

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 652 5655
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
Livestream: <https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>
E-mail: info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org

13th October 2024 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES. THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 1. *The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*

Saint Francis of Assisi shows us a way out, a beautiful way, to return to the harmony of the Creator Spirit: the way of contemplation and praise. He wanted a canticle of praise to the Creator to be raised by the creatures. We recall, “*Praised be You, my Lord...* ”, the canticle of Francis of Assisi.

One of the psalms (19:1) says, “*The heavens are telling the glory of God* ”, but they need men and women to give voice to this mute cry of theirs. And in the “*Sanctus* ” of the Mass we repeat each time: “*Heaven and earth are full of your glory* ”. They are, so to speak, “*pregnant* ” with it, but they need the hands of a good midwife to give birth to this praise of theirs. Our vocation in the world, Paul again reminds us, is to be “*praise of his glory* ” (Eph 1:12). It is to put the joy of contemplating ahead of the joy of possessing. And no one has rejoiced in creatures more than Francis of Assisi, who did not want to possess any of them.

Brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit of God, who in the beginning transformed chaos into cosmos, is at work to bring about this transformation in every person. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises: “*A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you... And I will put my spirit within you* ” (Ez 36:26-27). For our heart resembles that deserted, dark abyss of the first verses of Genesis. Opposed feelings and desires stir within it: those of the flesh and those of the spirit. We are all, in a sense, that kingdom “*divided against itself* ” that Jesus talks about in the Gospel (cf. Mk 3:24). We can say that there is an external chaos around us – social chaos, political chaos. Think of wars, think of so many boys and girls who don’t have enough to eat, about so many social injustices. This is the external chaos. But there is also an internal chaos: internal to each of us. The former cannot be healed unless we begin to heal the latter! Brothers and sisters, let us do a good job of making our internal confusion a clarity of the Holy Spirit. It is the power of God that does this, and we open our hearts so that he can do it.

May this reflection stir in us the desire to experience the Creator Spirit. For more than a millennium, the Church has put on our lips the cry to ask for it: “*Veni creator Spiritus! Come, O Creator Spirit! Visit our minds. Fill with heavenly grace the hearts you have created* ”. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to come to us and make us new persons, with the newness of the Spirit. Thank you.

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	28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Christopher Hughes Varco R.I.P. (Anniv.)	SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	Ferial	11am <i>REQUIEM MASS FOR ELLEN STEWART</i>	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Saint Teresa of Avila	9:30am Elaine McGunigall (<i>Whole school Mass – Harvest</i>) 3pm <i>NUPTIAL MASS ASHLEIGH & SEAN</i>	OL OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Ferial	9am John Pearson R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Saint Ignatius of Antioch	6pm <i>Retirement Mass for Mrs Elaine McGunigall</i>	OL
Friday	SAINT LUKE	9:30am Alia Ajali R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Saint Peter of Alcantara		
Sunday	29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Agostihno Dourado R.I.P.	SP OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Irene Fortune, Anna & Michael Coughlan, Canon Philip Moor, Mgr Peter Walton, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer, Eileen & Julia Ward, Fr Febin Thomas CMI, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye

Those who have died

Susan Edwards; Ellen Stewart & Brenda Devey

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2024

For a shared Mission that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission among priests, religious and lay people.

ASSISTED DYING BILL

As you will have seen in the news Kim Leadbeater MP will be introducing a Bill into parliament this month to legally permit medical doctors to end the life of those with a terminal illness. This bill is likely to be concerning on several levels but especially in this attempt to move doctors out of their primary duty to care for patients and towards participation in what will soon, if the bill is passed, become a new UK business sector of euthanasia provision. You may find it helpful to watch the documentary '[Better off Dead](#)' written and presented by the disabled actress Liz Carr for BBC One and iPlayer about the rapid extension of assisted dying in Canada from just terminally ill people to a much wider group to assist you in contributing to these debates. My own research in Europe shows that disabled and other marginalised people can be most at risk. Please write to our MP, Alison McGovern in your own words - not more than one page - sharing your own experiences and views.

