

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 652 5655
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

6th October 2024 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES. THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 1. *The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*

Today, with this catechesis we begin a series of reflections with the theme, “The Holy Spirit and the Bride” – the Bride is the Church – “The Holy Spirit guides God’s people towards Jesus our hope”. We will make this journey through the three great stages of salvation history: the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the time of the Church. Always keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus, who is our hope. In these first catecheses on the Spirit in the Old Testament, we will not do “biblical archaeology”. Instead, we will discover that what is given as a promise in the Old Testament has been fully realised in Christ. It will be like following the path of the sun from dawn to noon.

Let us begin with the first two verses of the entire Bible: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and *the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters*” (Gen 1:1-2). The Spirit of God appears to us here as the mysterious power that moves the world from its initial formless, deserted, and gloomy state to its ordered and harmonious state, because the Spirit makes harmony, harmony in life, harmony in the world. In other words, it is He who makes the world pass from chaos to the cosmos, that is, from confusion to something beautiful and ordered. This, in fact, is the meaning of the Greek word *kosmos*, as well as the Latin word *mundus*, that is, something beautiful, something ordered, clean, harmonious, because the Spirit is harmony. This still vague hint of the Holy Spirit’s action in creation becomes more precise following the revelation. In a psalm we read: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and *all their host by the breath of his mouth*” (Ps 33:6); and again: “*When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the ground*” (Ps 104:30).

This line of development becomes very clear in the New Testament, which describes the Holy Spirit’s intervention in the new creation, using precisely the images that one reads about in connection with the origin of the world: the dove that hovers over the waters of the Jordan at Jesus’ baptism (cf. Mt 3:16); Jesus who, in the Upper Room, breathes on the disciples and says: “Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn 20:22), just as in the beginning God breathed His breath on Adam (cf. Gen 2:7).

The Apostle Paul introduces a new element into this relationship between *the Holy Spirit and creation*. He speaks of a universe that groans and suffers as in labour pains (cf. Rom 8:22). It suffers because of man who has subjected it to the bondage of corruption (cf. vv. 20-21). It is a reality that concerns us closely and dramatically. The Apostle sees the cause of the suffering of creation in the corruption and sin of humanity that has dragged it into its alienation from God. This remains as true today as it was

then. We see the havoc that has been done, and that continues to be wrought upon creation by humanity, especially that part of it that has greater capacity to exploit its resources.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK			
Sunday	27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Billy Boylan R.I.P.	SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	Our Lady of the Rosary	9am Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing)	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am John Pearson R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Saint John Henry Newman	9am Alia Ajali R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Ferial	9:30am Helen Fitzpatrick 11:30am REQUIEM MASS FOR SUSAN EDWARDS	SP OL
Saturday	Ferial		
Sunday	28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Christopher Hughes Varco R.I.P. (Anniv.)	SP OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Irene Fortune, Fr Febin Thomas CMI, Canon Philip Moor, Mgr Peter Walton, Fr Bernard Forshaw, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer, Anna & Michael Coughlan, Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye

Those who have died

Fr Alban Greenwood, Fr George Malecki, John Ellis, Susan Edwards & Ellen Stewart

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 OCTOBER 2024

For a shared Mission that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission among priests, religious and lay people.

Prayer for Peace – Today, Sunday; Pope Francis will go to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major to pray the Rosary for peace at this troubled moment for humanity. Tomorrow, Monday 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Holy Father has invited those taking part in the Synod of Bishops to join him in a day of prayer and fasting, invoking the intercession of Our Lady for the gift of peace in

the world. Let us be united with the Holy Father in this offering of prayer and penance for peace, especially on Sunday and on Monday.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing) at Our Lady's and Claire Higgins at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

FAITH REFLECTION TUESDAYS have been postponed until the beginning of November. Fr Michael apologises for the delay again!

