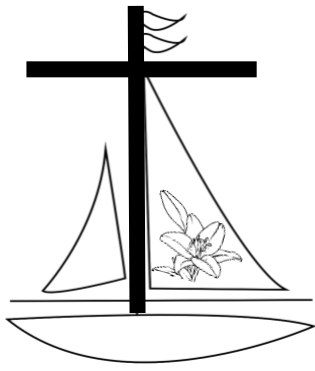




## **Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul**

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## **28<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 2. THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. “GIVE ME A DRINK!” (JN 4:7)**

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.

However, the Gospel tells us that Nicodemus does not immediately understand what Jesus is saying to him. And so we see that there are many misunderstandings in this dialogue, and also a lot of irony, which is a characteristic of the evangelist John. Nicodemus does not understand what Jesus is telling him because he continues to think with his own logic and categories. He is a man with a well-defined personality; he has a public role; he is one of the leaders of the Jews. But probably something no longer adds up for him. Nicodemus senses that something no longer works in his life. He feels the need to change, but he does not know where to begin.

### **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                                                                                                  | <b>TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>   | <b>9:30am</b> | Ian Christley R.I.P.             | <b>SP</b> |
|                                                                                                         |                                               | <b>11am</b>   | People of the Parish             | <b>OL</b> |
| <i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>                                             |                                               |               |                                  |           |
| Monday                                                                                                  | <i>Ss Michael, Gabriel &amp; Raphael</i>      | <b>9am</b>    | Tom Farrell R.I.P. (Anniversary) | <b>OL</b> |
| <i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>    |                                               |               |                                  |           |
| Tuesday                                                                                                 | <i>Saint Jerome</i>                           | <b>9:30am</b> | Kathleen McVeigh                 | <b>OL</b> |
| Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome! |                                               |               |                                  |           |
| Wednesday                                                                                               | <i>Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus</i>       |               |                                  |           |
| Thursday                                                                                                | Guardian Angels                               |               |                                  |           |
| Friday                                                                                                  | Ferial                                        | <b>9:30am</b> | Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.      | <b>SP</b> |
| Saturday                                                                                                | <i>Saint Francis of Assisi</i>                |               |                                  |           |
| Sunday                                                                                                  | <b>TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> | <b>9:30am</b> | Jane Christley R.I.P.            | <b>SP</b> |
|                                                                                                         |                                               | <b>11am</b>   | People of the Parish             | <b>OL</b> |

### **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 Johnny Jones R.I.P. (Birthday) at Our Lady's and Sr Damian O'Mahoney (Birthday) 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*

### **PARISH**

**BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX** –TODAY Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery.

CAFOD: HARVEST FAST DAY – this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. There will be a short talk at the end of Mass next week as well as a retiring collection to support the work of CAFOD.

ANOITING & HEALING SERVICE – this Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 7pm at Saint John's Church, New Ferry.

RED MISSIO BOXES TO BE COLLECTED – Please contact Angela on 07864336321 to arrange a pickup or alternatively please leave in the Church.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church.

PAUSE FOR HOPE – An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. [www.pauseforhope.org.uk](http://www.pauseforhope.org.uk).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – Regular monthly cleaning will be commencing on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 12pm If you can help a signup sheet is available in the porch to add your name for a rota to be drawn up.

FRIDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTION – each week after Friday morning Mass in the community room at Saint Paul's. Why not come for a brew, a short video & time to sit & chat about aspects of our faith & what they mean?

JUBILEE ICON will be visiting Our Lady & Saint Edwards school from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October. During that time, it will be on display in Our Lady's church. Each class will have the opportunity to come & pray with it as will parishioners over the weekend.

VACANCY FOR TRUSTEES AT WIRRAL FOODBANK – For further information please email [manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk) or contact Richard Roberts, General Manager, Wirral Foodbank: 07518034579. Closing date for applications is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

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."

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

ROSARY RETREAT DAY AND JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – Bishop Mark Davies will lead this Jubilee Pilgrimage at the Eucharistic Shrine in Saint Joseph's church, Stockport on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Rosary Retreat will begin at 9.30am with reflections and the praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary scriptural meditations. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark at 11am who will renew the entrustment of the Diocese to Our Lady especially entrusting in this shrine dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and intercession for the sanctification of priests and new and generous priestly vocations all vocations to the Priesthood. The day will conclude with a Eucharistic Procession and Solemn Benediction at 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) or telephone 07887 296983.

ASSISTED DYING BILL is now progressing through the House of Lords, please read Archbishop John Sherrington's statement & also write to members of the House of Lords.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY – this free of charge event for pensioners, with live entertainment is to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 12:30pm until 3pm, in the A & K community hub (310 Park Road North). For further information about this & the other activities that are held at the Hub during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto: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.

| <b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b>                                                         |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>21<sup>st</sup> September 2025</u></b>                                          |  |
| <b>Offertory – £391.89 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b>                           |  |
| <b>£11 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £18</b>                                 |  |
| <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 20<sup>th</sup> September was 22 & congratulations to, the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join the next payment of £5 will be due next Sunday on 4<sup>th</sup> October for draws commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> 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.