

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

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**10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 3. FORGIVENESS. «HE LOVED THEM TO THE END» (JN 13:2).**

Today we will look at one of the most striking and luminous gestures in the Gospel: the moment when Jesus, during the last supper, offers a morsel to the one who is about to betray him. It is not only a gesture of sharing; it is much more; it is love's last attempt not to give up.

Saint John, with his profound spiritual sensibility, tells us about this moment as follows: [During supper, when] "the devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over... Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass ... he loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1-2). To love until the end: here is the key to understanding Christ's heart. A love that does not cease in the face of rejection, disappointment, even ingratitude.

Jesus knows the time, but he does not submit to it: he chooses it. It is he who recognizes the moment in which his love must pass through the most painful wound, that of betrayal. And instead of withdrawing, accusing, defending himself... he continues to love, he washes the feet, dips the bread and offers it.

"It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it" (Jn 13:26). With this simple and humble gesture, Jesus carries his love forward and to its depths, not because he is ignoring what is happening, but precisely because he sees it clearly. He has understood that the freedom of the other, even when it is lost in evil, can still be reached by the light of a meek gesture, because he knows that true forgiveness does not await repentance, but offers itself first, as a free gift, even before it is accepted.

Judas, unfortunately, does not understand. After the morsel – says the Gospel – "Satan entered him" (v. 27). This passage strikes us: as if evil, hidden until then, manifested itself after love showed its most defenceless face. And precisely for this reason, brothers and sisters, that morsel is our salvation: because it tells us that God does everything – absolutely everything – to reach us, even in the hour when we reject him. It is here that forgiveness reveals all its power and manifests the true face of hope. It is not forgetfulness; it is not weakness. It is the ability to set the other free, while loving him to the end. Jesus' love does not deny the truth of pain, but it does not allow evil to have the last word. This is the mystery Jesus accomplishes for us, in which we too, at times, are called to participate.

**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 MAY 2026

That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Chris Bridge (Birthday) R.I.P. at Our Lady's and the Newly Confirmed at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

<b>MASSES FOR WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Anne Gillett	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	<b>9am</b>	Jack Sui R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Tuesday	Ferial	<b>9:30am</b>	Maria Pearson (Birthday)	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	<b>9am</b>	Margaret Sui R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>12pm</b>	Sr Noella Thiam	<b>OL</b>
		<b>6pm</b>	People of the Parish	<b>OL</b>
Friday	Ferial	<b>9:30am</b>	Kate Durbridge (Birthday)	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Violet & Pedru Rodrigues R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>

### **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 Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

#### Those who have died

*Irene Fortune and Mary Kennedy.*

## PARISH

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL - Today we welcome Sr Ann Jentrix, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Sisters' Missions Committee. This is a group of 12 Orders of Missionary Sisters. The sisters live and work in many different parts of the world, witnessing to the love of Christ for his people in ministries of teaching, medical and health care, catechesis, social & pastoral work and so on. The sisters currently work in Kenya, Uganda & Ecuador as well as in this country.

ASCENSION DAY – In addition to the Masses in here in Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul there will be a vigil Mass on Wednesday in Saint Joseph's, Birkenhead (Willowbank road/North Road) at 7pm & mass at Saint Michael & All Angels at 9:30am on Ascension Day. At our midday Mass we will be joined by students from Saint Anselm's college.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August and by air 31<sup>st</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk) along with a link to the new online booking system.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026 – Parishioners celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2026 are invited to attend the **Diocesan Mass for Marriage, which will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at Saint Columba's, Chester.** The Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. To receive an invitation from the Bishop's Office, parishioners should contact their Parish Priest or Parish Secretary with the following information: names, address and which significant anniversary is being celebrated. Invitations will only be issued through parishes. The closing date to receive an invitation is Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY are holding a day of reflection on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House. The day will include reflections from Father Sean Henry and Dr Kieran Moriarty. There will also be Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament . All Hospitality members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance to [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

#### SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS

During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube or click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS – The annual Diocesan Missio Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – If you would like to make future donations, spare boxes are available at the back of each church & please complete and return the slip with the first envelope you submit for audit purposes. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS – How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm–8:30pm; 21<sup>st</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> June

SPRING SING'26 WITH WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm in Saint Michael and All Angels church in aid of their parish funds. Ticket price is £8.00 and can be obtained from the parish office 652 5767 or from Deacon Gerard on 07742 649728.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com)

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](http://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?

BBC SONGS OF PRAISE - will be recorded on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7pm (doors open from 5.30pm) at Liverpool Olympia, West Derby Road, Liverpool, L6 9BY. Tickets are free & there is no minimum age for entry, but children aged 17 and under should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times. Please let Fr Michael know & he will book tickets for everyone together.

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May was 19, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due on 7<sup>th</sup> June for draws commencing Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

The draw is changing from June 7<sup>th</sup> & current Bonus Ball participants should have been given written details of the changes.

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>PARISH FINANCES</b> <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026</b> <b>Offertory £466.93 (Cash); £70 (Standing Orders)</b> <b>£32 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £10</b> <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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## CHARITY

CAFOD - Thank you to everyone who contributed to their Lent appeal either using the envelopes for Family Fast Day or online. Our parish raised £965.34 to support CAFOD projects helping communities around the world build a better future.

WHITE CHARITY OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPE - with the closure of the EyeFund the proceeds from our weekly charity collection will now be split equally between the Mulanga Clinic run by the sisters of charity in Zambia and our own Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury who work with families in need in our area and from whom our parish primary schools receive much support.

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.**