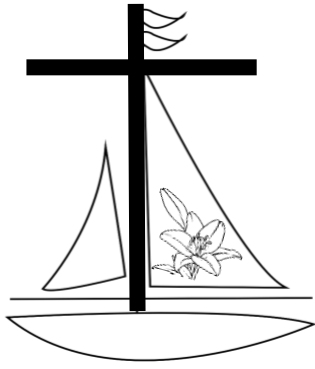




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 652 5655
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
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3rd August 2025 – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 6. “THEY SAW THE CHILD ... THEY PROSTRATED THEMSELVES AND DID HIM HOMAGE” (MT 2:11). THE VISIT OF THE MAGI TO THE NEWBORN KING

In the Gospels of the childhood of Jesus there is an episode which is exclusive to Matthew’s narrative: the *visit of the Magi*. Attracted by the appearance of a star, which in many cultures is the harbinger of the birth of an exceptional person, some wise men set out on a journey from the east, without knowing exactly where they will go. They are the Magi, people who do not belong to the people of the covenant. The last time we spoke about the shepherds of Bethlehem, marginalized by Hebrew society because they were considered “impure”; today we encounter another category, the foreigners, who immediately arrive to pay homage to the Son of God who entered into history with an entirely unprecedented kingship. Hence, the Gospels tell us clearly that the poor and foreigners are invited among the first to meet God made child, the Saviour of the world.

The Magi were considered to be representatives both of the primordial races, generated by the three sons of Noah, and of the three continents known in antiquity, Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as the three phases of human life: youth, maturity and old age. Aside from all possible interpretations, they are men who do not stay still but, like the great chosen ones of biblical history, feel the need to move, to go forth. They are men who are able to look beyond themselves, who know how to look upwards.

The attraction for the star that appeared in the sky sets them on the move to the land of Judaea, to Jerusalem, where they meet King Herod. Their naivety and trust in asking for information about the newborn king of the Jews clashes with the shrewdness of Herod, who, troubled by the fear of losing his throne, immediately tries to obtain a better view, contacting the scribes and asking them to investigate.

The power of the earthly ruler thus shows all his weakness. The experts know the Scriptures and refer to the king the place where, according to Micah’s prophecy, the leader and shepherd of the people of Israel should be born (Mi 5:1): little Bethlehem, and not great Jerusalem! Indeed, as Paul reminds the Corinthians, “God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor 1:27).

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 THE WEEK				
Sunday	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Saint John Vianney	9am	Maurice Cranney R.I.P.	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	13:30pm	REQUIEM MASS FOR RITA CLARK	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	The Transfiguration of the Lord	9am	Margaret, Mary & Michael Walsh	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Saint Dominic	9:30am	Sr Helena McGilly R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross			
Sunday	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Phil Sindall	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Don Bewley (Healing) 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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2025

For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, Steven Sales & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

PARISH

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE – Chester Across Group are going to Lourdes from 14th to 23rd August. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims and for nurses and helpers. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk

SUPPORTING OUR PENSIONERS – A&K Community Hub (formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre) are hosting a free of charge *Live Entertainment Light Lunch* this Wednesday 6th August 12:30pm to 2:30pm pm. for pensioners. For further information for this and other activities that are held there during the week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - In September, the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme called “*At a Loss*” It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com or speak to an SVP member.

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. The next programme is to be held from 17th-19th October. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 0788 7296983.

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.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? - Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fr Roger Clarke & Fr John Feeney on their Diamond & Golden Jubilees of priesthood respectively. We wish Fr John a happy retirement as he leaves Leasowe & Moreton. In September we welcome Fr Paschal as the new priest in charge of Leasowe & Moreton.

“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.*

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.

JOB VACANCY - FAITH IN ACTION PROJECT WORKER ROLE - The Student Christian Movement (SCM) are looking to hire a Senior Administrator to join their team. They will work across the charity, acting as secretary to their board of Trustees, be responsible for HR and payroll function, act as line manager to two administrators, and add to the sustainability of the organisation by writing and submitting robust trust funding applications. The closing date for applications is 7th August 2025 at 12 noon. More information and an application form can be found at: <https://www.movement.org.uk/vacancies>

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. 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>20th July 2025</u>	
Revised Offertory Collection Amount – £459.97 (cash)	
<u>27th July 2025</u>	
Offertory – £306.02 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)	
Card £45.00; Zambia/Caritas £10.01	
<i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	
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 in the draw held on 26th July was 18, congratulations to the winner. If you would like to join the next payment will be due by 6th September & a list of available numbers is 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.

