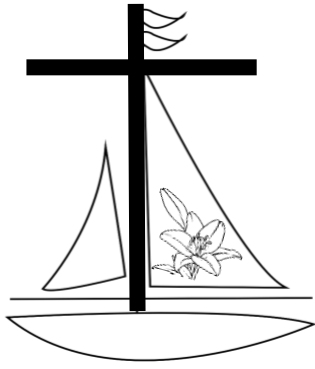




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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27th July 2025 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 5. “TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOUR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD” (LK 2,11). THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND THE SHEPHERDS’ VISIT

Luke thus shows us that God does not come into the world with resounding proclamations; he does not manifest himself with noise, but begins his journey in humility. And who are the first witnesses of this event? They are *shepherds*: men of little culture, malodorous from constant contact with the animals, they live on the margins of society. And yet they practice the occupation by which God himself makes himself known to his people (cf. *Gen* 48:15; 49:24; *Ps* 23:1; 80:2; *Is* 40:11). God chooses them as the recipients of the most beautiful news that has ever resounded in history: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”.

The place to meet the Messiah is a manger. Indeed, it happens that, after such expectation, “for the Saviour of the world, for He for whom all things were created (cf. *Col* 1:16), there is no room” (Benedict XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 80). The shepherds thus learn that in a very humble place, reserved to the animals, the long-awaited Messiah is born, and he is born *for them*, to be their Saviour, their shepherd. This news opens their hearts to wonder, praise and joyful proclamation. ‘Unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation’ (Apostolic Letter *Admirabile signum*, 5).

Brothers and sisters, let us, too, ask for the grace of being, like the shepherds, capable of wonder and praise before God, and capable of cherishing what He has entrusted to us: the talents, charisms, our vocation and the people he places beside us. Let us ask the Lord to be able to discern in weakness the extraordinary strength of the Child God, who comes to renew the world and transform our lives with his plan full of hope for all humanity.

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	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	George Sindall	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Frank Morris R.I.P.	OL
Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Saints Mary, Martha & Lazarus	9:30am	Kathleen & Joe McGagh	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Joan Jones R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Saint Ignatius of Loyola			
Friday	Saint Alphonsus Ligouri	9:30am	Ian Christley R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Joan Jones R.I.P. Anniversary at Our Lady's and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2025

For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

Fr Gerard McGuinness, Rita Clarke, Rosaleen Gallagher, Winifred Brack & Alan Hughes.

PARISH

BBQ RAFFLE – The unclaimed prizes will be re-raffled today after 11:00 Mass, please get a free ticket on your way into Mass.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – On Wednesday our Youth section departed for our Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes, with the theme 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. The main pilgrimage & the Juniors coaches left on Thursday & the planes on Friday. There are almost 430 pilgrims this year, which is our biggest number since covid. Today, we will be joining the International Mass at 8.30am BST and tomorrow we will be joining with Hexham & Newcastle Diocese at the Grotto for Mass at 9am BST. Both Masses and other liturgies will be available to watch on Lourdes TV which can be accessed via www.lourdes-france.com

While we are in Lourdes we will be praying for you, please pray for us and join with this year's pilgrimage intentions:

- ❖ For peace in the world
- ❖ For every human life to be held sacred
- ❖ For the new evangelisation of our country and for the increasing number of young adults seeking faith and Baptism
- ❖ For our new Holy Father, Pope Leo, in his supreme apostolic ministry
- ❖ For the renewal of our local church by new and generous vocations especially to Marriage as the foundation of the family; to the Priesthood, the vocation on which all other vocations depend; to the Permanent Diaconate in its generous service; to the Consecrated Life of women and men in its radiant witness; and for the apostolic life and apostolate in the midst of the world.

WINIFRED BRACK R.I.P. – Many of you will know or remember Winifred Brack (Wyn) who was Deputy Head of St Paul's Primary in the 1970s-90s, before retiring due to ill health. During her time there she received a plaque for 'Best teacher at St Paul's' which she cherished up to her death. Her funeral will be at Holy Trinity Church, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire at 2.30pm on 31st July. Please keep Winifred & her family in your prayers.

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE – Chester Across Group are going to Lourdes from 14th to 23rd August. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims and for nurses and helpers. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk

LOURDES FUNDRAISING CURRY NIGHT – tomorrow, 28th July, at 7pm at The Indian Hive, Poulton Road, Wallasey day to raise money for the Wirral and Chester Across Groups' pilgrimages to Lourdes. The cost is £15 and please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk to reserve a place.

SUPPORTING OUR PENSIONERS – A&K Community Hub (formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre) are hosting a free of charge *Live Entertainment Light Lunch* on Wednesday 6th August 12:30pm to 2:30pm pm. for pensioners. For further information for this and other activities that are held there during the week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

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.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? – Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the

diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org. "MASS TOURISM" – Many of you are going to be away over the summer. This is a time when we forget all our normal routines, and Mass is often one of them. We have a hazy memory of hearing that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended "for travellers" and don't ask ourselves whether someone within easy reach of every facility civilisation can offer, including churches, really counts as a traveller in that sense. This is a pity because far from being the reluctant execution of an irksome obligation, "Mass tourism" is a rich and fulfilling activity. The Church is universal, which means that we are part of it wherever we go. To go to Mass means instant belonging. Instead of being in a (more or less) picturesque location ornamented with (more or less) picturesque personages, you are in a real place, doing, with real people, what real people do. I strongly recommend that if you are going away, you make it part of your planning to establish where the churches are and what the times of Masses are. Don't hold obstinately to Sundays either. There are enriching experiences to be had on any day of the week. *Taken from the Universalis newsletter, July 2024.*

CATENIANS – The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other's company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact p.davenport.123@btinternet.com.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA – the order believes in charity, unity & fraternity, over many years they have helped priests, parishes & our Catholic schools & many projects internationally. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. Please contact Tony Connolly on 07950 392193.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u>	
<u>20th July 2025</u>	
Offertory – £211.47 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)	
Card £2.00 Zambia/Caritas £13.99	
<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 19th July was 15, congratulations to the winner. If you would like to continue for entry into draws commencing 2nd August payment of £5 is now due, or if you would like join, 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.