



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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14th December 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE PARABLES 7. “JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. THE SAMARITAN. WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE HAD COMPASSION” (LK 10:33B)

However, life is made up of encounters, and in these encounters, we emerge for what we are. We find ourselves in front of others, faced with their fragility and weakness, and we can decide what to do: to take care of them or pretend nothing is wrong. A priest and a Levite go down that same road. They are people who serve in the Temple of Jerusalem, who live in the sacred space. And yet, the practice of worship does not automatically lead to being compassionate. Indeed, before being a religious matter, compassion is a question of humanity! Before being believers, we are called to be human.

We can imagine that, after staying a long time in Jerusalem, that priest and that Levite are in a hurry to return home. It is indeed haste, so present in our lives, that very often prevents us from feeling compassion. Those who think that their own journey must take precedence are not willing to stop for another.

But here comes someone who is actually able to stop: he is a Samaritan, hence a person belonging to a despised people (cf. 2 Kings 17). In his case, the text does not specify the direction, but only says that he was travelling. Religiosity does not enter into this. This Samaritan simply stops because he is a man faced with another man in need of help.

Compassion is expressed through practical gestures. The Evangelist Luke ponders the actions of the Samaritan, whom we call “good”, but in the text he is simply a person: a Samaritan approaches, because if you want to help someone, you cannot think of keeping your distance, you have to get involved, get dirty, perhaps be contaminated; he binds the wounds after cleaning them with oil and wine; he loads him onto his horse, taking on the burden, because one who truly helps if one is willing to feel the weight of the other’s pain; he takes him to an inn where he spends money, “two silver coins”, more or less two days of work; and he undertakes to return and eventually pay more, because the other is not a package to deliver, but someone to care for.

Dear brothers and sisters, when will we too be capable of interrupting our journey and having compassion? When we understand that the wounded man in the street represents each one of us. And then the memory of all the times that Jesus stopped to take care of us will make us more capable of compassion.

Let us pray, then, that we can grow in humanity, so that our relationships may be truer and richer in compassion. Let us ask the Heart of Jesus for the grace increasingly to have the same feelings as him.

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.

| Masses for week beginning 14 th December 2025 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----|
| Sunday | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9:30am | People of the Parish | SP |
| | | 11am | Larry Long R.I.P. | OL |
| Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses | | | | |
| Monday | Weekday of Advent | 9am | Andy Malley (Birthday) | OL |
| Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church | | | | |
| Tuesday | Weekday of Advent | 9:30am | Kathleen O'Hagan | OL |
| Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome! | | | | |
| Wednesday | Advent II | | | |
| Thursday | Advent II | | | |
| Friday | Advent II | 9:30am | Keith Maxwell R.I.P. | SP |
| Saturday | Advent II | | | |
| Sunday | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 9:30am | Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P. | SP |
| | | 11am | People of the Parish | OL |

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions Brian Godwin at Our Lady's and Mary Kirwan R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

| <i>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</i> | |
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| <i><u>Those who are sick</u></i> | |
| <i>Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Joe Roper, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.</i> | |
| <i><u>Those who have died</u></i> | |
| <i>Ian McKensie & Winifred Moore</i> | |

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the middle east, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

PARISH

DECORATING OUR LADY'S CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS will take place after 11am Mass next Sunday 21st December (4th Sunday of Advent) & donations Poinsettias will be greatly received. Everyone is welcome to come & help!

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL – raised £94 every penny will go directly to help those most in need within our Diocese, providing crisis food vouchers, practical support, and the reassurance of care and compassion when it matters most. You can also donate online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk. Thank you for your continued support.

If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury at Wheatland Lane, Wallasey, CH44 7ED Tel: 0151 652 1281, email: info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - please do take cards for family, friends & neighbours to encourage them to join us for the Feast of our Lord's birth at Christmas.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Tomorrow Monday 15th December, 6pm at Our Lady's organised and performed by Our Lady and Saint Edwards school.

Wednesday 17th December, 4:30pm in Saint Paul's, organised and performed by Saint Paul's school.

ADVENT REFLECTION SERVICE at Saint John the Evangelist, New Ferry, is *TODAY* at 3pm. The service will end with Benediction.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We have started the preparation sessions for this year's Confirmation. Our next session for any young person who is in Y8 or above is on Thursday (11th December) at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available from Fr Michael.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative Christmas gifts? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise (pens £1, Mugs £6, bundle deal of one mug and two pens £7) or World Gifts from CAFOD? <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – Will take place *TODAY* after 11am Mass in Our Lady's. 1st prize is a £25 M&S voucher with lots of other prizes. Tickets are £1 and are still available to buy before Mass. Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a signup sheet is available in the porch to add your name for the next date which is Saturday 3rd January 2026.

FRIDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTION – each week after Friday morning Mass in the community room at Saint Paul's. Why not come for a brew, a short video & time to sit & chat about aspects of our faith & what they mean?

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSEBOUND – If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, please ask them to contact the Parish Office or help them to do so.

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille is not counselling or group therapy but it's a marriage support programme which helps couples to rediscover trust, hope and healing for their marriage. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296983.

PRACTICAL, CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR LIFE – “Life Charity has been my safe haven during my stormy seas.” To keep up to date with news from the UK's only charity focused on real-time, practical support to enable women to continue their pregnancy in deeply challenging situations, visit: www.lifecharity.org.uk/join-us-on-social.

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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB - for information about activities that are held at the Hub (310 Park Road North) during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHOIR – consists of those who sing at 9.30am Mass on Sundays at Saint Joseph's, with other members who sing at numerous funerals, weddings & other events in local churches and beyond. They rehearse together every Saturday at Saint Michael and All Angels church 11.00am–12.00pm. New members from all parishes are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and phone number if you would like to join 0151 652 5767 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

CATENIANS – The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other's company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact p.davenport.123@btinternet.com.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA – the order believes in charity, unity & fraternity, over many years they have helped priests, parishes & our Catholic schools & many projects internationally. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. Please contact Tony Connolly on 07950 392193.

PARISH FINANCES

7th December 2025

**Offertory – £448.80 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £12.**

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



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 – The winning number on Saturday 6th December was 40 & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to continue or join, the next payment **IS NOW DUE** for draw's commencing on 20th December. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you to everyone who has supported Wirral Foodbank's Reverse Advent calendar, it really does make a difference. Please do continue your support over Christmas and into the New Year, donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's.

If you have collected the items for the reverse advent calendar, please leave them this week either in the sacristy at 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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY – can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.