

## *Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul*

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## **29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Palm Sunday**

### **FR MICHAEL'S REFLECTION ON LENT AND THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR**

Lent is an opportunity for us to reflect on where the Lord is in our lives. It is also the time when we come to the new financial year. As we come to the year end it is time to renew our parish finances. Over the past several years the Diocese has supported us around £20000, at the end of April I will publish the accounts for this year with a comparison for the past few years. About half of the subsidy each year from the Diocese is covered by the Gift Aid claimed from your donations. Over the coming months we also need to think about costs which can be cut along with an increase in giving to begin to tackle that deficit. Ways to help can be to consider increasing your weekly contribution even if just by £1 or £2; an easy way is if you do not already Gift Aid then please consider doing so. We are also facing an increase in bank charges; therefore, we are being encouraged to have people contribute more by either Standing Order or contactless using either the Dona station at Our Lady's or online.

### **LENT**

PREPARING THE EASTER GARDEN – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April after the Passion Liturgy in Our Lady's.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES POSTCARDS are available now at both churches. Please take one home with you & take ones for neighbours, family and friends.

BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS – every Sunday evening during Lent at 7:45pm, this year they are a series of personal reflections on power inspired by the story of Jesus' Passion. Six essays tracing the hidden currents of power in everyday life: how it shapes us, how it works, how it wounds, and how it can be resisted, claimed, and reclaimed.

MISSIO RED BOXES are now due for emptying. Please ring Angela Hawkesworth on 0151 653 0884 to arrange their collection or drop them off in the sacristy at either church for collection.

### **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.

### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2026**

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

<b>MASSES FOR WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Mary Rose R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	<b>9am</b>	Mary & Michael Walsh Margaret Walsh	<b>OL</b>
Tuesday	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Peter Thomas R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>			
Thursday	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Mary & Terry McGhee R.I.P.	<b>SP</b>
Friday	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	<b>3pm</b>	<b>SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION</b>	<b>OL</b>
		<b>7pm</b>	Taizé Prayer at the Foot of the Cross	<b>OL</b>
Saturday	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	<b>10am</b>	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	<b>OL</b>
	<b>EASTER VIGIL</b>	<b>7:45pm</b>	Anna & Kevin Coughlan	<b>OL</b>
Sunday	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*Those who are sick*

*Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Anne Gillet, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

*Those who have died*

*Margaret Cook & Joseph O'Leary.*

**PARISH**

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – are available for collection after Mass today in both churches. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week. If you do not find a box with your name on it, please take one of the spare boxes and complete the enclosed slip with your details.

EASTER RAFFLE in aid of our ongoing work with the Confirmation and post Confirmation young people including those going to Lourdes. Tickets are £1 & are available to buy now after Sunday Masses. There will be lots of prizes, and we would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wines, Easter

Eggs, Chocolates & Biscuits. *Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or in the Sacristy at Saint Pauls.* Many thanks for your continued support & generosity.

LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 2026 - 29<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August, cost £740, ages 16–23, closing date is **TUESDAY** (31<sup>st</sup> March). For young people Lourdes offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith, service, and community. The shrine, associated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette, welcomes pilgrims from around the world. Young pilgrims volunteer to help the sick and elderly, taking part in a powerful tradition of compassion and care. Alongside this service, they experience prayer, reflection, and friendship with other young Catholics from across our Diocese, often returning home with a deeper sense of faith and a stronger commitment to serving others.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY will be holding their first focus group of 2026 at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, at 7pm. This will be open to any Hospitality members, even if you haven't attended previous Focus Groups. You will be encouraged to review the commitments made last year to improve the way of working with each other. Fr Sean Henry, Chaplain to the Hospitality, will be attending. Please confirm your attendance by emailing [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026 – a concert will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS – How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm–8:30pm; 21<sup>st</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> June

BETROTHED: A MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE OFFERED BY THE SHREWSBURY DIOCESE will help to prepare both from a spiritual/faith perspective and relational perspective. You are welcome to attend the course whether you are to be married at the parish where it is being run or not. The course runs over two consecutive Saturdays 9.30am to 4.30pm at Saint Clare's Church Parish Hall (Downsfield Road, Chester CH4 8HH) on 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026. For more information, please contact Jane Deegan at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) &/or Mobile: 07517 906435. Registration is essential by contacting Monika at: [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY RETREAT DAY to help you find out more about what is involved and what help is needed. There will be presentations on the Mission of Marriage, a Reflection on the Book of Tobit and Holy Mass at Midday. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30am–4pm in Saint John Vianney parish hall, Saint Wilfred's church, Witton street, Northwich CW9 5NP. To register please contact Monika: [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) / 07549 226794

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. To find out more: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about this & other activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com)


ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – to be held at St Johns Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry, CH62 5BJ on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm.

SVP BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – During April 2026 the SVP will be running a series called “**At a Loss**” It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing [recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com](mailto:recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com) or speak to an SVP member.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise (pens £1, Mugs £6, bundle deal of one mug and two pens £7).

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March for this rollover week was 46, & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady’s. If you would like to join, the next payment is due *TODAY* for draw’s commencing Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

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!

<p><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b> <b><u>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</u></b> <b>Offertory - £464.88 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £19.81</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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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.

## **JOB VACANCIES**

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER – Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. **Hours:** 25 per week, term time only, Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch [recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) **Closing date** 10<sup>th</sup> April. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

## **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](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk).

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.**