

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

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**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 6. "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME". THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**

There is a Psalm in the Bible that speaks of a perfumed oil, poured on the head of the high priest Aaron, and which descends to the hem of his robe (cf. Ps 133:2). This poetic image of the descending oil, used to describe the happiness of living together as brothers, has become a spiritual reality and a mystical reality in Christ and in the Church. Christ is the head, our High Priest, the Holy Spirit is the perfumed oil, and the Church is the body of Christ in which it spreads.

We have seen why the Holy Spirit, in the Bible, is symbolized by wind and, indeed, takes its very name, Ruah – wind – from it. It is also worth asking ourselves why it is symbolized by oil, and what practical lesson we can draw from this symbol. During Holy Thursday Mass, consecrating the oil known as "Chrism", the bishop, referring to those who will receive the anointing in Baptism and Confirmation, says: "May those formed into a temple of your majesty by the holiness infused through this anointing and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to you". This rite dates back to Saint Paul, who writes to the Corinthians: "For we are the aroma of Christ to God" (2 Cor 2:15). Anointment perfumes us, and a person who lives his anointment with joy makes the Church fragrant, makes the community fragrant, makes the family fragrant with this spiritual scent.

We know that, unfortunately, sometimes Christians do not spread the fragrance of Christ, but the bad odour of their own sin. And let us never forget: sin distances us from Jesus, sin makes us become bad oil. And the devil – let us not forget this – the devil usually enters via the pockets. Beware, beware. However, this must not distract us from the commitment to fulfil, as far as we are able and each in their own environment, this sublime vocation of being the good fragrance of Christ in the world. The fragrance of Christ emanates from the "fruits of the Spirit", which are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22). Paul said this, and how good it is to find a person who has these virtues: a loving person, a joyful person, a person who makes peace, a magnanimous person, not stingy, a benevolent person who welcomes everyone, a good person. It is beautiful to find a good person, a faithful person, a meek person, who is not proud... If we cultivate these fruits, and encounter these people, without us realizing it, someone will smell some of the fragrance of the Spirit of Christ around us. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us more aware that we are anointed, anointed by him.

## 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>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Andrew O'Leary R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Advent	<b>9:30am</b>	Fliss & Nigel Salisbury and Family	<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	Advent	<b>9:30am</b>	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!				
Tuesday	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>5pm</b>	Mary & Terry McGhee R.I.P.	<b>SP</b>
		<b>6:30pm</b>	Ray & Alan Stevens R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
		<b>9pm</b>	People of the Parish	<b>OL</b>
Wednesday	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Anna, Michael & Kevin Coughlan	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<i>SAINT STEPHEN</i>	<b>10am</b>	Danny MacAlear R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Friday	<i>SAINT JOHN (APOSTLE)</i>	<b>10am</b>	Norma Platt R.I.P.	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	<i>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</i>	<b>10am</b>	Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund Members	<b>OL</b>
Sunday	<i>THE HOLY FAMILY</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Alice & Arthur Cook R.I.P.	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>OL</b>
Monday	<i>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	<b>10am</b>	Ernest Edwards R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
		<b>2pm</b>	<b>REQUIEM MASS FOR PATRICK LEWIS</b>	<b>SP</b>
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</i>	<b>10am</b>	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!				
Wednesday	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	<b>10am</b>	Jack Mulcahy R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<i>Saint Basil the Great &amp; Saint Gregory Nazianzen</i>			<b>OL</b>
Friday	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Terry Connor	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	<i>Christmas</i>			<b>OL</b>

Sunday	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b> Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*Those who are sick*

*Irene Fortune, Anna Coughlan, Canon Philip Moor, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer,  
Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye*

*Those who have died*

*Ruth O'Brien, Nigel Salisbury, Paddy Lewis & Terence Hughes*

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025**

*FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE* – Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthens us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

*FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION* – Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP** the lamp burns for Pauline Bewley (Speedy Recovery) at Our Lady's and Anna, Michael & Kevin Coughlan at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

**PARISH**

*CHRISTMAS RAFFLE* – will be held on *TODAY* in the back of church and tea and coffee will be available. There will be multiple prizes with the *top prize being £50*. Tickets cost £1 for a strip of 5 and can be bought from today.

*DECORATING OUR LADY'S CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS* will take place after Mass *TODAY*. Everyone is welcome to join in to help!

*OLD MISSALS* – with the introduction of the new translation of the lectionary many people may have old Sunday missals at home. Please bring them to church before Christmas & we will include them with the church lectionaries to be recycled in an environmentally friendly way as part of the Diocesan scheme.

*CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS* are *still* available at the Piety stall at each church.

*CAFOD WORLD GIFTS* – the catalogue is now available to take home at the back of churches. Don't forget to get your order in ASAP for standard postage, alternatively you could send one as an e-Gift.

*CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUN, WALK OR WHEEL* will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December at Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool L15 4LE, 10 am registration, 11am start line. Further details on [cafod.org.uk/news/events/liverpool-fun-run](http://cafod.org.uk/news/events/liverpool-fun-run).


*CONFIRMATION* Any young person who is in Year 8 or above at school and wishes to enrol in this year's Confirmation programme please get an information flyer from the back of church. The sessions for this year's confirmation programme will continue Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January) at 7pm in Our Lady's. If you know someone who would like to be confirmed but hasn't yet joined tell them to come & bring a friend or three!

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 now in the New Year (Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025) at 6pm in Our Lady’s.

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.

JOB VACANCY AT SYMT – The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a new Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Diocese: 35 hours a week including some evening and weekend working. For more information and job description please see the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>. **Closing date: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.** Please send your CV to [Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

EASY FUNDRAISING – thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, our latest payout is £24.38. As you are shopping for your Christmas presents online, don’t forget to use the Easy Fundraising donation reminder so that the parish can collect even more free donations as you shop!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PARISH FINANCE – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024</u></b> <b>Offertory £456.13 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £10.50(card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £14</b> <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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME–Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on 14<sup>th</sup> December with no 3. Payment of £5 will be due by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December for entry in to draws from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025. If you would like to continue or join, please give your payment in ASAP.

## **CHARITY**

TESCO STRONGER STARTS: OUR LADY & SAINT EDWARD’S PRIMARY SCHOOL – each month Tesco in Bidston Moss supports three local charitable schemes. This month they are supporting OLSE Fitness for Fun, with the aim to promote cycling to & from school where possible. You can vote for this scheme of one of our parish primary schools by picking up the blue tokens & putting it in the box marked Our Lady & Saint Edward’s. The charity with the most votes can receive up to £1500 toward their scheme. If you shop in Tesco, please vote for the project of one of our primary schools!

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 - 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 available at each church.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS - used ones can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.

**WISHING ALL OUR PARISHIONARES  
AND VISITORS A HAPPY AND A  
HOLY CHRISTMAS. FR MICHAEL**

