talk about the Relics at 3pm followed by Benediction at 4pm & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Holy Mass Blessing with Relics at 11am then the Relics will depart for North Wales at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be provided in the Presbytery on Friday and Sunday & on Saturday in the Parish Centre.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT – the next events will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April & 2<sup>nd</sup> June, from 1pm until 3pm in A&K Community Hub formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The events are free of charge, but donations are welcome. The bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks; and hot & cold drinks & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

SUPPORTING THE VOCATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE – all those who are interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family are invited to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various ways you can help. 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or 07549226794.

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Their next course is 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Welwyn Garden City. For more information visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) or tel. 07887 296983

STREET ANGELS is a nighttime welfare team of volunteers, walking the streets of Birkenhead at weekends helping those in vulnerable & difficult situations. Making Birkenhead feel & be a safer


place to live, work & spend time at night. For more information visit [www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk](http://www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk)

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE WALLASEY ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT TWO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – for more information, please see Fr Michael.

WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY – What is wholehearted monthly? It's an online mission series which started in March for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>. The final session will be held on Tuesday 13 May from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. The speaker is Chine McDonald who is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising!

<p><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>13<sup>th</sup> April 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Offertory £ 435.53 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£0 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £14</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 one 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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – There was no winner in the draw held on 12<sup>th</sup> April with no.31, the prize money will roll over to next week's draw. If you would like to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church.

## **CHARITY**

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.

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 can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.



*Wishing you  
all a Happy &  
a Holy Easter.  
Fr Michael*