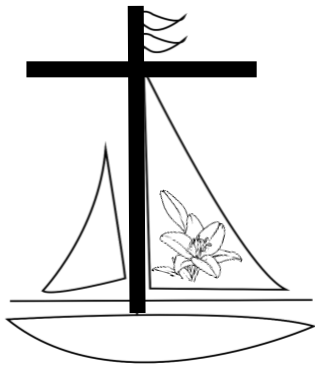




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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14th September 2025 – Exaltation of the Holy Cross

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 1. NICODEMUS. “YOU MUST BE BORN FROM ABOVE” (JN 3:7b)

With this catechesis we will begin to contemplate some of the encounters narrated in the Gospels, to understand the way Jesus gives hope. Indeed, they are encounters that enlighten life and bring hope. It can happen, for example, that someone helps us to see a difficulty or a problem we are experiencing from a different perspective; or it can happen that someone simply gives us a word that makes us feel that we are not alone in the pain we are going through. At times there can even be silent encounters, in which one does not say anything, and yet those moments help us to get back on track.

The first encounter I would like to look at is that of Jesus with Nicodemus, narrated in chapter 3 of the Gospel of John. I will start with this episode because Nicodemus is a man who, with his history, shows that it is possible to emerge from darkness and find the courage to follow Christ.

Nicodemus goes to Jesus at night: it is an unusual time for a meeting. In John’s language, temporal references often have symbolic value: here the night probably refers to what is in the heart of Nicodemus. He is a man who finds himself in the darkness of doubt, in that darkness that we experience when we no longer understand what is happening in our lives and do not see the way forward clearly.

If you are in the dark, of course you seek the light. And John, at the beginning of his Gospel, writes: “The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world” (1:9). Nicodemus therefore seeks Jesus because he has sensed that He can illuminate the darkness of his heart.

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	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	9:30am Jane Christley R.I.P. 11am People of the Parish	SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9am Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	<i>Saint Cornelius</i>	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	Ferial		
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Ferial	9:30am Joan & Johnny Jones R.I.P. (Wedding Anniversary)	SP
Saturday	<i>Ss Andrew Kim TaegOn, Paul ChOng Ha-sang & Companions</i>		
Sunday	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Ian Christley R.I.P. 11am People of the Parish	SP OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

For our relationship with all of creation – Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might, experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of respect.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Joan Jones R.I.P. Birthday at Our Lady's and Susan Jones R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

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

Those who have died

Frances Fitzgerald, Susan Jones, Larry Long & Francis Nelson.

PARISH

EDUCATION SUNDAY – Today we are invited to pray for our Young People especially who are starting new schools or starting school for the first time. We continue to pray for parents as the first educators of their children & for the teachers & staff in our Catholic schools without whom there would be no Catholic schools!

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY (formerly Home Mission Sunday) – Next Sunday 21st September, gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,” the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19. We are encouraged to pray for our parish community, that we will become intentionally missionary in our life and witness, especially in our own area here in the North end of Birkenhead. It is appropriate that the church will be open this day not just for Mass but also for the Heritage Open Days as well!

WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – From 12th – 21st September many places across Wirral will be open to visit as part of the heritage open days. For example, Flaybrick Cemetery where Bishop Hugh Singleton the second Bishop of Shrewsbury (section RC2; grave 467) & Canon Tallon (section RC3; grave 834) are buried. They have events & tours throughout the time. For more information about Flaybrick visit: www.flaybrick.org; for more information about the many other events in Wirral visit: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

As part of the Heritage Open Days, we will be opening Our Lady’s church for visitors to come & find out more about our history & heritage, as well as more about who we are as a Catholic Christian community! The church will be open on Saturdays 13th & 20th September 1pm – 5pm & Sundays 14th & 21st September 12.30pm–3.30pm. We need as many volunteers as possible to help during these times, there is a list at the back of Our Lady’s church with volunteering slots, please do sign up!

CHURCHES TOGETHER LANCASHIRE – celebrating 1700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. The programme which started on Friday 12th September ends today. For more information & to book visit <https://blackburncathedral.com/the-council-of-nicaea-1700th-anniversary-conference/>

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY AGM will take place NEXT Sunday 21st September at 2pm in the Parish Centre at Saint Hugh and Saint John Manchester Road, West Timperley, WA14 5NB. (Access to the main car park is via St Hugh's Close WA14 5HL) All hospitality members are invited to attend.

2026 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!*

By air: Friday 31st July – Thursday 6th August / *By coach:* Thursday 30th July – Friday 7th August.

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 29th July – Friday 7th August

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA – Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, “Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering.”

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

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – Friday 3rd October at 7pm at Saint John’s Church, New Ferry.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE RETREAT DAY – Saturday 11th October, 9:30am–4pm in the Parish room at Shrewsbury Cathedral. For more information or to register please contact monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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 SUICIDE BILL is now progressing through the House of Lords, please read Archbishop John Sherrington's statement.

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>

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.

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 the 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.

PARISH FINANCES

7th September 2025

Offertory – £470.64 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)

£10 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £12.04

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 6th September was 24. If you would like to join the next payment of £5 will be due on 4th October for draws commencing on 11th October 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.