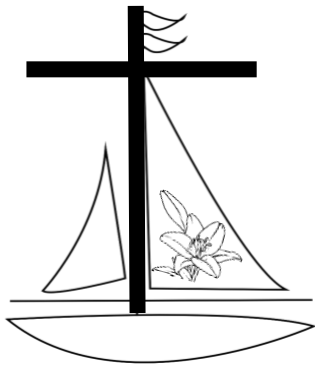




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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12th October 2025 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 3. ZACCHAEUS. “TODAY I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE!” (LK 19:5)

Today we will continue to contemplate Jesus’ encounters with some figures from the Gospel. This time, I would like to focus on Zacchaeus: an episode that is particularly close to my heart, because it has a special place in my spiritual journey.

The Gospel of Luke presents Zacchaeus to us and one who seems irredeemably lost. Perhaps we too feel this way at times: without hope. Instead, Zacchaeus will discover that the Lord was already looking for him.

In fact, Jesus came to Jericho, a city located below sea level, considered to be an image of the underworld, where Jesus wants to go in search of those who feel they are lost. And in reality, the Risen Lord continues to descend into today’s underworlds, in places of war, in the suffering of the innocent, in the heart of mothers who see their children die, in the hunger of the poor.

Zacchaeus, in a certain sense, is lost; perhaps he has made the wrong decisions or perhaps his life has put him in situations from which he struggles to get out. Indeed, Luke insists on describing the characteristics of this man: not only is he a publican, a person who collects taxes from his fellow citizens for the Roman invaders, but he is the chief of publicans, no less, as if to say that his sin is multiplied.

Luke then adds that Zacchaeus is rich, suggesting that he has grown rich on the backs of others, abusing his position. But all this has consequences: Zacchaeus probably feels excluded, despised by everyone.

When he comes to know that Jesus is passing through the city, Zacchaeus feels the desire to see Him. He does not dare to imagine a meeting; it would be enough to watch him from a distance. However, our desires encounter obstacles and are not automatically fulfilled: Zacchaeus is short! It is our reality: we have limitations that we have to deal with. And then there are others, who sometimes do not help us: the crowd prevents Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus. Perhaps it is something of a revenge on their part.

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	TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Paddy & Martina Carraher	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Kevin & Colette O’Hanlon 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	Alan Stevens R.I.P. Birthday	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Teresa of Avila			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Saint Ignatius of Antioch	9:30am	Susan Jones R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Saint Luke			
Sunday	TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Anne Jones	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions – Let us pray that, believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice & human fraternity.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing) at Our Lady's and Fr Tony McGrath at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS	
<u>Those who are sick</u>	
<i>Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Frances Scarisbrick, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.</i>	
<u>Those who have died</u>	
<i>Jean McGrath, Keith Maxwell & Catherine Murdoch</i>	

PARISH

BECOMING A CATHOLIC – For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, has been baptised as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running an enquiry

course called Sycamore starting with an initial meeting on Thursday 6th November at 6pm at Saint Joseph's presbytery on Willowbank road, Birkenhead. Interested? Got questions? We will support you on this journey of faith through to full communion with the Catholic Church. If you're interested, please speak to Fr Michael.

PAUSE FOR HOPE – An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer. Sunday 19th October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. www.pauseforhope.org.uk.

CAFOD: HARVEST FAST DAY – Thank you for your generosity to support the work of CAFOD during the Harvest Fast appeal, envelopes can still be returned this weekend in the collection.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We will be starting the preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in Y8 or above on Thursday 6th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates on should be available next weekend.

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

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 Saturday 1st November.

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?

WELCOME TO FATHER SIJO POULOSE (MANIPARAMBIL) – In September we welcomed Father Sijo Poulose, whose family name is Maniparambil from Kerala, in India. Father Sijo is living with Canon Niall at Saint Joseph's Presbytery. Father Sijo, who has newly arrived from India, will be serving as the Chaplain for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Rite Community on the Wirral, Chester and occasionally North Wales. Whilst he will be involved with his ministry across these areas, he may be in a position to help us here from time-to-time celebrating Mass in our Roman Rite. This will unfold in time, but for the present we are pleased to welcome Father Sijo among us.

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC RITE has been an autonomous Rite within the Catholic Church since 1662 and has its own hierarchy and liturgical rites whilst being part of the Catholic Church. With a greater number of Syro-Malabar Catholics now being in this country there is a Bishop, Mar Joseph Srampickal, based in Preston, to oversee the Syro-Malabar Church in Great Britain.

ROSARY RETREAT DAY AND JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – Bishop Mark Davies will lead this Jubilee Pilgrimage at the Eucharistic Shrine in Saint Joseph's church, Stockport on Saturday 25th October. The Rosary Retreat will begin at 9.30am with reflections and the praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary scriptural meditations. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark at 11am who will renew the entrustment of the Diocese to Our Lady especially entrusting in this shrine dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and intercession for the sanctification of priests and new and generous priestly vocations all vocations to the Priesthood. The day will conclude with a Eucharistic Procession and Solemn Benediction at 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

VACANCY FOR TRUSTEES AT WIRRAL FOODBANK – For further information please email manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk or contact Richard Roberts, General Manager, Wirral Foodbank: 07518034579. Closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.

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.

ASSISTED DYING BILL is now progressing through the House of Lords, please read Archbishop John Sherrington's statement & also write to members of the House of Lords.

JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS WITH BISHOP MARK DAVIES – also with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph and Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. On Saturday 15th November at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use Easy Fundraising even for car, home or travel insurance! **Our latest payout is £38.33.** Thank you to everyone who has used it.

JOB VACANCIES

CLERGY WELFARE SUPPORT WORKER IN THE DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY. The role would be to support the Diocesan Welfare Nurse in her duties. **Hours:** 22.5 per week over 3 days, with a degree of flexibility. **Salary:** Competitive. For more details, please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CV's should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** Friday 24 October 2025.

PARISH SECRETARY AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, ELLESMERE PORT- Hours of work: flexible 3 days per week between 9am and 1pm. **Hourly rate:** £14 per hour. **Closing date:** Friday 24 October. For more information, please see the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CVs should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PARISH FINANCES

28th September 2025

**Offertory – £472.87 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£15 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £11.60.**

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 in the draw held on Saturday 4th October was 42 & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join the next payment of £5 will be due on 8th November for draws commencing on 15th November 2025. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left 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 can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.