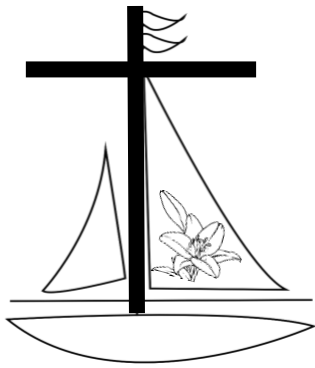




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: **Fr Michael Coughlan** 652 1074
Parish Deacon: **Bernard McConnell** 07724 643883
Parish Sister: **Sr Pauline** 07710 717207
Parish Secretary: **Lorraine Forshaw** 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
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6th September 2026 – Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. HOPE. IV. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD 1. THE RISEN ONE, THE LIVING SOURCE OF HUMAN HOPE.

Sisters and brothers, the Risen Jesus is the guarantee of this deliverance! He is the wellspring that satisfies our thirst, the infinite thirst for fullness that the Holy Spirit imbues into our hearts. Indeed, the Resurrection of Christ is not a simple event of human history, but the event that transformed it from within.

Let us think about a source of water. What are its characteristics? It quenches thirst and refreshes creatures, irrigates the land, renders fertile and living what would otherwise remain barren. It gives refreshment to the weary traveller, offering him the joy of an oasis of freshness. A wellspring appears as a freely-given gift for nature, for creatures, for human beings. Without water it is not possible to live. The Risen One is the living wellspring that does not dry up and does not change. It always stays pure and ready for anyone who is thirsty. And the more we taste the mystery of God, the more we are attracted to it, without ever becoming completely satiated. Saint Augustine, in the tenth Book of the *Confessions*, captures exactly this inexhaustible longing of our hearts and expresses it in his famous *Hymn to Beauty*: “You exhaled odours, and I drew in my breath and do pant after you. I tasted, and do hunger and thirst. You touched me, and I burned for your peace” (X, 27, 38).

Jesus, with his Resurrection, has guaranteed for us a permanent source of life: he is the living one (cf. *Rev* 1:18), the lover of life, the victor over all death. Therefore, he is able to offer us refreshment in our earthly journey and assure us of perfect peace in eternity. Only Jesus, who died and rose again, responds to the deepest questions of our heart: is there really a destination for us? Does our existence have any meaning? And the suffering of so many innocents, how can it be redeemed?

The Risen Jesus does not bestow upon us an answer “from above”, but becomes our companion on this often arduous, painful and mysterious journey. Only He can fill our empty flask when our thirst becomes unbearable. And he is also the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become wandering without a goal, a tragic mistake with a missed destination. We are fragile creatures. Mistakes are part of our humanity; it is the wound of sin that makes us fall, give up, despair. To rise again instead means to get up and stand on our feet. The Risen One guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are awaited, loved, saved. To journey with him means to experience being sustained despite everything, to have our thirst quenched and to be refreshed in the hardships and struggles that, like heavy stones, threaten to block or divert our history.

Dear friends, from Christ’s Resurrection springs the hope that gives us a foretaste, despite the fatigue of living, of a deep and joyful calm: that peace only he can give us in the end, without end.

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For the care of water – Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Moira Helbert R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9:30am	Diane Walsh (Birthday Blessings)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Moira McLaughlin R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Moira McLaughlin R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY FOURTH 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, Pat Eaton, 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

Sylvia Brady, Fr Joseph Kendall & Margaret Roberts

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of **Moira McLaughlin R.I.P.** at Our Lady's and **Those returning to school or starting at a new school** at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - From Friday 11th - Sunday 20th September many places across Wirral will be open to visit as part of the heritage open days. For example, Flaybrick Cemetery where Bishop Hugh Singleton the second Bishop of Shrewsbury (section RC2; grave 467) & Canon Tallon (section RC3; grave 834) are buried. For more information visit: www.flaybrick.org; for more information about the many other events in Wirral visit: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

As part of the Heritage Open Days, we will be opening Our Lady's church for visitors to come & find out more about our history & heritage, as well as more about who we are as a Catholic Christian community! The church will be open on Saturdays 12th & 19th September 1pm – 5pm & Sundays 13th & 20th September 12.30pm–3:30pm. We need as many volunteers as possible to help during these times, there is a list at the back of Our Lady's church with volunteering slots, please do sign up!

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 THIS 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. Please fill in one of the postcards to petition MPs to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

SAINT ANSELM'S COLLEGE OPEN EVENING – Thursday 10th September, 5pm–8pm.

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

THE DIMENSIONS OF LOVE: FR TOM 'S PILGRIMAGE – To mark ten years of priestly ministry, Fr Tom Cunnah will undertake a nine-day, 130-mile thanksgiving pilgrimage across the Diocese of Shrewsbury, from West Kirby to Ludlow and Shining Tor, beginning on 3rd September. Along the way, he will be praying for vocations and raising awareness and funds for the work of Caritas supporting families in need. Parishioners can follow his journey on Caritas on social media or on the leaflets at the back of each church which have a bar code to donate.

THE SEASON OF CREATION – the Wallasey parishes of Holy Apostles & Martyrs, Saint Joseph and Saint Alban will celebrate jointly from 1st September to 4th October. Please see leaflets at the back of each church for further information.

MANY THANKS TO KATH PEARSON who since we started offering tea & coffee after 11am has been the principal person making and serving them. Kath has now had to retire from this mission. It would be good to get people to sign up to help on rota basis. This is ideal for couples or families!

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 29th August from the @nd draw was 54, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church or to continue, the next payment is due **20th September 2026**. 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 30th August 2026</u> Offertory £468.04 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders) £84 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £127.90 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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JOB VACANCIES - CURIAL OFFICE

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT INTER-DIOCESAN FUEL MANAGEMENT - **Salary:** £27 to 28K depending on experience. **Hours:** 35 per week. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website using this link www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers/administrator-for-inter-diocesan-fuel-management-limited

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT – full time, based in Birkenhead. For more information visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers>. Closing date for both jobs is Friday 18th September & please send covering letter and CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK HARVEST APPEAL – please see the posters or the Word search sheets at the back of each church for the Harvest shopping list or for further details visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk . Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul'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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**