

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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23rd February 2025 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 11. "HE HAS ANOINTED US AND PUT HIS SEAL UPON US". CONFIRMATION, SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The problem is how to ensure that the Sacrament of Confirmation is not reduced, in practice, to "last rites", that is, the Sacrament of "departure" from the Church. It is said that it is the farewell Sacrament, because once young people do it they go away and then return for marriage. This is what people say... but we must ensure that it is rather the Sacrament of the beginning of active participation in the life of the Church. It is a milestone that can seem impossible, given the current situation throughout the Church, but this does not mean that we should stop pursuing it. It will not be so for all Confirmands, children or adults, but it is important that it is at least for some who will then go on to be the animators of the community.

It can be useful, for this purpose, to be helped in preparing for the Sacrament by lay faithful who have had a personal encounter with Christ and have had a true experience of the Spirit. Some people say that they have experienced it as a blossoming of the Sacrament of Confirmation they had received as children.

But this does not only relate to future Confirmands. It relates to all of us and at any time. Together with Confirmation and anointing, we have received, the Apostle assures us, also the guarantee of the Spirit, which elsewhere he calls "the first fruits of the Spirit" (Rm 8:23). We must "spend" this "down payment", savour these first fruits, not bury the charisms and talents we received, underground.

Saint Paul exhorted the disciple Timothy to rekindle the flame of the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Tim 1:6), and the verb used suggests the image of one who breathes on the fire to revive the flame. Here is a good goal for the Jubilee year! To remove the ashes of habit and disengagement, to become, like the torchbearers at the Olympics, bearers of the flame of the Spirit. May the Spirit help us to take a few steps in this direction!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish		SP
		11am Josefa Alves Garcia		OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am	Sr Frances 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>Ferial</i>	9:30am	Margaret MacPhee (Sick)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am	The Kelly Family	OL
Thursday	<i>Ferial</i>			
Friday	<i>Ferial</i>	9:30am	Julie Comber R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	SAINT DAVID			
Sunday	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish		SP
		11am Lorraine Pereira (Birthday)		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 Margaret MacPhee (Sick) at Our Lady's and Dougie Hawkins R.I.P. 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, Frank Morris,
Michael Murphy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward.*

Those who have died

*Judith Christley, Josefa Alves Garcia, Denis Joseph Kelly, Joe Croft, John McGagh &
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

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY -There will be a meeting of Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality at Saint Columba's Church (Newman Room), Plas Newton Lane Chester CH2 1SA on Saturday 1st March at 2.00pm. Please forward any apologies, or items to be discussed under AOB, to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

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 – 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March & 1st 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

JOB VACANCY FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS - The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Schools. The role is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position. The successful candidate will join a dedicated and committed team at a significant time for the education sector, for Catholic education nationally, and for the schools and colleges across our own Diocese as we look to serve Bishop Mark and the mission of our Church with Christ as the foundation of our entire educational enterprise. **Closing date: 10th March 2025.** For more information, please visit <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/deputy-director-of-schools-birkenhead-2171685>

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 FAMILY FAST DAY - will be held on Friday 14th March and our donations this Lent will help mums in Africa to grow food in harsh climates, building safety nets for their families. Envelopes are available at the back of church, or you can donate by virtual envelope online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope>

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS - Friday 4th April, 7.30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels. A Night at the Musicals" performed by the Warrington Male Voice Choir. We invite you to join us on what we are sure will be a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Tickets price £8.00 are available from Saint Philip Neri Parish Office at Saint Joseph's 652 5767 or via contacting Deacon Gerard Boyle 07742659728. We will arrange for the tickets to be delivered to the parish office for you to collect.

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 11th 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 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.

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.

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 – thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, *our latest payout is £47.04*. As you are shopping 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><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>16th February 2025</u></p> <p>Offertory £458.89 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £0 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £24.</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 Saturday 15th February 2024 with no. 1. If you would like to join, please see a helper at the back of each church for available numbers to buy.

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.

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