

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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7th June 2026 – The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 5. THE CRUCIFIXION. “I THIRST” (JN 19:28)

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the heart of the account of the Passion, in the most luminous and at the same time darkest moment of Jesus’ life, the Gospel of John gives us two words that contain an immense mystery: “I thirst” (19:28), and immediately afterwards: “It is finished” (19:30).

These are his last words, but they are filled with a whole lifetime, revealing the meaning of the entire existence of the Son of God. On the cross, Jesus does not appear as a victorious hero, but as a supplicant for love. He does not proclaim, condemn or defend himself. He humbly asks for what he, alone, cannot give to himself in any way.

The thirst of the Crucified Lord is not only the physiological need of a tortured body. It is also, and above all, the expression of a profound desire: that of love, of relationship, of communion. It is the silent cry of a God who, having wished to share everything of our human condition, also lets himself be overcome by this thirst. A God who is not ashamed to beg for a sip, because in that gesture he tells us that love, in order to be true, must also learn to ask and not only to give.

I thirst, says Jesus, and in this way he manifests his humanity and also ours. None of us can be self-sufficient. No-one can save themselves. Life is “fulfilled” not when we are strong, but when we learn how to receive. It is precisely at that moment, after receiving from unknown hands a sponge soaked in vinegar, that Jesus proclaims: *It is finished*. Love has made itself needy, and precisely for this reason it has accomplished its work.

This is the Christian paradox: God saves not by doing, but by letting himself do. Not by defeating evil with force, but by accepting the weakness of love to the very end. On the cross, Jesus teaches us that man does not realize himself in power, but in trustful openness to others, even when they are hostile and enemies. Salvation is not found in autonomy, but in humbly recognizing one’s own need and in being able to express it freely.

The fulfilment of our humanity in God’s plan is not an act of strength, but a gesture of trust. Jesus does not save with a dramatic twist, but by asking for something that he cannot give himself. And it is here that the door to true hope opens: if even the Son of God chose not to be self-sufficient, then our thirst too – for love, for meaning, for justice – is a sign not of failure, but of truth.

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	THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Billy Boylan R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Eileen & Billy Boylan Wedding Anniversary	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Irene Fortune R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Kathleen McGagh R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Saint Barnabas, Apostle</i>			
Friday	THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cook R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	<i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	11:30 am	<i>Celebration of First Holy Communion</i>	OL
Sunday	ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Linda & Jacinth Viegas R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Sheila Clarke, 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 Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Beryl Ann Brown, Mary Dooley and John Miller.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Peter Francis Upton at Our Lady's and Sr Maura McNamara at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

PARISH ACCOUNTS 2025-2026 – You will find enclosed with this week's newsletter the parish accounts for the last financial year which ended in April. The sheet also gives the comparison for the past three years as well. You will also find on the noticeboard of each church a coloured pie chart showing in visual form the income and expenditure for the past year. Please do have a look at both.

WIRRAL COASTAL WALK – Sunday 7th June. Margaret O'Sullivan and two of her boys will be walking part of the walk in memory of Ian, her husband, who died of Motor Neurone Disease in November. A collecting tin will be at the back of Our Lady's church today and next Sunday if anyone would like to contribute to the Wirral MND association who supported Ian and all the family so well.

REQUIEM MASS FOR MARY DOOLEY will take place next Thursday (11th June) at midday in Saint Werburgh's, Chester. Sister Pauline would like parishioners to know that they are very welcome to attend. Sr Pauline and her family are very grateful for people's concern and prayerful support both during Mary's illness and since her death.

LIVERPOOL WELSH CHORAL IN CONCERT will be performing at Saint Andrew's Church, West Kirby, CH48 5DN next Saturday 13th June at 7.30pm. The programme will include Vivaldi's *Gloria* & other choral classics. The choir includes members from our local churches & across Merseyside and beyond. Tickets cost £20 & are available from <http://www.lwcu.co.uk> or on the door.

NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE – To mark 175th Anniversary of our Diocese of Shrewsbury a new website has been launched for the Diocese. The renewed website is not merely a platform for information but offers a window on the life and witness of our Shrewsbury Diocese. The website can be accessed by clicking on: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

WE BELIEVE FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE will be held on Friday 24th – Monday 27th July 2026, at Saint Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. We Believe 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.webeliefestival.com

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 – If you plan to travel independently and organise your own accommodation in Lourdes, you still need to register especially if you wish to volunteer or join in with the pilgrimage. You can register via the new online booking system at <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – We are starting an exploration programme tomorrow 8th 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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB 310 PARK ROAD NORTH, BIRKENHEAD - For information about activities held there during each week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

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

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


THE TABLET AND NEW HALL FESTIVAL 2026 - Faith in Action: Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church 10-11 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

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?

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 30th May was 33 congratulations to the winner from Saint Pauls. The next payment *is now due* for draws commencing Saturday 13th June 2026 or 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>PARISH FINANCES Sunday 31st May 2026 Offertory £341.07 (Cash); £70 (Standing Orders) £2 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £16 <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 YOU DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ITEMS.**