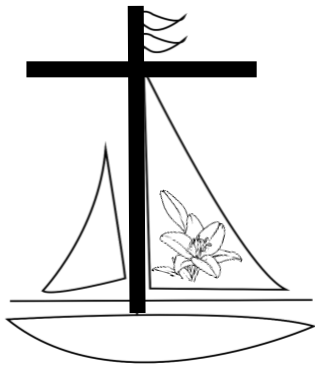




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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>**
Livestream: **<https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>**
E-mail: **info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org**

22nd June 2025 – Corpus Christi

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 3. “YOU ARE TO NAME HIM JESUS” (MT 1:21). THE ANNUNCIATION TO JOSEPH

Today we will continue to contemplate Jesus our hope in the mystery of His origins, as narrated by the infancy Gospels. Whereas Luke lets us do so from the perspective of the mother, the Virgin Mary, instead Matthew takes the perspective of Joseph, the man who assumes the legal paternity of Jesus, grafting him onto the trunk of Jesse and linking him to the promise made to David. Indeed, Jesus is *the hope of Israel which is fulfilled*: He is the descendent promised to David (cf. 2 Sam 7:12; 1Cr 17:11), who makes his home “blessed for ever” (2 Sam 7:29); He is the shoot that buds from the trunk of Jesse (cf. Is 11:1), the “righteous Branch, [who] shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land” (cf. Jer 23:5; 33:15).

Joseph enters the scene in the Gospel of Matthew as Mary’s betrothed. For the Hebrews, betrothal was a full legal bond, which prepared for what would happen around a year later, the celebration of marriage. It was then that the woman passed from the father’s custody to that of her husband, moving into his home and making herself willing to the gift of motherhood.

It is precisely during this time that Joseph discovers Mary’s pregnancy, and his love is harshly put to the test. Faced with a similar situation, which would have led to the termination of the betrothal, the Law suggested two possible solutions: either a legal act of a public nature, such as the convocation of the woman in court, or a private action such as giving the woman a letter of repudiation.

Matthew defines Joseph as a “righteous” man (*zaddiq*), a man who lives according to the Law of the Lord, and who draws inspiration from this in every occasion of his life. Thus, following the Word of God, Joseph acts thoughtfully: he does not let himself be overcome by instinctive feelings and fear of accepting Mary with him, but prefers to be guided by divine wisdom. He chooses to part with Mary quietly, privately (cf. Mt 1:19). And this is Joseph’s wisdom, which enables him not to make mistakes and to make himself open and docile to the voice of the Lord. In this way, Joseph of Nazareth brings to mind another Joseph, son of Jacob, dubbed the “lord of dreams” (cf Gen 37:19), greatly beloved by his father and much loathed by his brothers, whom the Lord raised up by having him sit in the Pharaoh’s court.

Now, what does Joseph of Nazareth dream of? He dreams of the miracle that God fulfils in Mary’s life, and also the miracle that he works in his own life: to take on a fatherhood capable of guarding, protecting and passing on a material and spiritual inheritance. The womb of his bride is pregnant

with God's promise, a promise that bears a name in which the certainty of salvation is given to all (cf. Acts 4:12).

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	CORPUS CHRISTI	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	First Holy Communion Children	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Frank Morris R.I.P.	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST	9:30am	Morris Family	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Susan Edwards R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	9:30am	Joseph Croft R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	The Immaculate Heart of Mary			
Sunday	SAINTS PETER & PAUL	9:30am	Natasha Gee	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for First Holy Communion Children at Our Lady's and Clare Higgins at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2025

That the world might grow in compassion. Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his heart learn to have compassion on the world.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

PARISH

CONGRATUALTIONS to the children from our parish primary schools who have or will be making their First Holy Communion this month. It is a great joy today the Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ that some children who have been part of our parish programme will be making their Holy Communion of the first time as well. May God bless all of them.

BISHOP JOSEPH SRAMPICKAL – This afternoon we are fortunate to welcome to welcome Bishop Jospheh of the SyroMalabar Eparchy of Great Britain. Bishop Jospheh is making his first visitation of the SyroMalabar community since it has been based at Our Lady's. He will also celebrate their First Holy Communions.

THANK YOU to Mrs Clare Higgins who retires as Headteacher of Holy Cross school at the end of this school year. We thank Clare for her untiring commitment to children of the school & her joyful support of our parish. We wish you every blessing Mrs Higgins & don't be a stranger!

HEALING & ANOINTING SERVICE will take place at 7pm on Friday 4th July in Saint John's Church, New Ferry

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, two of the young people from our Birkenhead Confirmation group introduced themselves at Mass last Sunday. The cost of the pilgrimage is £725, they have received £250 in grants, we will use the proceeds from the parish BBQ to support them. Anything over £250 raised will also go to them. They will be back after the summer with photos to tell you all about their experiences.

JUBILEE YEAR LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – Currently there are 15 seats available on the coach, 1 seat left on the pilgrimage plane, and 3 seats left on a flight from Luton (coach travel transfer included). This is the last call for any pilgrims wishing to travel to Lourdes with the Diocese this year, we are very close to now closing the bookings for our 2025 pilgrimage. Booking forms are still available on our website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – The next focus group meeting will take place at Saint Columba's Chester in the Newman Room on Wednesday July 2nd at 7.30pm. All Hospitality members are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY RAFFLE – Continues today after 11am Mass. Proceeds will be to support the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes Last week the raffle was won by ticket no.556, congratulations to the winner. Any donations for raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated, please leave them at the back of either church.

PARISH BBQ – SUNDAY 13TH JULY (please note the new date) – our parish BBQ will again take place after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden, donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall, please leave them at the back of either church. Please bring family & friends with you. Volunteers will also be needed to help with set up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets at the back of church to register your support.

THE TABLET IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW HALL SCHOOL are hosting a one-day conference entitled 'Leadership and Legacy: The Future of Women in the Church' on Friday 11th July 2025 from 10:30am until 5:00pm at New Hall Boreham House, Chelmsford. Lunch and refreshments are included throughout the day and there is a free shuttle from Chelmsford Station to

the venue. The price includes a quarterly *digital subscription* to *The Tablet* (worth £21.50), which can be gifted to a friend or parishioner. For more information or to purchase tickets simply go to www.thetablet.co.uk/events or for exhibition stand enquiries, please contact adyoung@thetablet.co.uk

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.

ALONE OR BORED IN YOUR MARRIAGE? - Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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.

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.

FAMILY & SOCIAL GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG THIS AUGUST – Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic residential youth centre in the Lake District, and it is opening its doors to family groups and social groups this August. There are single rooms, twin rooms, and large family rooms at very cheap rates. Guests have access to the grounds, chapel, games room, and lounges, with Keswick and the Lake only a short walk away. For more info visit www.castleriggmanor.com/open

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>15th June 2025</u>	
Offertory – £388.83 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)	
£12 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £14	
<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 14th June 2025 was 46, congratulations to the winner. If you would like to continue for entry into draw’s commencing 28th June, payment is now due or if you would like to join, 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.