

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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5th July 2026 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 7. DEATH. “IN THE GARDEN WAS A NEW TOMB, IN WHICH NO ONE HAD YET BEEN BURIED.” (JN 19:40-41).

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our journey of catechesis on Jesus our hope, today we will contemplate the mystery of Holy Saturday. The Son of God lies in the tomb. But this “absence” of his is not emptiness: it is expectation, a restrained fullness, a promise kept in the dark. It is the day of the great silence, in which the sky seems mute and the earth immobile, but it is precisely there that the deepest mystery of the Christian faith is fulfilled. It is a silence laden with meaning, like the womb of a mother who carries her unborn but already living child.

The body of Jesus, taken down from the cross, is carefully wrapped, as one does with something precious. John the Evangelist tells us that he was buried in a garden, inside “a new tomb where no one had ever been laid” (Jn 19:41). Nothing is left to chance. That garden recalls the lost Eden, the place where God and man were united. And that tomb, never used, speaks of something that has still to happen: it is a threshold, not an end. At the beginning of creation, God planted a garden; now the new creation also begins in a garden: with a closed tomb that will soon be opened.

Holy Saturday is also a day of rest. According to the Jewish Law, no work is to be done on the seventh day: indeed, after the six days of creation, God rests (cf. *Gen 2:2*). Now, the Son too, after completing his work of salvation, rests. Not because he is tired, but because he loved up to the very end. There is nothing left to add. This rest is the seal on the completed task; it is the confirmation that what should have been done has truly been accomplished. It is a repose filled with the hidden presence of the Lord.

We struggle to stop and rest. We live as if life were never enough. We rush to produce, to prove ourselves, to keep up. But the Gospel teaches us that knowing how to stop is an act of trust that we must learn to perform. Holy Saturday invites us to discover that life does not always depend on what we do, but also on how we know how to take leave of what we have been able to do.

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 2026

For respect for human life – Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Andrew & Joe O'Leary R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Mary Dooley R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Fr Michael	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Irene Fortune R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial	12:00pm	<i>Requiem Mass for Sheila Clarke</i>	OL
Friday	Ferial	9:15am	Mary Kennedy R.I.P.	HC
Saturday	SAINT BENEDICT			
Sunday	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Joe McGagh R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard & Paul Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Moira McLaughlin, Kerry Morgan, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Sylvia Billington, Thomas Burns, Terence Joseph Caslin, and Sheila Clarke.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Graham Dixon R.I.P. Anniversary at Our Lady's and Sr Mary Brennan (Birthday) at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL – as part of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee CAFOD is helping to raise vital funds for communities affected. You can donate by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of each church or online at Cafod.org.uk/Venezuela.

PARISH BBQ will be held **NEXT SUNDAY** 12th July after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady's. Helpers will be needed to help with set-up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets or a helper at the back of church to register your support. *Donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall*, please leave them at the back of either church by Friday 10th July.

BBQ RAFFLE TICKETS are on sale £1 per strip and will be drawn at the BBQ, please keep your tickets safe until then.

SEA SUNDAY 12TH JULY is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families. A retiring collection to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) will be held & envelopes to gift aid your donation will be available at the back of each church this weekend or by texting "SEA" to 70460 to donate £5.

WIRRAL FOODBANK are seeking new volunteers to work in their distribution centres, warehouse or driving their vans. Please see the poster for more information or visit <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

WIRRAL FOODBANK FINANCE TRUSTEE VACANCY – Wirral Foodbank are seeking to appoint a Trustee with professional finance qualifications and/or experience to join our Board of Trustees and work alongside our current Finance Trustee. If you are interested in this opportunity, or know someone who may be a good fit, please visit our website for further information and details on how to apply <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

LOURDES DEPARTURE MASS – Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality will be holding a Predeparture Mass and meeting on Saturday 11th July at St Columba's Church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. We will join the Youth Section at 12 noon for Mass, followed by a meeting at 1.30 pm. Please bring a packed lunch. All members of the Hospitality will be welcome.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – the programme will continue tomorrow Monday 6th July at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more! We will meet every two weeks for an hour following the Sycamore programme a short video presentation with pauses for reflection, questions and discussion.

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. Next dates are 2nd to 4th October. To find out more visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info or phone 07887 296 983.

THE TABLET AND NEW HALL FESTIVAL 2026 – Faith in Action: Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church will be held next Friday & Saturday 10th – 11th July 2026 at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford. Join this powerful two-day Catholic festival, bringing people from across the UK together to pray, reflect and act for justice, peace and human dignity. See the poster for details.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – For information about activities held there during each week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com


WE BELIEVE FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE will be held on Friday 24th – Monday 27th July 2026, at Saint Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us at the historic and beautiful setting of Saint Mary's College, Oscott, for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. Book your tickets at www.webeliefefestival.com

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE DAY AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH – As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at Saint Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis. Please see the posters at the back of church.

BOOGIE BEARS MUSIC & MOVEMENT – Sessions at 9:30am & 11am; Tuesday @ Little Centre, Beechwood; Thursday @ A&K community hub. No booking required: £5 per child, discount for siblings. Tea & Coffee for grown-ups, snack for little ones.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 28th June was 24 congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church. The next payment is due 11th July. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 28th June 2026</u> Offertory £499.29 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £3 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £11 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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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

Emergency Food is not the solution – Through their Food Bank plus project delivered by Citizens Advice on their behalf Wirral Food bank is helping people get support with some of the underlying issues that can lead to them needing emergency food.

Council Tax reduction campaign – Some people who are on a low income are eligible for a reduction in their council tax but due to a recent policy change they could be paying an additional £34 per month. Individuals on a low fixed income are having to spend more to cover essential costs. This could result in them having less money for essentials, getting into debt & increased Food Bank use.

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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**