BECOMING A CATHOLIC - For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running the Catholicism course. Our next meeting is TOMORROW Monday 7th October at 6pm in the presbytery.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: HELD ON FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2024 - Please return your collection envelopes today.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR GEORGE MALECKI (former Parish Priest of Saint Pauls)

Fr George will be received into Holy Cross, Wotton-Under-Edge, at 7pm on Wednesday 9th October at a vigil Mass. After the Mass Fr George will be taken to rest at Christ the King, Thornbury, his requiem Mass will be held there the next day, Thursday 10th October at 11am, followed by interment in Thornbury Cemetery. There will be light refreshments in the hall after the Requiem Mass.

WIRRAL ARK FESTIVE OPEN DAY - For over 30 years Wirral Churches' Ark Project has been a beacon of compassion for people experiencing homelessness offering accommodation, care and professional services. Wirral Ark funds accommodation, community projects, healthcare and activities that help tackle homelessness in every form. It would not be able to provide these services without the support of churches and the local community who share their ethos of Christian compassion. On Monday 14th October you are invited to Wirral Ark Festive Open Day at 7 Sidney Street, Birkenhead CH41 1BF. This is an opportunity to learn about the Ark's work, enjoy refreshments and get into the festive spirit early.

ZAMBIA/EYE FUND/CARITAS ENVELOPES - for the year 24/25 commencing 3rd November are now available for collection at the back of each church.

MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR MRS ELAINE M^CGUNIGALL - On Thursday 17th October at 6pm in Our Lady's church, we will be celebrating the retirement of Elaine as Headteacher of Our Lady & Saint Edward's primary school, this will be an opportunity to give thanks to God for all that she has done for staff & pupils of one of our parish primary schools over two plus decades! There will be refreshments in the school following the Mass.

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE MASS at Saint Peter's Church, (Green Lane, Hazel Grove SK7 4EA) TODAY at 2.30 PM. Celebrant Fr Pat Munroe. This will be a shorter, more relaxed service, Makaton supported, with sensory activities and low-level music to support anyone with sensory needs and those who just enjoy the atmosphere. All welcome. For more information contact inclusionstpeters@gmail.com

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025 - After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!*


By air: Friday 25th July - Thursday 31st July / By coach: Thursday 24th July - Friday 1st August
Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 1st August

Our Young People from across the Diocese were amazing this year, they were prayerful, respectful & always cheerful even when sleep deprived! Hopefully we can bring many more of our young people especially from our Birkenhead parishes next year, watch this space!

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.

CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD? – Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see shrewsburyvocations.org If you would like to explore God’s call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PLANNING A PARTY OR A CELEBRATION AFTER A BAPTISM, A WEDDING, OR A FUNERAL? Our Lady’s parish centre is available to hire for all family occasions with food available on request. Contact Linda for bookings on 07971501345.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PARISH FINANCE - 29th September 2024</u> Offertory £478.10 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £27 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £31 <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 a standing order 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.

EASY FUNDRAISING – Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). Thank you to everyone who supports our parish by using Easy Fundraising. **Our latest payout was £52.60**

BONUS BALL SCHEME – Congratulations to last week’s winner in the draw held on 28th September with no.12. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church, speak to Carol at Saint Paul’s or anyone at the back of Our Lady’s church to join.

CHARITY

HARVEST COLLECTION @ WIRRAL FOODBANK – donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul’s or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady’s. **The foodbank is URGENTLY in need of Tinned tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, meat, jam, deodorant & washing up liquid.**

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – please donate used ones to support the Marie Curie charity.

STAMPS – The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES – Please donate any old glasses to support the work of the Eye Fund. Boxes for donations are at the back of each church.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY

Due to the promotion of a highly respected Headteacher, there is an opportunity for an inspirational, resilient and dedicated Catholic leader to be the next Headteacher of St Werburgh’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School. Visits to our school are warmly welcomed. Please telephone Cheryl Gardner at the school office on 0151 647 8404 to arrange this. Closing date: Monday 14th October 2024 at 10am.

Applications should be sent to Julie English Julie.English@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Further details can be found on the Diocesan website <https://educationshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

JOB VACANCY - Faith in the City Lead Development Officer in Liverpool. For details visit <https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/faith-in-the-city-lead-development-officer/1509>