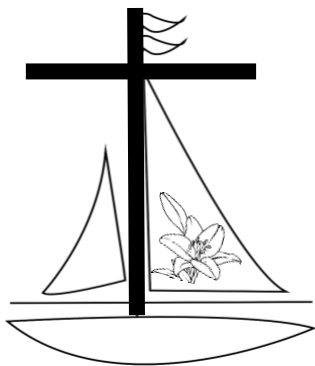




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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12th July 2026 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 7. DEATH. “IN THE GARDEN WAS A NEW TOMB, IN WHICH NO ONE HAD YET BEEN BURIED.” (JN 19:40-41).

In the tomb, Jesus, the living Word of the Father, is silent. But it is precisely in that silence that the new life begins to ferment. Like a seed in the ground, like the darkness before dawn. God is not afraid of the passing time, because he is also the God of waiting. Thus, even our “useless” time, that of pauses, emptiness, barren moments, can become the womb of resurrection. Every silence that is welcomed can be the premise of a new Word. Every suspended time can become a time of grace, if we offer it to God.

Jesus, buried in the ground, is the meek face of a God who does not occupy all space. He is the God who lets things be done, who waits, who withdraws to leave us freedom. He is the God who trusts, even when everything seems to be over. And we, on that suspended Sabbath, learn that we do not have to be in a hurry to rise again; first we must stay and welcome the silence, let ourselves be embraced by limitation. At times we seek quick answers, immediate solutions. But God works in depth, in the slow time of trust. The Sabbath of the burial thus becomes the womb from which the strength of an invincible light, that of Easter, can spring forth.

Dear friends, Christian hope is not born in noise, but in the silence of an expectation filled with love. It is not the offspring of euphoria, but of trustful abandonment. The Virgin Mary teaches us this: she embodies this expectation, this trust, this hope. When it seems to us that everything is at a standstill, that life is a blocked road, let us remember Holy Saturday. Even in the tomb, God was preparing the greatest surprise of all. And if we know how to welcome with gratitude what has been, we will discover that, precisely in smallness and silence, God loves to transfigure reality, making all things new with the fidelity of his love. True joy is born of indwelt expectation, of patient faith, of the hope that what has been lived in love will surely rise to eternal 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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2026

For respect for human life – Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Joe McGagh R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9:30am	Year 6 leavers	SP
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Sheila Clarke R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Bonaventure	9am	Fatmeh Watfa R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Thanksgiving	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard & Paul Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Moira McLaughlin, Kerry Morgan, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Sylvia Billington, Thomas Burns and Sheila Clarke.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Alicia McDonnell (Speedy recovery) at Our Lady's and Teachers in our Catholic Schools at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL – as part of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee CAFOD is helping to raise vital funds for communities affected. You can donate by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of each church or online at Cafod.org.uk/Venezuela.

SEA SUNDAY – there will be a retiring collection at both Masses today to support Stella Maris – The Apostleship of the Sea. Envelopes to gift aid your donation are available at the back of each church or you can donate by texting “SEA” to 70460 to donate £5.

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. The number of crews abandoned by their employers is still at a record high. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard.

PARISH BBQ will be held **TODAY** after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady’s. Please do help with setting up and/or clearing away if you can!

BBQ RAFFLE TICKETS are on sale £1 per strip and will be drawn at the BBQ, please keep your tickets safe until then.

WIRRAL FOODBANK are seeking new volunteers to work in their distribution centres, warehouse or driving their vans. Please see the poster for more information or visit <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

WIRRAL FOODBANK FINANCE TRUSTEE VACANCY – Wirral Foodbank are seeking to appoint a Trustee with professional finance qualifications and/or experience to join our Board of Trustees and work alongside our current Finance Trustee. If you are interested in this opportunity, or know someone who may be a good fit, please visit our website for further information and details on how to apply <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE – Act now, contact our MP Alison McGovern. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Our clear principled objection to this Bill remains and we renew our call for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops’ Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation: “This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading.”

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – the programme will continue next Monday 20th July 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.

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. Next dates are 2nd to 4th October. To find out more visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info or phone 07887 296 983.

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

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE DAY AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH – As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at Saint Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis. Please see the posters at the back of church.

BOOGIE BEARS MUSIC & MOVEMENT – Sessions at 9:30am & 11am; Tuesday @ Little Centre, Beechwood; Thursday @ A&K community hub. No booking required: £5 per child, discount for siblings. Tea & Coffee for grown-ups, snack for little ones.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 4th July was 47 congratulations to the winner from Saint Pauls. If you would like to continue, the next payment is due **TODAY** or to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 4th July 2026</u> Offertory £439.08 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £1 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £13 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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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

Emergency Food is not the solution – Through their Food Bank plus project delivered by Citizens Advice on their behalf Wirral Food bank is helping people get support with some of the underlying issues that can lead to them needing emergency food.

Council Tax reduction campaign – Some people who are on a low income are eligible for a reduction in their council tax but due to a recent policy change they could be paying an additional £34 per month. Individuals on a low fixed income are having to spend more to cover essential costs. This could result in them having less money for essentials, getting into debt & increased Food Bank use.

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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**