

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 07710 717207
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

21st June 2026 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 6. DEATH. "JESUS UTTERED A LOUD CRY AND BREATHED HIS LAST" (MK 15:37).

Dear brothers and sisters,

Good morning and thank you for your presence: a beautiful witness!

Today we will contemplate the culmination of Jesus' life in this world: his death on the cross. The Gospels attest to a very precious detail, which is worthy of contemplation with the intelligence of faith. On the cross, Jesus does not die in silence. He does not fade away gradually, like a light that burns out, but rather he leaves life with a cry: "Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last" (Mk 15:37). That cry contains everything: pain, abandonment, faith, offering. It is not only the voice of a body giving way, but the final sign of a life being surrendered.

The cry of Jesus is preceded by a question, one of the most heart-rending that could be uttered: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?". It is the first verse of Psalm 22, but on Jesus' lips it assumes a singular weight. The Son, who always lived in intimate communion with the Father, now experiences silence, absence, the abyss. It is not a crisis of faith, but the final stage of a love that is given up to the very end. Jesus' cry is not desperation, but sincerity, truth taken to the limit, trust that endures even when all is silent.

At that moment, the sky darkens and the veil of the temple is torn (cf. Mk 15:33,38). As if creation itself was participating in that pain, and at the same time revealing something new. God no longer dwells behind a veil – his face is now fully visible in the Crucified One. It is there, in that broken man, that the greatest love manifests itself. It is there that we can recognize a God who does not remain distant, but who traverses our pain to the very end.

The centurion, a pagan, understands this. Not because he has listened to a speech, but because he saw Jesus die in that way: "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39). It is the first confession of faith after the death of Jesus. It is the fruit of a cry that did not vanish in the wind but touched a heart. At times, what we are unable to say in words, we express with the voice. When the heart is full, it cries. And this is not always a sign of weakness; it can be a profound act of humanity.

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 JUNE 2026

For the value of sports. Let us pray that sports can be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Kathleen Sparkes R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	SAINTS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE	9am	Canon Niall Mullaley	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Cath & John Pearson (70 th Wedding Anniversary)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST	9am	Agatka Potocka & Conor Makin (Marriage Blessing)	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Mary Dooley R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL	9:30am	Mary Dooley R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Beryl Ann Brown, Terence Joseph Caslin, and Sheila Clarke.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Mary Cranney (Birthday) at Our Lady's and Anna Coughlan at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

SYROMALABAR FEAST DAY - The Saint Joseph Mission of the SyroMalabar Catholic Church based here at Our Lady's church invite all our parishioners to join them for the Feast Day today. Holy Mass will begin at 3pm followed by a procession round the church then food and festivities in the school grounds! The presider and preacher is Fr Joseph Anchanickal.

WIRRAL COASTAL WALK - Margaret O'Sullivan and two of her boys walked the first part of the walk up to Leasowe Lighthouse in memory of Ian, her husband, who died of Motor Neurone Disease in November. Margaret thanks everyone who contributed, she has sent £210 to the Wirral MND association who supported Ian and all the family so well.

WIRRAL FOODBANK are seeking new volunteers to work in their distribution centres, warehouse or driving their vans. Please see the poster for more information or visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk

WE BELIEVE FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE will be held on Friday 24th - Monday 27th July 2026, at Saint Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us at the historic and beautiful setting of Saint Mary's College, Oscott, for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. Book your tickets at www.webeliefefestival.com

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2027 - The parish of Our Lady & Saint John, Heswall are planning their Walsingham pilgrimage again for 2027 and are opening it to other parishes again. There will be an information session on Saturday 4th July at 10am in Our Lady and Saint John's church. This meeting will review this year's pilgrimage and provide information about next year's. The meeting is open to everyone who took part in this year's pilgrimage and anyone interested in hearing what happened or about plans for next year's pilgrimage.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? - the programme will continue on 22nd 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.

PARISH BBQ will be held on Sunday 12th 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.

BBQ RAFFLE TICKETS will be on sale from today £1 per strip and will be drawn at the BBQ so please keep your tickets safe until then.

SEA SUNDAY 12TH JULY is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families. A retiring collection to support the work of Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) will be held, envelopes to gift aid your donation will be available at the back of each church. A volunteer for each church is requested to read out the appeal at the end of each Mass. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org or Fr Michael after Mass on Sunday.

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 +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?

THE TABLET AND NEW HALL FESTIVAL 2026 – Faith in Action: Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church 10th – 11th July 2026 at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford. Join a powerful two-day Catholic festival, bringing people from across the UK together to pray, reflect and act for justice, peace and human dignity. A joyful, welcoming space for worship, dialogue and renewal. See the poster for details.


NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 'ADOREMUS' will be held in London on Saturday 10th October. The day will begin with Holy Mass at Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark and there will a Eucharistic Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to be part of the Shrewsbury Diocese Pilgrimage Group to Adoremus, please register an interest with Mrs Natalie Orefice via email: natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

A&K COMMUNITY HUB PENSIONERS AFTERNOON TEA – this free of charge event will be held next Wednesday 24th June from 12:30 until 3pm at 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. For information about this & other activities held there during each week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com

BOOGIE BEARS MUSIC & MOVEMENT – Sessions at 9:30am & 11am; Tuesday @ Little Centre, Beechwood; Thursday @ A&K community hub. No booking required: £5 per child, discount for siblings. Tea & Coffee for grown-ups, snack for little ones.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 14th June was 44 congratulations to the winner from Saint Pauls. If you would like to join, 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><u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 14th June 2026</u> Offertory £482.46 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £2 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £8 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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CHARITY

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.

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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**