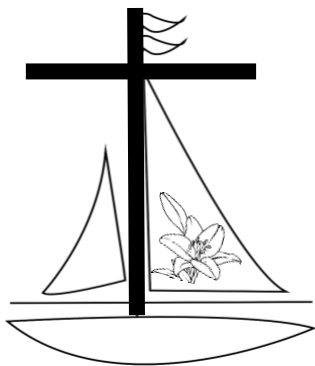




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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2nd August 2026 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS 9. THE RESURRECTION. “PEACE BE WITH YOU!” (JN 20:21)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The centre of our faith and the heart of our hope are firmly rooted in the resurrection of Christ. When we read the Gospels carefully, we realize that this mystery is surprising not only because a man – the Son of God – rose from the dead, but also because of the way he decided to do so. Indeed, Jesus’ resurrection is not a bombastic triumph, nor is it revenge or retaliation against his enemies. It is a wonderful testimony to how love is capable of rising again after a great defeat in order to continue its unstoppable journey.

When we get up again after a trauma caused by others, often the first reaction is anger, the desire to make someone pay for what we have suffered. The Risen One does not react in this way. When he emerges from the underworld of death, Jesus does not take revenge. He does not return with gestures of power, but rather with meekness he manifests the joy of a love greater than any wound and stronger than any betrayal.

The Risen One does not feel any need to reiterate or affirm his own superiority. He appears to his friends – the disciples – and he does so with extreme discretion, without forcing the pace of their capacity for acceptance. His only desire is to return to communion with them, helping them to overcome the sense of guilt. We see this very well in the Upper Room, where the Lord appears to his friends who are enclosed in fear. It is a moment that expresses extraordinary power: Jesus, after descending into the abysses of death to liberate those who were imprisoned there, enters the closed room of those who are paralyzed by fear, bringing them a gift that no-one would have dared to hope for: peace.

His greeting is simple, almost ordinary: “Peace be with you!” (Jn 20:19). But it is accompanied by a gesture so beautiful that it is almost disconcerting: Jesus shows the disciples his hands and his side, with the marks of the passion. Why show his wounds to those who, in those dramatic hours, had denied and abandoned him? Why not hide those signs of pain and avoid reopening the wound of shame?

Yet, the Gospel says that, seeing the Lord, the disciples rejoiced (cf. Jn 20:20). The reason is profound: Jesus is now fully reconciled with everything he has suffered. There is not a

shadow of resentment. The wounds serve not to reproach, but to confirm a love stronger than any infidelity. They are the proof that, even in the moment of our failure, God did not retreat. He did not give up on us.

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				
Sunday	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Carol Dalziel R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Saint Oswald</i>	12pm	REQUIEM MASS FOR THOMAS BURNS	OL
Tuesday	<i>Saint John Vianney</i>			
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD			
Friday	Ferial			
Saturday	<i>Saint Dominic</i>			
Sunday	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Gloria Brightmore R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Sylvia Brady, Thomas Burns, Carol Dalziel, Moira McLaughlin & Edward Stourton

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2026

For evangelisation in the city – that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage at Our Lady's and Sr Damien O'Mahoney at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – On Wednesday our Youth section departed for the 75th Anniversary Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes & the main pilgrimage left by coach on Thursday & the planes on Friday. Join us *TOMORROW* for the Grotto Mass at 10am (9am UK time). The Mass will be available to watch on Lourdes TV, via the Sanctuaries website <https://www.lourdes-france.com>

Please remember us in your prayers, as we will remember you in ours. This year Bishop Mark has invited the Pilgrimage to pray for the following intentions:

- ❖ For our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
- ❖ For all who have gone before us in the pilgrimage of Lourdes over the 75 years of our Diocesan Pilgrimage.
- ❖ That we and all pilgrims will respond to the message of prayer and conversion, walking together in Eucharistic faith and love, all our lives.
- ❖ That we will generously respond to our calling and for an abundance of new vocations in our Diocese to the great callings of Marriage, the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life.
- ❖ For the peace of the world amid many dangers and conflicts.
- ❖ That the threat of euthanasia to the sick and the aged will be averted and the lives of the most vulnerable cherished and safeguarded.
- ❖ That through the pilgrimage of life we will always remain in the joy of the Gospel.

WIRRAL FOODBANK are seeking new volunteers. Please see the poster for more information or visit <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE – Act now, contact our MP Alison McGovern. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11th September 2026. Our clear principled objection to this Bill remains and we renew our call for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation: "This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

"MASS TOURISM" – Many of you are going to be away over the summer. This is a time when we forget all our normal routines, and Mass is often one of them. We have a hazy memory of hearing that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended "for travellers" and don't ask ourselves whether someone within easy reach of every facility civilisation can offer, including churches, really counts as a traveller in that sense. This is a pity because far from being the reluctant execution of an irksome obligation, "Mass tourism" is a rich and fulfilling activity. The Church is universal, which means that

we are part of it wherever we go. To go to Mass means instant belonging. Instead of being in a (more or less) picturesque location ornamented with (more or less) picturesque personages, you are in a real place, doing, with real people, what real people do. I strongly recommend that if you are going away, you make it part of your planning to establish where the churches are and what the times of Masses are. Don't hold obstinately to Sundays either. There are enriching experiences to be had on any day of the week. *Taken from the Universalis newsletter, July 2024.*

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – the programme will resume on Monday 7th September at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more!

CARD MACHINE – There is now a card machine for payment at both churches, this can be used for offertory giving as well as paying for Mass intentions, items from Piety stall etc.

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 25th July was 50 congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to continue, the next payment is due 16th August or to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church. 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!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 26th July 2026</u> Offertory £360.45 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £3 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £17 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	
To donate online, please scan the QR code.	

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.**