



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

18th May 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 17. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY: "COME!". THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHRISTIAN HOPE.

The Holy Spirit is the ever-gushing source of Christian hope. Saint Paul left us these precious words, this is what Paul says: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rm 15:13). If the Church is a boat, the Holy Spirit is the sail that propels it and lets it advance on the sea of history, today as in the past!

Hope is not an empty word, or a vague desire of ours that things may turn out for the best; hope is a certainty, because it is founded on God's fidelity to His promises. And this is why it is called a theological virtue: because it is infused by God and has God as its guarantor. It is not a passive virtue, which merely waits for things to happen. It is a supremely active virtue that helps make them happen. Someone who fought for the liberation of the poor wrote these words: "The Holy Spirit is at the origin of the cry of the poor. He is the strength given to those who have no strength. He leads the struggle for the emancipation and full realization of the people of the oppressed".

The Christian cannot be satisfied with *having* hope; he or she must also *radiate* hope, be a sower of hope. It is the most beautiful gift that the Church can give to all of humanity, especially at times in which everything seems to be dragging down the sails.

The apostle Peter exhorted the first Christians with these words: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope". But he added a recommendation: "But do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pt 3:15-16). And this is because it is not so much the strength of the arguments that will convince people, but rather the love that we know how to put in them. This is the first and most effective form of evangelization. And it is open to everyone!

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	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Ian Robert Hendrie R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Saint Milburga	9am	Laurence Barron (Speedy recovery)	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Weekday of Eastertide	9:30am	Peter Thomas & Family	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	The Dedication of the Cathedral	9am	John McNulty	OL
Thursday	Weekday of Eastertide			
Friday	Weekday of Eastertide	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke	SP
Saturday	OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS	12pm	Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	OL
Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	Julia Brown	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns to wish heartfelt appreciation for all who prayed for a speedy recovery for Raymond Michael Stevens at Our Lady's and Canon Sean Riley 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, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

Ian Christley, Anne Cumings, Daniel Regan, Maureen Richards, Peter Thomas, Joseph Toole & Brenda Wilson.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2025

For working conditions. Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in their dignity and that society might be humanised.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity: No 234025

PARISH

ASSISTED DYING BILL – this legislation returned to parliament last week, please continue to write to our MP Alison McGovern asking her to oppose this bill, you can use the postcard which are available at the back of each church.

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS - During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

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 contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath at vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org To explore further visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN (20S AND 30S) – Discerning God's Call in your life. 23rd – 25th May, Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling, you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org To register: <https://bit.ly/FCJVocationWeekend>

ALONE OR BORED IN YOUR MARRIAGE? - Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

ROSARY SERVICE – is to be held at Saint Anne's Church Rock Ferry to celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary on 31st May 2025 at 10 am.

SUPPORTING THE VOCATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE – all those who are interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family are invited to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various ways you can help. 7th June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07549226794.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 21st June at Holy Angels, Hale Barns, followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. Parishioners celebrating a significant marriage anniversary can apply for an invitation from the Bishop's Office to Fr Michael.

A DAY OF FORMATION IN LITURGICAL PRAYER & SACRED MUSIC is to be held on Saturday 28th June at St Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. Led by Fr Guy Nicholls, Director of the St John Henry Newman Institute of Liturgical Music. A practical day course on understanding the Liturgy and use of Sacred Music within Mass. Begins at 11am and ends with a sung Mass at 5pm. Cost £5 per person (suggested donation payable on the day). Bring a packed

lunch. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided. To book or for more information, please email stockportshrine@gmail.com

STREET ANGELS is a nighttime welfare team of volunteers, walking the streets of Birkenhead at weekends helping those in vulnerable & difficult situations. Making Birkenhead feel & be a safer place to live, work & spend time at night. For more information visit www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – Following a very positive meeting held early April, where we explored the role of the Hospitality, you are invited to continue this reflection at a further meeting. We hope to build on the previous lively discussions and consider areas for further development. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May at 7pm at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. Please confirm your attendance by email to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

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.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT – the next events will be held on Monday 2nd June, from 1pm until 3pm in A&K Community Hub formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The events are free of charge, but donations are welcome. The bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks; and hot & cold drinks & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

PARISH FINANCES

11th May 2025

**Offertory £319.75 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£13 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £12**

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 – Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on Saturday 10th May 2025 with no. 18. Payment is now due for the draws from 24th May 2025. If would like to continue or to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy are 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.