MPs will have a free vote and so will be interested to hear what you have to say. The government themselves have stated that social care, the NHS, social benefits for carers are not fit for purpose. Hospices and palliative care are massively underfunded too. Aside from any other factors in such circumstances it seems to me the wrong time to introduce such a bill before reform and resources are addressed. Alison can be contacted by email alison.mcGovern.mp@parliament.uk or through her constituency office 77 New Chester Road, New Ferry, Wirral CH62 1AB.

PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION TUESDAYS have been postponed until the beginning of November. Fr Michael apologises for the delay again!

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MRS ELAINE MCGUNIGALL - On Thursday we will be celebrating the retirement of Elaine as Headteacher of Our Lady & Saint Edward's primary school, this will be an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that she has done for staff & pupils of one of our parish primary schools over two plus decades! There will be refreshments in the school following the Mass.

WIRRAL ARK FESTIVE OPEN DAY - TOMORROW 14th October you are invited to Wirral Ark Festive Open Day at 7 Sidney Street, Birkenhead CH41 1BF. This is an opportunity to learn about the Ark's work, enjoy refreshments and get into the festive spirit early. For over 30 years Wirral Churches' Ark Project has been a beacon of compassion for people experiencing homelessness offering accommodation, care and professional services. Wirral Ark funds accommodation, community projects, healthcare and activities that help tackle homelessness in every form. It would not be able to provide these services without the support of churches and the local community who share their ethos of Christian compassion.

ZAMBIA/EYE FUND/CARITAS ENVELOPES - for the year 24/25 commencing 3rd November are now available for collection at the back of each church.

LIVERPOOL BACH COLLECTIVE PRESENTS: *Du sollt Got, deinen Herren, lieben* (You shall love God, your Lord, with all your heart - [Cantata 77]) - Sunday 3rd November at 6:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. This will be a service of Evening Prayer & the cantata.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC - For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running the Catholicism course. Our next meeting is Monday 4th November at 6pm in the presbytery.

UPTON HALL SCHOOL MASS - Saturday 9th November at 11am in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. This Mass is to celebrate Catholic Education & to pray for the present school community. Everyone associated with Upton Hall or Holt Hill convent schools is warmly invited to participate in this celebration. This year also celebrates 175 years of Upton Hall school & 25 years of the school annual Mass.

ROSARY SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 21st November 2024 at 2pm in Saint John the Evangelist church, New Ferry. The guest preacher will be Fr Humphrey O'Connor.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025 - After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!*

By air: Friday 25th July - Thursday 31st July / By coach: Thursday 24th July - Friday 1st August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 1st August

Our Young People from across the Diocese were amazing this year, they were prayerful, respectful & always cheerful even when sleep deprived! Hopefully we can bring many more of our young people especially from our Birkenhead parishes next year, watch this space!


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.

CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD? – Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see shrewsburyvocations.org If you would like to explore God’s call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PLANNING A PARTY OR A CELEBRATION AFTER A BAPTISM, A WEDDING, OR A FUNERAL? Our Lady’s parish centre is available to hire for all family occasions with food available on request. Contact Linda for bookings on 07971501345.

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.

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.

<p><u>PARISH FINANCE – 6th October 2024</u></p> <p>Offertory £ 540.85 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £2.00 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £ 17.00 CAFOD collection £174.80</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 a standing order 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.

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). Thank you to everyone who supports our parish by using Easy Fundraising. ***Our latest payout was £52.60***

BONUS BALL SCHEME – Congratulations to last week’s winner in the draw held on 5th October with no.19. Payment is now due for draw on 26th October for those who would like to continue or join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church, speak to Carol at Saint Paul’s or anyone at the back of Our Lady’s church to join.

CHARITY

HARVEST COLLECTION @ WIRRAL FOODBANK – donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul’s or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady’s. ***The foodbank is URGENTLY in need of Tinned tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, meat, jam, deodorant & washing up liquid.***

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – please donate used ones to support the Marie Curie charity.

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 – Please donate any old glasses to support the work of the Eye Fund. Boxes for donations are at the back of each church.