



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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5th February 2023 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

POPE FRANCIS – CATECHESIS ON DISCERNMENT: 2. AN EXAMPLE: IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

This is why Ignatius would go on to suggest reading the lives of the saints, because they show God's style in the lives of people who are not very different from us, in a narrative and comprehensible way; because saints were made of flesh and blood like us. Their actions speak to ours, and they help us understand their meaning.

In that famous episode of the two feelings that Ignatius had, one when he read about knights and the other when he read about the lives of saints, we can recognise another important aspect of discernment, which we already mentioned last time. There is an apparent randomness in life's events: everything seems to arise from a banal setback — there were no books about knights, only about the lives of saints, a setback that nonetheless held a possible turning point. Only after some time would Ignatius realize this, at which point he would devote all his attention to it. Listen carefully: God works through un-plannable events that happen by chance, but by chance this happened to me, and by chance I met this person, by chance I saw this film. It was not planned but God works through un-plannable events, and also through setbacks: "But I was supposed to go for a walk and I had a problem with my foot, I can't...". Setback: what is God saying to you? What is life telling you there? We have also seen this in a passage from the Gospel of Matthew: a man ploughing a field accidentally comes across a buried treasure. A totally unexpected situation. But what is important is that he recognises it as the lucky break of his life and decides accordingly: he sells everything and buys that field (cf. 13:44). I will give you a piece of advice: beware of the unexpected. He who says: "But I wasn't expecting this". Is it life speaking to you, is it the Lord speaking to you, or is it the devil? Someone. But there is something to discern: how I react when faced with the unexpected. But I was quiet at home and "Boom!" — my mother-in-law arrives. And how do you react to your mother-in-law? Is it love or something else inside? And you must discern. I was working well in the office, and a companion comes along to tell me he needs money: how do you react? Seeing what happens when we experience things we were not expecting and learning to know our heart as it moves.

Discernment is the aid in recognising the signals with which the Lord makes himself known in unexpected, even unpleasant situations, as the wounded leg was for Ignatius. A life-changing encounter can arise from them, forever, as in the case of Ignatius. Something can arise that makes you better along the way, or worse, I don't know, but being attentive: the most beautiful narrative thread comes from the unexpected: "How do I act in view of this?" May the Lord help us listen to our hearts and see when it is He who acts, and when it is not and it is something else.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bernard Gomes R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>	9am	Mary & Michael Walsh	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9:30am	Mary Kelly	OL
Wednesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am	Joyce Robinson R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Ferial</i>			
Friday	<i>St Scholastica</i>	9:30am	Special Intention	SP
Saturday	<i>Ferial</i>			
Sunday	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Linda Viegas	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

**Jean Nolan, Ann Jones, Richie & Lily Baker, Joan Jones, Margaret Walsh,
Christopher Browne, Louisa Tower, Julia Ward, Vera Granton & Bernadette Williams**

Those who have died

Eileen Brown, Canon John Marmion, George Perry, Brian Locke & Brian McNamara

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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for David Denny at Our Lady's and for Anna Coughlan at Saint Paul's. The Envelopes are at the back of each church for requests. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

That parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

PARISH

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS – for Bishop Mark, that he will always be a wise & faithful shepherd.

PIZZA & PRAYER – **tomorrow, Monday 6th February 6:30pm–8pm** for any Young Person in Year 7 or above at school. This month we will be focusing on Vocation & are very excited to have our own Sr Mary Theresa from the Sisters of Charity joining us for the evening.

BISHOP MARK will be making his 5-year visitation to our parish on Sunday 19th February, he will celebrate both the Sunday Masses & preach at them. We look forward to welcoming him back again!

Prayer in preparation for Bishop Mark's visit: Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful & kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit & they shall be created & you will renew the face of the earth. God our Father, you show your care daily for each one of us. Help us as a parish community to grow in your love that we may bring that love to others. Watch over & protect Mark our Bishop in his ministry that he may always be a wise & faithful steward in the Lord's house.

