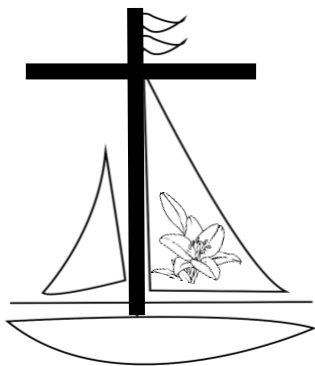




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
Livestream: <https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>
E-mail: info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org

23rd August 2026 – Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE 10. REKINDLING. “WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US?” (LK 24:32)

When they are finally seated at the table with him and break bread, their eyes are opened. They realize that their hearts were already burning, even though they did not know it (cf. Lk 24:28-32). This is the greatest surprise: to discover that beneath the ashes of disenchantment and weariness there is always a living ember, waiting only to be rekindled.

Brothers and sisters, Christ's resurrection teaches us that no history is so marked by disappointment or sin that it cannot be visited by hope. No fall is definitive, no night is eternal, no wound is destined to remain open forever. However distant, lost or unworthy we may feel, there is no distance that can extinguish the unfailing power of God's love.

Sometimes we think that the Lord comes to visit us only in moments of contemplation or spiritual fervour, when we feel worthy, when our lives appear orderly and bright. Instead, the Risen One is close to us precisely in the darkest places: in our failures, in our frayed relationships, in the daily struggles that weigh on our shoulders, in the doubts that discourage us. Nothing that we are, no fragment of our existence, is foreign to him.

Today, the risen Lord walks alongside each of us, as we travel our paths – those of work and commitment, but also those of suffering and loneliness – and with infinite delicacy asks us to let him warm our hearts. He does not impose himself loudly; he does not demand to be recognized immediately. He waits patiently for the moment when our eyes will open to see his friendly face, capable of transforming disappointment into hopeful expectation, sadness into gratitude, resignation into hope.

The Risen One desires only to manifest his presence, to become our companion on the road and to kindle in us the certainty that his life is stronger than any death. Let us then ask for the grace to recognize his humble and discreet presence, not to expect a life without trials, to discover that every pain, if inhabited by love, can become a place of communion.

And so, like the disciples of Emmaus, we too return to our homes with hearts burning with joy. A simple joy that does not erase wounds, but illuminates them. A joy that comes from the certainty that the Lord is alive, walks with us, and gives us the possibility to start again at every moment.

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 is something expressed in everything we do.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Larry Long R.I.P. Anniversary	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Saint Bartholomew	9.30am	Maureen Farrell R.I.P. (Birthday Remembrance)	
Tuesday	Saint Thomas of Hereford	9:30am	Alia Ajali	
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	
Thursday	Saint Monica			
Friday	Saint Augustine	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	
Saturday	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist			
Sunday	TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Cerys and Family	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Sylvia Brady and Fr Joseph Kendall

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2026

For evangelisation in the city – that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of John Ellis R.I.P 2nd Anniversary at Our Lady's and Breeda Deasy R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM are seeking to appoint both a programme coordinator & a team member. Both roles are based in Stockport. For more information, visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: Friday 18th September. Please send CVs to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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, 11th 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."

2027 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 30th July – Thursday 5th August / By coach: Thursday 29th July – Friday 6th August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 28th July – Friday 6th August

ANIMATED FILM David is being shown in Birkenhead's Vue cinema daily from 21st August. The screening will be at 12:45pm. The film is based on the life of David as told in the First Book of Samuel, it is rated PG.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Could you visit your local Catholic school to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – is to be held on Friday 4th September 2026 at 7pm at Saint John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry CH62 5BJ.

CARD MACHINE – There is now a card machine for payment at both churches, this can be used for offertory giving as well as paying for Mass intentions, items from Piety stall etc.

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.

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 our diocesan vocations director, Fr Sean Davidson. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org

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.

PENSIONERS AFTERNOON TEA – this free of charge live entertainment light lunch will be held this Wednesday at A& K Community Hub, 310 Park Road North from 12:30pm until 3:00pm.

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 15th August was 7, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church or to continue, the next payment is due **20th September 2026**. 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 16th August 2026</u> Offertory £401.40 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £13.20 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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JOB VACANCY

CURIAL OFFICE ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT – full time, based in Birkenhead. For more information visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: Friday 18th September. Please send CVs to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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.**