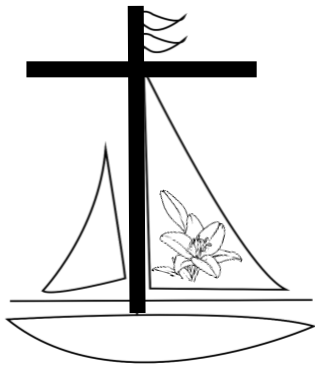




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
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17th August 2025 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 7. “MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION” (LK 2:30). THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

In the *narratives of Jesus’ infancy*, the evangelist Luke shows us Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the Law of the Lord and to all its prescriptions. In reality, in Israel there was no obligation to present the child at the Temple, but those who lived listening to the Word of the Law and wished to conform to it, considered it a valuable practice. So did Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, who was barren; God heard her prayer and she, having had her son, took him to the temple and offered him to the Lord forever (cf. *1 Sam* 1:24-28).

Luke therefore recounts Jesus’ first act of worship, celebrated in the holy city, Jerusalem, which will be the destination of His entire itinerant ministry from the moment He makes the firm decision to go up there (cf. *Lk* 9:51), heading towards the fulfilment of His mission. Mary and Joseph do not simply embed Jesus in a history of the family, the people, of the covenant with the Lord God. They take care of His growth, and introduce Him into the atmosphere of faith and worship. And they too gradually grow in their comprehension of a vocation that far surpasses them.

In the Temple, which is a “house of prayer” (*Lk* 19:46), the Holy Spirit breathes, speaks to the heart of an elderly man: Simeon, a member of the holy people of God schooled in expectation and hope, who nurtures the desire for the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel through the prophets. Simeon perceives in the Temple the presence of the Lord’s Anointed One, he sees the light that shines in the midst of the peoples plunged “in darkness” (cf. *Is* 9:1) and he goes to meet that child who, as Isaiah prophesies, “is born to us”, He is the son who “is given to us”, the “Prince of Peace” (*Is* 9:5). Simeon embraces that child who, small and helpless, rests in his arms; but it is he, in fact, who finds consolation and the fullness of his existence by holding Him to himself. He expresses this in a canticle full of heartfelt gratitude, which in the Church has become the prayer at the end of the day:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (*Lk* 2:29-32).

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	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Pat Caraher	OL
Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Bernard	9am	John Pearson R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Saint Pius X			
Friday	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:30am	Mr Hopkins R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Ruth O’Brien R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for John Pearson R.I.P. First Anniversary at Our Lady's and Fr John Poland at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2025

For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*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, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith,
Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Harry Brightmore & Alan Hughes.

PARISH

THANK YOU TO FR TOM CUNNAH – since November Fr Tom has been working full time at the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal based in Our Lady's presbytery. As part of this he kindly offered to celebrate Mass on Wednesdays for me. After a well-deserved break next week Fr Tom will be taking up an appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Winefride's, Neston alongside his Tribunal work. I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to Fr Tom for his help & support these past few months. We wish him every grace & blessing as he begins his new appointment.

"MASS TOURISM" – Many of you are going to be away over the summer. This is a time when we forget all our normal routines, and Mass is often one of them. We have a hazy memory of hearing that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended "for travellers" and don't ask ourselves whether someone within easy reach of every facility civilisation can offer, including churches, really counts as a traveller in that sense. This is a pity because far from being the reluctant execution of an irksome obligation, "Mass tourism" is a rich and fulfilling activity. The Church is universal, which means that we are part of it wherever we go. To go to Mass means instant belonging. Instead of being in a (more or less) picturesque location ornamented with (more or less) picturesque personages, you are in a real place, doing, with real people, what real people do. I strongly recommend that if you are going away, you make it part of your planning to establish where the churches are and what the times of Masses are. Don't hold obstinately to Sundays either. There are enriching experiences to be had on any day of the week. *Taken from the Universalis newsletter, July 2024.*

FAREWELL AND THANKS TO FATHER SLEEVAPPA (SLEEVA) MEDIKONDA: On Monday, 18th August we say farewell to Father Sleeve Medikonda as he returns to India as he is needed in his home diocese, due to his brother's sickness. Our thanks, prayers and best wishes go with him. Thank you for all the support you have given to Father Sleeve whilst he has been with us; many parishioners from ours and the surrounding parishes, have worked closely with him. We all wish him God's blessing for the future. Please pray for Father Sleeve's brother, Father Francis Medikonda.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB (formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre) is available to hire for family occasions, and a range of activities are held there during the week. For further information please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - In September, the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme 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. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com or speak to an SVP member.

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. The next programme is to be held from 17th-19th October. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 0788 7296983.

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX – Saturday 28th September at 3pm in Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery,

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.

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.

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! *Our latest payout is £38.33*. 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>10th August 2025</u>	
Offertory - £350.65 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless); Zambia/Caritas £12	
<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 Saturday 9th August was 23 and congratulations to the winner from Our Lady'. If you would like to join the next payment will be due by 6th September & 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 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.

