

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

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 – The Presentation of the Lord**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 10. “THE SPIRIT, GIFT OF GOD”. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Last time we explained what we proclaim about the Holy Spirit in the Creed. The reflection of the Church, however, did not stop at that brief profession of faith. It was continued, both in the East and in the West, by the work of the great Fathers and Doctors. Today, in particular, we would like to gather a few crumbs of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit developed in the Latin tradition, to see how it enlightens all of Christian life and the sacrament of marriage in particular.

The main architect of this doctrine is Saint Augustine, who developed the doctrine on the Holy Spirit. He sets out from the revelation that “God is love” ( 1 Jn 4:8). Now love presupposes one who loves, one who is beloved and love itself that unites them. In the Trinity, the Father is the one who loves, the source and origin of everything; the Son is the one who is beloved, and the Holy Spirit is the love that unites them. [1] The God of Christians is therefore a “sole” God, but not solitary. His is a unity of communion and love. Along these lines, some have suggested calling the Holy Spirit not the “third-person singular” of the Trinity, but rather the “first-person plural”. In other words, he is the we, the divine we of the Father and the Son, the bond of unity among different persons, [2] the very principle of the unity of the Church, which is indeed a “sole body” resulting from several persons.

As I said, today I would like to reflect with you in particular on what the Holy Spirit has to say about the family. What can the Holy Spirit have to do with marriage, for example? A great deal, perhaps the essential, and I will try to explain why! Christian marriage is the sacrament of self-giving, one for the other, of man and woman. This is how the Creator intended it when he “created man in his own image [...] male and female he created them” (Gen 1:27). The human couple is therefore the first and most elementary realization of the communion of love that is the Trinity.

Married couples, too, should form a first-person plural, a “we”. Stand before each other as an “I” and a “you”, and stand before the rest of the world, including the children, as a “we”. How beautiful it is to hear a mother say to her children: “Your father and I...”, as Mary said to Jesus when they found him teaching the Doctors in the temple at the age of 12, (cf. Lk 2:48), and to hear a father say: ‘Your mother and I’, as if they were one. How much children need this unity – mother and father together – unity of parents, and how much they suffer when it is lacking! Children of separated parents suffer so much, so much.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	<i>THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD</i>	9:30am	Michael Small	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Saint Werburgh	9am	Alzira Fernandes R.I.P. (Birthday)	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	Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Agatha	9am	Francisco Fernandes (Birthday)	OL
Thursday	Saint Paul Miki & Companions			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Niall Mullaley	SP
		2:30pm	Funeral Service for Michael McElroy	OL
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	<i>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i>	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL

### **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.

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP** the lamp burns for Rob Creer R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Kevin Coughlan 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***

*Samuel Adodo, Irene Fortune, Anna Coughlan, Canon Philip Moor, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye*

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

*Josefa Alves Garcia, Brother Anthony, Rob Creer, Sheila Collinson, Michael McElroy, Denis Joseph Kelly & Cecilia Thompson*

### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025**

*FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE* – Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## **PARISH**

**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND** – You can still make your donations and Gift Aid them online at [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund)

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION** is an online course for all staff and volunteers in parishes provided by the Caritas Social Action Network. The programme will be spread over five Tuesdays – 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April. The course will be delivered online via zoom and is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life. The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*. For more information or to register, please contact the course administrator, Bernadette, at [bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk](mailto:bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk)

**WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY** is a new online mission series starting in March on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm. What is wholehearted monthly? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory. It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. Hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism> Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints.
- ❖ Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian.
- ❖ Tuesday 13 May – Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

**LOURDES ROADSHOW** – In this Jubilee Year of 2025, Bishop Mark has asked that our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will be our Jubilee Pilgrimage. To help raise the profile of the pilgrimage and to answer any questions your parishioners might have, we have organised two roadshows for those who are interested in joining our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you missed the roadshow last weekend at Our Lady & St John's, Heswall, the next roadshow will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2pm-4pm in Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe. Information and register of interest cards will be available, and members of the Lourdes Management Team will be present to answer any questions.

**FROM SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY** – Father Pat Munroe will celebrate Holy Mass on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Hospitality members are invited to join him at 7.00pm at St Hugh and St John, West Timperley WA14 5NB. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)

**CARING CONNECTIONS – RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT**: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 1-3 pm in A&K Hub formally Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The event is free of charge & the bar will be open


for the purchase of alcoholic drinks. Hot & cold drinks, & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6pm in Our Lady's.

JOB VACANCY AT SYMT - The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a new Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Diocese: 35 hours a week including some evening and weekend working. For more information and job description please see the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>  
**New closing date: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February.** Please send your CV to [Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING - thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, our latest payout is £24.38. As you are shopping for your Christmas presents online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising donation reminder so that the parish can collect even more free donations as you shop!

<p><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>19<sup>th</sup> January 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Offertory £448.70 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £2 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £16.60</b></p> <p><b><u>26<sup>th</sup> January 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Offertory £263.11 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £2 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £24</b></p> <p><b><u>CARITAS (inc. crib offerings)</u></b></p> <p><b>£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 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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME- Congratulations to the roll over winner in the draw held on 25<sup>th</sup> January with no. 50. Payment is now due for draws from 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025. If would like to continue or to join, please give in £5 asap. Please see a helper at the back of each church for available numbers to buy.

FLAME CHRISTIAN RADIO - Flame CCR, the Christian and Community Radio station for Wirral and beyond, broadcasts via the internet 24-hours a day, with a wide range of Christian and community programmes including music, interviews and Bible teaching. You can download the Flame Radio app to your mobile device. Search for Flame Radio on Play Store (for Android devices) or App Store (for Apple devices). Alternatively, there is a direct-link INSTALL button which appears when you access the website on a smartphone or tablet. And of course, you can still listen to Flame Radio via their website, [www.flameradio.org](http://www.flameradio.org) where you can also post your prayer intentions in the resources section.

## CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.

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 available at each church.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – used ones can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.