

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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13th April 2025 - Palm Sunday

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 15. THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. JOY

After speaking about sanctifying grace and then charisms, today I would like to take a look at a third reality. The first, sanctifying grace; second, charisms; and what is the third? A reality linked to the action of the Holy Spirit: the “fruits of the Spirit”. Something strange. What is the fruit of the Spirit? Saint Paul offers a list of them in the Letter to the Galatians. He writes this, listen carefully: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (5:22). Nine: these are the “fruits of the Spirit”. But what is this “fruit of the Spirit”?

Unlike the charisms, which the Spirit gives to whom He wants and when He wants for the good of the Church, the *fruits* of the Spirit, I repeat - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control - are the result of cooperation between grace and our freedom. These fruits always express the creativity of the person, in which “faith works through love” (cf. *Gal* 5:6), sometimes in a surprising and joyful way. Not everyone in the Church can be an apostle, not everyone can be a prophet, not everyone can be an evangelist, not everyone; but all of us, without distinction, can and must be charitable, patient, humble workers for peace, and so on. But all of us, yes, must be charitable, must be patient, must be humble, workers for peace and not war.

Among the fruits of the Spirit listed by the Apostle, I like to highlight one of them, recalling the initial words of the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: “The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Jesus joy is constantly born anew” (no. 1). There will be sad moments at times, but there is always peace. With Jesus there is joy and peace.

Joy, fruit of the Spirit, has in common with any other human joy a certain feeling of fullness and fulfilment, which makes one wish it would last forever. We know from experience, however, that this is not the case, because everything here passes quickly. Everything passes quickly. Let us think together: youth, youthfulness - it passes quickly; health, strength, well-being, friendships, loves... They last a hundred years, but then... no more. They soon pass. Besides, even if these things do not pass quickly, after a while they are no longer enough, or even become boring, because, as Saint Augustine said to God: “You have made us for

Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You” [1]. There is the restlessness of the heart to seek beauty, peace, love, joy.

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	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Solano Fernandes R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	9am	P Walsh	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	9:30am	Anna Coughlan (Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i>	9am	Sr Frances R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7pm	Mass of the Lord’s Supper Mary & Terry McGhee R.I.P.	SP
Friday	GOOD FRIDAY	12pm	Stations of the Cross	OL
		3pm	Celebration of the Lord’s Passion	OL
Saturday	HOLY SATURDAY	8:30pm	Vigil & First Mass of Easter Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL
Sunday	EASTER SUNDAY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Solano Fernandes R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Michael Murphy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward & Sarah Williams.

Those who have died

Christine Bridge, Margaret MacPhee, Frank Morris, Edward O’Neil, Maureen Richards & Brenda Wilson.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person and will help us face the crises of our time.

PARISH

REQUIEM MASS FOR FRANK MORRIS – Monday 28th April at 11am in Our Lady’s church.

PREPARING THE EASTER GARDEN – Saturday 19th April at 11:30am in Our Lady’s church.

BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS – Conclude this Sunday at 7:45pm, with “I look for the resurrection of the dead & the life of the world to come.” Episodes are available afterwards on BBC Sounds.

ASSISTED DYING BILL – this legislation returns to parliament in the coming weeks after Easter, please read the pastoral letter from the Bishops of England & Wales which was enclosed with last week’s Newsletter. Please also 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.

CAFOD’s BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR – You are invited to join CAFOD’s Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho’s in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL – Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD’s Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

MANCHESTER BAROQUE – will be performing Bach’s Saint John Passion with Manchester Cathedral Choir at Manchester Cathedral on Good Friday, April 18th from 7pm to 10 pm. Good Friday is the time in the Church calendar which it was originally written for. Tickets start at £10. To book for the Saint John Passion head to: <https://shorturl.at/kowtW>. They are offering a 25% discount for tickets booked through Churches using the code CHURCHDISCOUNT on Eventbrite.

TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST COLUMBA, ST ANDREW & ST MARGARET – will be at St Annes Church, Rock Ferry from 5 pm on Friday 25th April, with Holy Mass at 6pm & Veneration & confession at 7pm until 8pm; Saturday 26th, Holy Mass at 10am, Veneration from 11am – 3pm, a talk about the Relics at 3pm followed by Benediction at 4pm & Sunday 27th April, Holy Mass Blessing with Relics at 11am then the Relics will depart for North Wales at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be provided in the Presbytery on Friday and Sunday & on Saturday in the Parish Centre.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT – the next events will be held on 28th April & 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.

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.

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Their next course is 20th – 22nd June at Welwyn Garden City. For more information visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or tel. 07887 296983

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE WALLASEY ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT TWO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – for more information, please see Fr Michael.


WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY – What is wholehearted monthly? It's an online mission series which started in March for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>.

The final session will be held on Tuesday 13 May from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. The speaker is Chine McDonald who is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

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

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p>6th April 2025</p> <p>Offertory £ 478.18 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £5 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £24.</p> <p><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 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 5th April with no. 18. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church. Payment of £5 is now due for draws from 19th April 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.

