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**	

8th November 2026 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025: JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. IV. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. 6 - HOPING IN LIFE IN ORDER TO BEGET LIFE

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Pasch of Christ illuminates the mystery of life and allows us to look at it with hope. This is not always easy or obvious. Many lives, in every part of the world, appear laborious, painful, filled with problems and obstacles to be overcome. Yet human beings receive life as a gift: they do not ask for it, they do not choose it, they experience it in its mystery from the first to the last day. Life has its own extraordinary specificity: it is offered to us, we cannot give it to ourselves, but it must be constantly nurtured: it needs care to maintain, energize, protect and revive it.

One could say that the question about life is one of the most profound concerns of the human heart. We entered life without having done anything to decide to do so. The questions of all ages gush forth from this fact, like an overflowing river: Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is the ultimate meaning of this journey?

Indeed, living invokes meaning, direction, hope. And hope acts as the deep-seated drive that keeps us walking in difficulty, that prevents us from giving up in the fatigue of the journey, that makes us certain that the pilgrimage of existence will lead us home. Without hope, life risks appearing to be a parenthesis between two eternal nights, a brief pause between the before and the after of our journey on earth. To hope in life means instead to anticipate the destination, to believe as certain what we still cannot see or touch, to trust and to entrust ourselves to the love of a Father who created us because he wanted us with love and wants us to be happy.

Dear friends, there is a widespread sickness in the world: the lack of confidence in life. It is as if we have resigned ourselves to a negative fatalism, to renunciation. Life risks no longer representing a gift, but an unknown, almost a threat from which to protect ourselves so as not to end up disappointed. For this reason, the courage to live and to generate life, to bear witness that God is the quintessential "lover of life", as the Book of Wisdom (11:26) affirms, is today a more urgent call than ever.

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 is something expressed in everything we do.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2026

For the proper use of wealth – Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	**THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**9:30am** **11am**	People of the Parish Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P. (Anniversary)	**SP** **OL**
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	***The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica of the Most Holy Redeemer***	**9am**	Mary Dooley R.I.P. (Birthday)	**OL**
Tuesday	*Saint Leo The Great*	**9:30am**	Pauline	**OL**
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	*Saint Martin of Tours*	**9am**	November Lists	**OL**
Thursday	*Saint Josaphat*			
Friday	Ferial	**9:30am**	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	**HC**
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	**THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**9:30am** **11am**	People of the Parish Eileen Boylan (90th Birthday)	**SP** **OL**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Michael Brown, Christopher Browne, Gerard & Paul Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Fr Pat English, Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Rev. Bernard McConnell, Clare McElroy, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Michael Toner, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Bernard Doheny & Steven Lycett

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Mrs G Caraher at Our Lady's and M Campbell at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

NOVEMBER LISTS – envelopes are available at the back of each church for people to place the names of deceased family & friends. When completed please place them in the baskets in front of the altars from now until the first Sunday of Advent. We will pray for them each day during November & Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – preparation for First Forgiveness & First Holy Communion for those children who do not attend Catholic schools continues on Saturday 21st November at 4pm in the presbytery at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION 2027 –preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in Y8 or above are now underway. Information cards with all the times & dates Willard available.

FLAYBRICK ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE will take place this Wednesday 11th November from 10:30 am around the Cross of Sacrifice. Children from four local schools will be giving readings during the event, and local clergy will lead the service.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – will be held in aid of Parish funds on Sunday 13th December after 11am Mass in Our Lady's. Tickets are £1 and are available to buy now. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and Biscuits for raffle prizes. *Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or the sacristy at Saint Pauls*. Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 31st October was 45, 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 or to continue, the next payment is due 29th November**.** Thank you for your continued support.

EASY FUNDRAISING – As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising especially when shopping for car, home or travel insurance! Thank you to everyone who has used it.

PARISH FINANCES	
Sunday 1st November 2026	To donate online, please scan the QR code.
Offertory £438.23 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders)	
£25 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £9.00	
Thank you for your continuing generosity.	

JOB VACANCY

FUNDRAISING AND PLANNED GIVING MANAGER – A vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Fundraising and Planned Giving Manager. Hours: Full time. Rate of pay: Competitive, commensurate with experience. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website https://dioceseofshrewsb27ury.org/careers/fundraising-and-planned-giving-manager-2 Closing date: 27th November 2026. Please contact Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN (PRIEST OR LAY) – This is a unique opportunity to support women in custody and prison staff through spiritual leadership, pastoral care and ministry. Alongside providing faith-based care to Roman Catholic prisoners and staff, you will work collaboratively with colleagues to meet the pastoral needs of people of all faiths and none. Through your ministry, you will help create an environment where women can rediscover dignity, purpose and hope. We are looking for someone who is empathetic, resilient and committed to serving others with respect and integrity. This role provides an opportunity to live out your vocation in a setting where your faith and pastoral gifts can have a profound and lasting impact. This is a one day a week permanent 8 hours post. For info, please contact Managing Chaplain Jo Hirst at Joanna.hirst1@justice.gov.uk or 01625 553015. Closing date for applications is 26th November.

CHARITY

TESCO BAGS OF HELP – If you shop in Tesco Extra Bidston Moss then please use your blue tokens (available at the checkout) to support Saint Paul's school, they are hoping to get the money via the scheme for a new fruit fridge helping our children to continue to make healthy choices!

CARITAS & ZAMBIA CLINIC ANNUAL COLLECTION ENVELOPES – are at the back of both churches for collection.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – share the joy of Christmas with A CAFOD World Gift. A World Gift catalogue will be available at the back of each church from today.

WORLD MISSION DAY - £16.50 was raised from the collection held on 18th October.

RED MISSIO BOX TO BE COLLECTED – Angela will collect any boxes in late November. Contact her on 07864336321 or leave in the sacristy at either church.

WIRRAL FOODBANK APPEAL – please see the '*Reverse Advent Calendar*' for the duration of November or for further details visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk . Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's.

For this year's Appeal we will be collecting at the 3 big Tesco Stores in Heswall, Bidston & Rock Ferry at the end of November. If you would like to volunteer, please see the posters at the back of each church for time slots.

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**.

