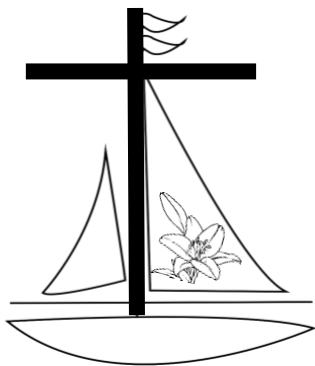




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: **Fr Michael Coughlan** 652 1074
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Parish Sister: **Sr Pauline** 07710 717207
Parish Secretary: **Lorraine Forshaw** 652 1074 / 07709 186201
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16th August 2026 – The Assumption of the Blessed Mary

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE 10. REKINDLING. “WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US?” (LK 24:32)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today I would like to invite you to reflect on a surprising aspect of Christ's Resurrection: his humility. If we think back to the Gospel accounts, we realize that the risen Lord does nothing spectacular to impose himself on the faith of his disciples. He does not appear surrounded by hosts of angels, he does not perform spectacular feats, he does not deliver solemn speeches to reveal the secrets of the universe. On the contrary, he approaches discreetly, like any other wayfarer, like a hungry man asking to share some bread (cf. *Lk* 24:15, 41).

Mary Magdalene mistakes him for a gardener (cf. *Jn* 20:15). The disciples of Emmaus believe him to be a stranger (cf. *Lk* 24:18). Peter and the other fishermen think he is just a passer-by (cf. *Jn* 21:4). We would have expected special effects, signs of power, overwhelming evidence. But the Lord does not seek this: he prefers the language of proximity, of normality, of sharing a meal.

Brothers and sisters, there is a valuable message in this: the Resurrection is not a theatrical coup; it is a silent transformation that fills every human gesture with meaning. The risen Jesus eats a piece of fish in front of his disciples: this is not a marginal detail, it is confirmation that our body, our history, our relationships are not a shell to be thrown away. They are destined for the fullness of life. Resurrection does not mean becoming evanescent spirits but entering into a deeper communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, in a humanity transfigured by love.

In the Pasch of Christ, everything can become grace. Even the most ordinary things: eating, working, waiting, taking care of the house, supporting a friend. The Resurrection does not remove life from time and effort but changes its meaning and “flavour”. Every gesture performed in gratitude and communion anticipates the Kingdom of God.

However, there is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognizing Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering. The disciples of Emmaus walk sadly because they hoped for a different ending, for a Messiah who did not know the cross. Although they have heard that the tomb is empty, they cannot smile. But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love (cf. *Lk* 24:13-27).

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 is something expressed in everything we do.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Pat Caraher	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial			
Tuesday	Ferial			
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Saint Bernard			
Friday	Saint Pius X			
Saturday	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary			
Sunday	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Larry Long R.I.P. Anniversary	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, Michael Toner, Eileen & Julia Ward,
Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Fr Joseph Kendall

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 Alia Ajali R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Agnes Daly R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM are seeking to appoint both a programme coordinator & a team member. Both roles are based in Stockport. For more information, visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: Friday 18th September. Please send CVs to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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."

2027 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!* By air: Friday 30th July – Thursday 5th August / By coach: Thursday 29th July – Friday 6th August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 28th July – Friday 6th August

ANIMATED FILM David will be shown in Birkenhead's Vue cinema daily from 21st August. The screening will be at 12:45pm. The film is based on the life of David as told in the First Book of Samuel, it is rated PG.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Could you visit your local Catholic school to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email alletizia@cafod.org.uk

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

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – is to be held on Friday 4th September 2026 at 7pm at St John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry CH62 5BJ.

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.

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.

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 our diocesan vocations director, Fr Sean Davidson. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 8th August was 43 & congratulations to the winner from Saint Pauls. If you would like to continue, the next payment is due **TODAY** 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 9th August 2026</u> Offertory £304.07 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £13.01 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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JOB VACANCY

CURIAL OFFICE ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT - full time, based in Birkenhead. For more information visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: Friday 18th September. Please send CVs to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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.**