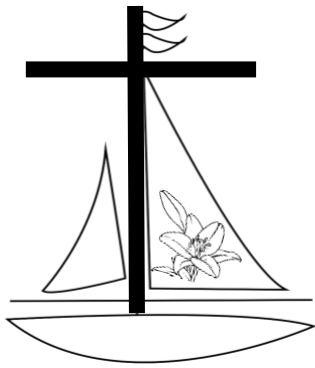




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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30th November 2025 – 1st Sunday of Advent

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE PARABLES 6. THE SOWER. HE SPOKE TO THEM AT LENGTH IN PARABLES (MT 13:3A.)

A rather unusual sower goes out to sow but does not care where the seed falls. He throws the seeds even where it is unlikely they will bear fruit: on the path, on the rocks, among the thorns. This attitude surprises the listener and induces him to ask: how come?

We are used to calculating things – and at times it is necessary – but this does not apply in love! The way in which this “wasteful” sower throws the seed is an image of the way God loves us. Indeed, it is true that the destiny of the seed depends also on the way in which the earth welcomes it and the situation in which it finds itself, but first and foremost in this parable Jesus tells us that God throws the seed of his Word on all kinds of soil, that is, in any situation of ours: at times we are more superficial and distracted, at times we let ourselves get carried away by enthusiasm, sometimes we are burdened by life’s worries, but there are also times when we are willing and welcoming. God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God’s generosity and mercy.

In telling the way in which the seed bears fruit, Jesus is also talking about his life. Jesus is the Word, he is the Seed. And the seed, to bear fruit, must die. Thus, this parable tells us that God is ready to “waste away” for us and that Jesus is willing to die in order to transform our life.

I have in mind that beautiful painting by Van Gogh, *The sower at sunset*. That image of the sower in the blazing sun also speaks to me of the farmer’s toil. And it strikes me that, behind the sower, Van Gogh depicted the grain already ripe. It seems to me an image of hope: one way or another, the seed has borne fruit. We are not sure how, but it has. At the centre of the scene, however, is not the sower, who stands to the side; instead, the whole painting is dominated by the image of the sun, perhaps to remind us that it is God who moves history, even if he sometimes seems absent or distant. It is the sun that warms the clods of earth and makes the seed ripen.

Dear brothers and sisters, in what situation of life today is the Word of God reaching us? Let us ask the Lord for the grace always to welcome this seed that is his Word. And if we realize we are not a fruitful soil, let us not be discouraged, but let us ask him to work on us more to make us become a better terrain.

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	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Eliza & D’Costa & Bulla D’Costa R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Alan Hughes 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	9:30am	Jean McGrath R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Francis Xavier			
Thursday	Ferial	2:30pm	Funeral Service for Herbert Graham at Landican	
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am	Susan Jones R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions W.B. at Our Lady's and Pope Leo's Apostolic Journey to Turkey & Lebanon at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran,
Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy,
Canon Philip Moor, Joe Roper, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms,
Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Herbert Graham, Ian McKensie & Winifred Moore

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the middle east, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

PARISH

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We have started the preparation sessions for this year's Confirmation. Our next session for any young person who is in Y8 or above is on Thursday 4th December at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available from Fr Michael.

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL – there will be a collection in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal next Sunday 7th December. Every penny you give goes directly to help those most in need within our Diocese, providing crisis food vouchers, practical support, and the reassurance of care and compassion when it matters most. You can also donate online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury at Wheatland Lane, Wallasey, CH44 7ED Tel: 0151 652 1281, email: info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

ADVENT REFLECTION SERVICES – Saint Anne's, Rock Ferry, TODAY 3pm, Saint John the Evangelist, New Ferry, Sunday 14th December at 3pm. Both services will end with Benediction.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES will be available next weekend, please do take cards for family, friends & neighbours to encourage them to join us for the Feast of our Lord's birth at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of Parish funds on Sunday 14th December after 11am Mass in Our Lady's. 1st prize is a £25 M&S voucher with lots of other prizes. Tickets are £1 and are available to buy now. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and Biscuits for raffle prizes. *Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or the sacristy at Saint Pauls.* Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a sign up sheet is available in the porch to add your name for next Sat 6th December.

FRIDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTION – each week after Friday morning Mass in the community room at Saint Paul's. Why not come for a brew, a short video & time to sit & chat about aspects of our faith & what they mean?

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – There will be midday Mass Saint Mary's Crewe on 8th December to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Refreshments will be available after Mass, everyone is welcome.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSEBOUND – If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, please ask them to contact the Parish Office or help them to do so.

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. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296983.

PRACTICAL, CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR LIFE – "Life Charity has been my safe haven during my stormy seas." To keep up to date with news from the UK's only charity focused on real-time, practical support to enable women to continue their pregnancy in deeply challenging situations, visit: www.lifecharity.org.uk/join-us-on-social.

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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB - for information about activities that are held at the Hub (310 Park Road North) during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHOIR - consists of those who sing at 9.30am Mass on Sundays at Saint Joseph's, with other members who sing at numerous funerals, weddings & other events in local churches and beyond. They rehearse together every Saturday at Saint Michael and All Angels church 11.00am–12.00pm. New members from all parishes are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and phone number if you would like to join 0151 652 5767 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

PARISH FINANCES

23rd November 2025

**Offertory – £346.43 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£0(Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £28.**

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

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 on Saturday 22nd November was 35 & congratulations to the winner from St Pauls. If you would like to continue or join, the next payment will be due by 14th December for draw's commencing on 20th December. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR - Please support Wirral Foodbank with donations ready for Christmas using their reverse Advent Calendar.

If you have collected the items for the reverse advent calendar, please leave them this week either in the sacristy at 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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY - can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.