SVP WARM SPACES INITIATIVE – SVP offer a warm welcome at Our Lady's Parish Centre every Tuesday between 12 and 2.30pm. There will be free hot meals, tea and coffee, fun, Bingo, raffles, a quiet space to sit and chat to new friends, free duvets, hot water bottles, flasks etc. plus fruit and veg parcels.

TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASS – Tea & Coffee will be in the Saint Joseph chapel after Tuesday morning Mass for both parishioners & school parents. In February, we aim to be able to offer the same at Saint Paul's **before** Friday morning Mass.

ROSARY SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES 2pm, **next Saturday 11th February** in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, New Ferry. Fr Michael will be giving the homily.

FUNDRAISING – we are hoping that several of the Young Adults from our parish will be attending World Youth Day next summer in Lisbon. After Christmas we will be launching Fundraising Social Events to help raise the funds to get them there. World Youth Day costs £1200 per pilgrim! We will also use the funds to help send some of our older Youth Group members (Year 9 & above) to the National Meeting of Young People in March at the SSE arena in Wembley.

There is a suggestion box at the back of each church, please include your name & contact details with any suggestion!

EASY FUNDRAISING – Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). It's simple & takes 2 minutes to sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> then search for Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul.

IRISH CEILI DANCING – Keep fit & have fun every Friday 12pm–1:30pm at Wirral Change, Saint Laurence's Drive CH41 3JD (The old Saint Laurence's school building).

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

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.

PARISH FINANCE

Offertory £397.94 Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £19

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

CHARITY

HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME – run by the Saint John of God Hospitaller services. The purpose of our programme is twofold – to evacuate people from the warzone and prevent homelessness amongst those Ukrainians already in the UK. The programme has received funding from The Albert Gubay Foundation and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. We believe that the church community has an important role to play in supporting and advocating for refugees, and we would greatly appreciate any assistance. More information on how to get involved is available on their website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>

TUB 2 PUB – Until 19th February Greene King pubs are running a recycling scheme for any old or empty sweet tubs, biscuit tins etc. For more info visit <http://www.tub2pub.co.uk/> Our local drop off pubs are the Shrewsbury Arms & the Caernarfon Castle.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – there is a box at the back of Our Lady's for any empty tablet blister packs. These will be taken to Superdrug where they're used in support of Marie Curie charity.

SOCIAL SUPERMARKET – there is now the opportunity both at Saint Paul's & Our Lady's to pick up any essential items from the stock generously donated by local charities & supermarkets which is located in the community room in Saint Paul's & the porch area near the West Door in Our Lady's.

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Please continue if you are able to support Wirral Foodbank through donations of tins & toiletries. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.

STAMPS – The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES – thank you to all those who support the Eye Fund charity through their weekly white envelope donation. Another easy way to support the work of the eye fund is to donate any old glasses which you have via the box at the back of Our Lady's church. These are given to help the work of the Wirral Society of the Blind & partially sighted based at Ashville Lodge on the edge of the park.

Opportunities for Faith Development in 2022 & 2023

- ❖ **Diocese of Shrewsbury Mission for Catechesis** have with the help of the Franciscan Catechetical Institute created online courses to help people understand & explore their faith better. All the courses are online. Please take a leaflet home with you which explains what the courses are including one on the "Foundations of Faith" & how to access them.
- ❖ **A gentle Introduction to Catholic Thought & Church Teaching** – 3rd Saturday of each month 3:30pm – 4:30pm in Our Lady's presbytery. We will be using as our guide Catholicism in the Third Millennium by Thomas Rausch SJ. *Chapter 7: Sin, Forgiveness & Healing.*
Saturday 18th February 2023
- ❖ **Lent Reflection** – 10am – 1pm, Saturday 25th February in Saint Paul's, two talks with space for personal quiet reflection & group discussion, Mass at 12pm with adoration until 1pm & the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It will be led by Canon Christopher Matthews.
- ❖ **Lent course** – Journey to the Empty Tomb by Paula Gooder; Tuesdays in Lent, 7pm in Our Lady's (28th February, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March)