



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

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## **15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**

### **POPE LEO – MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026**

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires – both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

### **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.

<b>MASSES FOR WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish		<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b> Anna Coughlan		<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Lent	<b>9am</b>	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	<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 Patrick</i>	<b>9:30am</b>	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Lent	<b>9am</b>	Thanksgiving	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<i>Saint Joseph</i>			
Friday	Lent	<b>9:30am</b>	Sr Pauline's intentions	<b>HC</b>
Saturday	Lent			
Sunday	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish		<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b> Christine Foster		<b>OL</b>

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

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

### **SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for the intentions Vincent Duggan R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Canon John Poland 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**

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

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

*Rosie Anderson & Margie Sui.*

### **LENT**

**BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS** – every Sunday evening during Lent at 7:45pm, this year they are a series of personal reflections on power inspired by the story of Jesus' Passion. Six essays tracing the hidden currents of power in everyday life: how it shapes us, how it works, how it wounds, and how it can be resisted, claimed, and reclaimed.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wednesday mornings after Mass or join the SyroMalabar community Fridays at 5pm in Our Lady's.

SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS – Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Six consecutive Tuesdays which will continue 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar at 7pm – 8:15pm. Free of Charge | LIVE on YouTube. Registration: [www.comeandsee.org/lent26](http://www.comeandsee.org/lent26)

## **PARISH**

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 (pens £1, Mugs £6, bundle deal of one mug and two pens £7).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH, SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – if you can help a sign-up sheet is available in the porch to add your name.

LIVERPOOL WELSH CHORAL: WILL TODD'S PASSION MUSIC – will be held at 7:30pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 on the eve of Palm Sunday, in the Tung Auditorium, Yoko Ono Lennon Centre, 6 Oxford Street Liverpool L7 3NY. The main piece, 'Will Todd's Passion Music' is a beautiful and moving re-telling of the story of Holy Week, with new settings of the text of 'My Song is Love Unknown' and 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' and other Scripture extracts in a dramatic and challenging mix of Gospel, Jazz and Choral styles. In contrast, but echoing the Lenten theme, 'Stainer's God so loved the World' and Purcell's Funeral Music for Queen Mary completes this stunning programme. Discounted parking is available at the Paddington Village Car Park. Tickets cost £25 and are available at [www.lwcu.co.uk](http://www.lwcu.co.uk)

THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026 – a concert will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

BETROTHED: A MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE OFFERED BY THE SHREWSBURY DIOCESE will help to prepare both from a spiritual/faith perspective and relational perspective. You are welcome to attend the course whether you are to be married at the parish where it is being run or not. The course runs over two consecutive Saturdays 9.30am to 4.30pm at Saint Clare's Church Parish Hall (Downsfield Road, Chester CH4 8HH) on 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026. For more information, please contact Jane Deegan at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) &/or Mobile: 07517 906435. Registration is essential by contacting Monika at: [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI – Pope Leo has declared this a Jubilee Holy year for Saint Francis, the parishes of Saint Anne & Saint John are organising a pilgrimage to Assisi from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The pilgrimage includes Mass in the Basilica of Saint Francis, veneration of Saint Carlos Acutis's body in the church of Saint Mary Major, a trip to the Holy House in Loreto, visits to both the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angel Portiuncula where the Franciscan movement started and the monastery of the first order of Saint Clare in San Damiano. Cost £995. If interested, please phone Maria Fryer on 07576 243343 to secure a place.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? - Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the diocesan vocations director, Fr Sean Davidson. You can also visit [www.Shrewsburyvocations.org](http://www.Shrewsburyvocations.org).

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - During April 2026 the SVP will be running a series 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. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. 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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB AFTERNOON TEA PARTY - this free of charge event for pensioners with entertainment is to be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March from 12:30 until 3pm at 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. For information about this & other activities that are held at the Hub, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com)

CARITAS - If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury at Wheatland Lane, Wallasey, CH44 7ED Tel: 0151 652 1281, email: [info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](mailto:info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

CATENIANS - The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other’s company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact [p.davenport.123@btinternet.com](mailto:p.davenport.123@btinternet.com).

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March was 19, & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady’s. If you would like to join, the next payment is due by 29<sup>th</sup> March for draw’s commencing Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 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 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026</u></b> <b>Offertory - £405.50 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£5 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £14</b></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.

### **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](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.**