

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

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**4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 16. PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EVANGELIZATION.**

So far, we have seen the content of Christian preaching. We must however bear in mind also the *means* by which it is proclaimed. The Gospel must be preached “through the Holy Spirit” (1 Pt 1:12). The Church must do precisely what Jesus says at the beginning of His public ministry: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (Lk 4:18). *Preaching with the anointing of the Holy Spirit* means transmitting, together with the ideas and the doctrine, the life and conviction of our faith. It means doing so “not with persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power” (1 Cor 2:4), as Saint Paul wrote.

It is easy to say, one might object, but how can it be put into practice if it does not depend on us, but on the coming of the Holy Spirit? In reality, there is one thing that does depend on us, or rather two, and I will briefly mention them. The first is *prayer*. The Holy Spirit comes to those who pray, because the heavenly Father – it is written – “give[s] the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Lk 11:13), especially if we ask Him in order to proclaim the Gospel of His Son! Woe to those who preach without praying! They become those whom the Apostle defines as “a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal” (cf. 1 Cor 13:1).

So, the first thing that depends on us is praying, so that the Holy Spirit may come. The second is *not wanting to preach ourselves, but Jesus the Lord* (cf. 2 Cor 4:5). This relates to preaching. At times there are long sermons, twenty minutes, thirty minutes... But, please, preachers must preach an idea, a feeling and a call to action. Beyond eight minutes the preaching starts to fade, it is not understood. And I say this to preachers [applause] – I can see that you like to hear this! At times we see men who, when the sermon starts, go outside to smoke a cigarette and then come back in. Please, the sermon must be an idea, a feeling and a call to action. And it must never exceed ten minutes. This is very important.

The second thing, I was saying, is not to want to preach ourselves, but the Lord. There is no need to dwell on this, because anyone engaged in evangelization knows what it means in practice not to preach oneself. I will limit myself to a particular application of this

requirement. Not wanting to preach oneself also implies not always giving priority to pastoral initiatives promoted by us and linked to our own name, but willingly collaborating, if requested, in community initiatives, or entrusted to us by obedience.

**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>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish		<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b> Zoya Vaz (Birthday)		<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Weekday of Eastertide	<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	Weekday of Eastertide	<b>9:30am</b>	Sandy Fairly, Clare Williams & Michael Osita	<b>OL</b>
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Weekday of Eastertide	<b>9am</b>	Patricia Clayton R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	Weekday of Eastertide			
Friday	Weekday of Eastertide	<b>9:30am</b>	Ruth O'Brien	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	Saint John of Avila			
Sunday	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Michael Sindall		<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b> People of the Parish		<b>OL</b>

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for John Ellis (Birthday) at Our Lady's and Tina Campbell 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, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe &amp; Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Philip Smith, Eileen &amp; Julia Ward, Sarah Williams &amp; Pat Wise.</i></p> <p><u><i>Those who have died</i></u></p> <p><i>The Holy Father, Pope Francis; Joseph Toole, Frank Morris, Maureen Richards &amp; Brenda Wilson</i></p>
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**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2025**

For working conditions. Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in their dignity and that society might be humanised.

## **PARISH**

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS continues this week leading to 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, so called because the Gospel of the day is always a section from chapter 10 of Saint John's Gospel where Jesus talks about the figure of the Good Shepherd. It is a day dedicated to praying for vocations. We are praying for more priests & deacons in our Diocese & our parish but also that each one of us reflects on where is the Lord calling us, what work has He entrusted to us that has been given to no one else? How are we responding to Lord's call in our own lives & in how we contribute to the life of our parish?

The novena for vocations on our website, why not pray it each day this week?

CONCLAVE - As the Cardinals continue meet to pray & discern where the spirit is leading the church this week before they go into conclave on Wednesday to elect the new Holy Father, let us keep them in our prayers that with hearts open to the Holy Spirit they will discern the who is the Pope that God has chosen for His Church.

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.

### SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS

During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

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.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT - the next events will be held on Monday 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)


SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – Following a very positive meeting held early April, where we explored the role of the Hospitality, you are invited to continue this reflection at a further meeting. We hope to build on the previous lively discussions and consider areas for further development. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. Please confirm your attendance by email to [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.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>27<sup>th</sup> April 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Offertory £415.22 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£20 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £17</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 – Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 with no. 33. If would like to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy 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.

