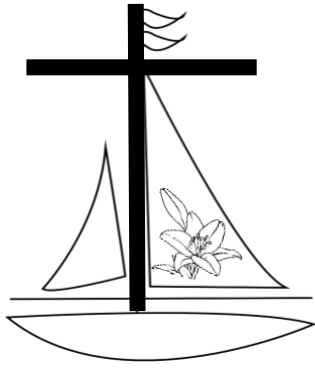




***Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul***

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  
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**7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS 8. “SON, WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS TO US?” (LK 2:49). THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.**

The experience of twelve-year-old Jesus going missing during the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem frightens Mary to the point that she also speaks for Joseph as they take their son back: “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety” (Lk 2:48). Mary and Joseph felt the pain of parents with a missing child: they both thought that Jesus was in the caravan with their relatives, but after not seeing Him for an entire day, they began the search that would lead them to retrace their steps. Upon returning to the Temple, they discover that He who, in their eyes, until a short time before, was still a child to protect, suddenly seems grown up, capable now of getting involved in discussions on the Scriptures, of holding His own with the teachers of the Law.

Faced with His mother’s rebuke, Jesus answers with disarming simplicity: “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Lk 2:49). Mary and Joseph do not understand: the mystery of God made child exceeds their intelligence. The parents want to protect that precious son under the wings of their love; instead, Jesus wants to live His vocation as the Son of the Father who is at His service and lives immersed in His Word.

Luke’s infancy narratives thus close with Mary’s final words, which recall Joseph’s paternity towards Jesus, and with Jesus’ first words, which recognize that this paternity traces His origins from that of His heavenly Father, whose undisputed primacy He acknowledges.

Dear brothers and sisters, like Mary and Joseph, full of hope, let us also set out in the footsteps of the Lord, who does not allow Himself to be contained by our precepts, and allows Himself to be found not so much in a place, but in the response of love to the tender divine paternity, a response of love that is filial life.

**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.

| MASSES FOR THE WEEK                                                                                     |                                            |        |                                           |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------|----|
| Sunday                                                                                                  | TWENTY THIRD<br>SUNDAY IN ORDINARY<br>TIME | 9:30am | People of the Parish                      | SP |
|                                                                                                         |                                            | 11am   | Douglas Fernandes R.I.P. (Birthday)       | OL |
| Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses                                                        |                                            |        |                                           |    |
| Monday                                                                                                  | Nativity of the<br>Blessed Virgin Mary     | 9am    | Billy Boylan R.I.P.                       | OL |
| Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church           |                                            |        |                                           |    |
| Tuesday                                                                                                 | Ferial                                     | 9:30am | Br Leo Anthony R.I.P.                     | OL |
| Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome! |                                            |        |                                           |    |
| Wednesday                                                                                               | Ferial                                     |        |                                           |    |
| Thursday                                                                                                | Ferial                                     |        |                                           |    |
| Friday                                                                                                  | Ferial                                     | 9:30am | Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund | HC |
| Saturday                                                                                                | Saint John Chrysostom                      |        |                                           |    |
| Sunday                                                                                                  | EXALTATION OF THE<br>HOLY CROSS            | 9:30am | Jane Christley R.I.P.                     | SP |
|                                                                                                         |                                            | 11am   | People of the Parish                      | OL |

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

**For our relationship with all of creation** – Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might, experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of respect.

#### **SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for Cath & Peter Hyatt at Our Lady's and Young People starting new schools or university 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, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey,  
Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James,  
Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith,  
Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

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

*Susan Jones, Larry Long & Francis Nelson.*

## **PARISH**

**WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS** – From 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September many places across Wirral will be open to visit as part of the heritage open days. For example, Flaybrick Cemetery where Bishop Hugh Singleton the second Bishop of Shrewsbury (section RC2; grave 467) & Canon Tallon (section RC3; grave 834) are buried. They have events & tours throughout the time. For more information about Flaybrick visit: [www.flaybrick.org](http://www.flaybrick.org); for more information about the many other events in Wirral visit: [www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk](http://www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk)

As part of the Heritage Open Days, we will be opening Our Lady's church for visitors to come & find out more about our history & heritage, as well as more about who we are as a Catholic Christian community! The church will be open on Saturdays 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 1pm – 5pm & Sundays 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September 12.30pm–3:30pm. We need as many volunteers as possible to help during these times, there is a list at the back of Our Lady's church with volunteering slots, please do sign up!

## **UPCOMING DAYS OF PRAYER**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Education Sunday. As our schools all return this week, we are invited to pray for our Young People especially who are starting new schools or starting school for the first time. We continue to pray for parents as the first educators of their children & for the teachers & staff in our Catholic schools without whom there would be no Catholic schools!

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday (formerly Home Mission Sunday). This day of prayer gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,” the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19. We are encouraged to pray for our parish community, that we will become intentionally missionary in our life and witness, especially in our own area here in the North end of Birkenhead. It is appropriate that the church will be open this day not just for Mass but also for the Heritage Open Days as well!

**CHURCHES TOGETHER LANCASHIRE** – celebrating 1700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September in Blackburn Cathedral. The programme begins on Friday evening with speakers also on Saturday & Sunday. For more information & to book visit <https://blackburncathedral.com/the-council-of-nicaea-1700th-anniversary-conference/>

**FROM SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY** AGM will take place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2pm in the Parish Centre at Saint Hugh and Saint John Manchester Road, West Timperley, WA14 5NB. (Access to the main car park is via St Hugh's Close WA14 5HL) All hospitality members are invited to attend.

**2026 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** – After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!* By air: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August / By coach: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August

**CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA** – Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, “Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering.”

JUBILEE EVANGELISATION EVENT – Sharing Hope with a Broken World with guest speaker Mark Saunders next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am-2.15pm at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. To book email: [natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL is now progressing through the House of Lords, please read Archbishop John Sherrington's statement.

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery.

JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS WITH BISHOP MARK DAVIES – also with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph and Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille is not counselling or group therapy but it's a marriage support programme which helps couples to rediscover trust, hope and healing for their marriage. For further details please visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) or telephone 07887 296983.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – In September, the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme called “**At a Loss**” It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing [recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com](mailto:recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com) or speak to an SVP member.

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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about the activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com).

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use Easy Fundraising even for car, home or travel insurance! **Our latest payout is £38.33.** Thank you to everyone who has used it.

| <b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b>                                                                                  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2025</b>                                                                             |  |
| <b>Offertory – £399.62 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)<br/>£28 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £70</b> |  |
| <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>                                                               |  |
| To donate online, please scan the QR code.                                                                     |  |
|                           |  |

STANDING ORDERS – You can set one 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 – The winning number in the draw held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August was 16 & ‘Congratulations’ to the winner from Saint Paul's. If you would like to join the next payment of £5 will be due on 4<sup>th</sup> October for draws commencing on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

## **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 & 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 can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.