

## *Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul*

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## **17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

### **CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 3. FORGIVENESS. «HE LOVED THEM TO THE END» (JN 13:2).**

How many relationships are broken, how many stories become complicated, how many unspoken words remain suspended. And yet the Gospel shows us that there is always a way to continue to love, even when everything seems irredeemably compromised. To forgive does not mean to deny evil, but to prevent it from generating further evil. It is not to say that nothing has happened, but to do everything possible to ensure that resentment does not determine the future.

When Judas leaves the room, “it was night” (v. 30). But immediately afterwards, Jesus says, “Now is the Son of Man glorified” (v. 31). The night is still there, but a light has already begun to shine. And it shines because Christ remains faithful to the end, and so his love is stronger than hatred.§

Dear brothers and sisters, we too experience painful and difficult nights. Nights of the soul, nights of disappointment, nights in which someone has hurt or betrayed us. In those moments, the temptation is to close ourselves up, to protect ourselves, to return the blow. But the Lord shows us the hope that that another way exists, always exists. He teaches us that one can offer a morsel even to someone who turns their back on us. That one can respond with the silence of trust. And that we can move forward with dignity, without renouncing love.

Let us ask today for the grace to be able to forgive, even when we do not feel understood, even when we feel abandoned. Because it is precisely in those hours that love can reach its pinnacle. As Jesus teaches us, to love means to leave the other free – even to betray – without ever ceasing to believe that even that freedom, wounded and lost, can be snatched from the deception of darkness and returned to the light of goodness.

When the light of forgiveness succeeds in filtering through the deepest crevices of the heart, we understand that it is never futile. Even if the other does not accept it, even if it seems to be in vain, forgiveness frees those who give it: it dispels resentment, it restores peace, it returns us to ourselves.

Jesus, with the simple gesture of offering bread, shows that every betrayal can become an opportunity for salvation, if it is chosen as a space for a greater love. It does not give in to evil, but conquers it with good, preventing it from extinguishing what is truest in us: the capacity to love.

### **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.

## **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2026**

That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## **SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for the intentions of Vincent Duggan R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Sr Noella Thiam (Silver Jubilee) at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

<b>MASSES FOR WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Violet & Pedru Rodrigues R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	<b>9am</b>	Sean Rudd (Healing)	<b>OL</b>
Tuesday	<i>Saint Milburga</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing)	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	<b>9am</b>	Vincent Duggan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<b>THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL</b>			
Friday	Ferial	<b>9:30am</b>	Mary Kennedy R.I.P.	<b>HC</b>
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Larry Long R.I.P. (Birthday)	<b>OL</b>

### ***PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS***

#### ***Those who are sick***

***Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey,  
Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet,  
Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan,  
Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.***

#### ***Those who have died***

***Mary Kennedy, John Miller and Stacey Watkinson.***

## **PARISH**

***DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026*** - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes, by air is full but by coach is still available from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August. If you plan to travel independently and organise your own accommodation in Lourdes, you still need to register especially if you wish to volunteer or join in with the pilgrimage. You can register via the new online booking system at <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – We are starting an exploration programme on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more!

We will meet every two weeks for an hour following the Sycamore programme a short video presentation with pauses for reflection, questions and discussion.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL – Last Sunday's collection raised £459.35, thank you for your generosity.

RELICS OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA – In the last week of May, our diocese, will host Saint Gerard's relics on their tour of England and Wales to mark his 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Saint Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from Southern Italy who died at 29, he is popularly invoked as the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession. There will be four locations across the Diocese; The Cathedral, Chester, New Brighton, and Stockport. See the posters at the back of each church for details.

TWO CATHEDRALS WALK – The Churches of the Liverpool City Region invite you to celebrate Pentecost with a walk from the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral to the Anglican Cathedral. It will start at 3pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May on the plaza outside the Metropolitan Cathedral before walking together along Hope Street to Liverpool Cathedral and will finish at the Anglican Cathedral. Along the way there will be family friendly activities & numerous stalls from local charities advertising their work.

PARISH BBQ will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady's. Donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall, please leave them at the back of each church. Helpers will be needed to help with set-up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets at the back of church to register your support.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 9am to 11am. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the porch if you can help.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026 – Parishioners celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2026 are invited to attend the **Diocesan Mass for Marriage, which will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at Saint Columba's, Chester.** The Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. To receive an invitation from the Bishop's Office, parishioners should contact their Parish Priest or Parish Secretary with the following information: names, address and which significant anniversary is being celebrated. Invitations will only be issued through parishes. The closing date to receive an invitation is this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY are holding a day of reflection next Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House. The day will include reflections from Father Sean Henry and Dr Kieran Moriarty and a Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All Hospitality members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance to [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

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 or click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week.

BBC SONGS OF PRAISE - will be recorded this Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm (doors open from 5.30pm) at Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY. Tickets are free & there is no minimum age for entry, but children aged 17 and under should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Please let Fr Michael know & he will book tickets for everyone together.

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS - The annual Diocesan Missio Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.


SPRING SING'26 WITH WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm in Saint Michael and All Angels church in aid of their parish funds. Ticket price is £8.00 and can be obtained from the parish office 652 5767 or from Deacon Gerard on 07742 649728.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT (RETROUVAILLE) - From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - if you are open to try again - Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443

PIETY STALL - A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise?

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May was 5 congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due on 7<sup>th</sup> June for draws commencing Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! *Our latest payout was an amazing £171.35!!!!* Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

<p><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b> <b><u>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026</u></b> <b>Offertory £310.22 (Cash); £70 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£17 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £23</b> <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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## **CHARITY**

CAFOD - Thank you to everyone who contributed to their Lent appeal either using the envelopes for Family Fast Day or online. Our parish raised £965.34 to support CAFOD projects helping communities around the world build a better future.

WHITE CHARITY OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPE - with the closure of the Eye Fund the proceeds from our weekly charity collection will now be split equally between the Mulanga Clinic run by the sisters of charity in Zambia and our own Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

WIRRAL FOODBANK -The immediate shortages are Shampoo, Tinned Fruit & custard, Tinned vegetables. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's. Please see the poster in the porch for further details or visit [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk).

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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY - can be donated at each church but **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ITEMS.**