

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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6th April 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 14. THE BRIDE'S GIFTS. THE CHARISMS, GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOR COMMON USE

Pope Benedict XVI affirmed: “Anyone who considers the history of the post-conciliar era can recognize the process of true renewal, which often took unexpected forms in living movements and made almost tangible the inexhaustible vitality of the holy Church”. And this is the charism given to a group, through a person.

We must rediscover the charisms, because this ensures that the promotion of the laity, and of women in particular, is understood not only as an institutional and sociological fact, but also in its biblical and spiritual dimension. Indeed, the laity are not the least, no, they laity are not a form of external collaborator or auxiliary troops of the clergy, no! They have their own charisms and gifts with which to contribute to the mission of the Church.

Let us add another thing: when we talk about the charisms, we must immediately dispel a misunderstanding: that of identifying them with spectacular or extraordinary gifts and capabilities; instead, they are ordinary gifts – each one of us has his or her own charism – that assume extraordinary value if inspired by the Holy Spirit and embodied with love in situations of life. Such an interpretation of the charism is important, because many Christians, when they hear talk of charisms, experience sadness or disappointment, as they are convinced that they do not possess any, and feel they are excluded or second-class Christians. No, they are not second-class Christians, no, each person has his or her own personal, and also community charism. Saint Augustine responded to these in his time with a very eloquent comparison: ‘If you love,’ he told his people, “If you love, it is not nothing that you have: if you love unity, whoever has anything in that unity has it also for you. In the body, the eye alone sees; but is it for itself alone that the eye sees? It sees both for the hand and the foot, and for all the other members”. [1]

This reveals the secret of why charity is defined by the Apostle as “a still more excellent way” (1 Cor 12, 31): it makes me love the Church, or the community in which I live and, in unity, all charisms, not just some, are “mine”, just as “my” charisms, little though they may seem, belong to all and are for the good of all. Charity multiplies charisms; it makes the charism of one, of one individual person, the charism of all. Thank you!

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	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9am	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am	Kevin Coughlan (Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9am	Alan Thomas R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>			
Friday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am	Ruth O'Brien R.I.P. Birthday	SP
		1pm	REQUIEM MASS EDWARD FRANCIS O'NEIL	OL
Saturday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>			
Sunday	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Solano Fernandes R.I.P.	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Andrew O'Leary at Our Lady's and Thanksgiving 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, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Michael Murphy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward & Sarah Williams.

Those who have died

Margaret MacPhee, Christine Bridge, Frank Morris, Edward O'Neil & Brenda Wilson.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person and will help us face the crises of our time.

REQUIEM MASS FOR FRANK MORRIS will take place in Our Lady's church at 11am on Monday 28th April.

PARISH

ASSISTED DYING BILL – this legislation returns to parliament straight after Easter, please read the pastoral letter from the Bishops of England & Wales enclosed. Please also write to our MP Alison McGovern asking her to oppose this bill, you can use the postcard also enclosed with this newsletter.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wednesday mornings after Mass in Our Lady's.

2025 JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – bookings for the pilgrimage are now open. The brochure and booking forms are available to download from the Pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk *Spaces are running out fast so please book ASAP!*

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing the two young people from our Birkenhead post Confirmation group who will be joining the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year.

BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS – These are on Sunday evenings at 7:45pm. They are available afterwards on the BBC Sounds app or the Radio 4 website. This year the theme is the Nicene Creed.

LENT COURSE – On Friday mornings during Lent in the community room at Saint Paul's after Mass we will be showing the DVD based course "No Greater Love – A Biblical Walk through Christ's Passion." You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR – You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL – Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – There will be an informal meeting **THIS** Wednesday 9th April at 7pm, in Saint Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA to reflect on the role and purpose of the Hospitality, with a view to developing a more unified vision. All members are welcome. Please email secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk if you would like to attend. They are also praying the rosary on Wednesdays during Lent via Zoom. Details from the secretary via above email

MANCHESTER BAROQUE – will be performing Bach's Saint John Passion with Manchester Cathedral Choir at Manchester Cathedral on Good Friday, April 18th from 7pm to 10 pm. Good Friday is the time in the Church calendar which it was originally written for. Tickets start at £10. To book for the Saint John Passion head to: <https://shorturl.at/kowtW>. They are offering a 25% discount for tickets booked through Churches using the code CHURCHDISCOUNT on Eventbrite.

TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST COLUMBA, ST ANDREW & ST MARGARET – will be at St Annes Church, Rock Ferry from 5 pm on Friday 25th April, with Holy Mass at 6pm & Veneration &

confession at 7pm until 8pm; Saturday 26th Holy Mass at 10am , Veneration from 11am – 3pm, a talk about the Relics at 3pm followed by Benediction at 4pm & Sunday 27th April, Holy Mass Blessing with Relics at 11am then the Relics will depart for North Wales at 12.30pm. Refreshments will be provided in the Presbytery on Friday and Sunday & on Saturday in the Parish Centre.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT – the next events will be held on 28th April & 2nd June, from 1pm until 3pm in A&K Community Hub formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The events are free of charge, but donations are welcome. The bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks; and hot & cold drinks & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

SUPPORTING THE VOCATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE – all those who are interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family are invited to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various ways you can help. 7th June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07549226794.


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? It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>. Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 8th 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.

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE WALLASEY ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT TWO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – for more information, please see Fr Michael.

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 As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p>30th March 2025</p> <p>Offertory £ 586.11(cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £20 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £14.04.</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 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 – Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on Saturday 29th March with no. 19. A list of available numbers to buy are 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.