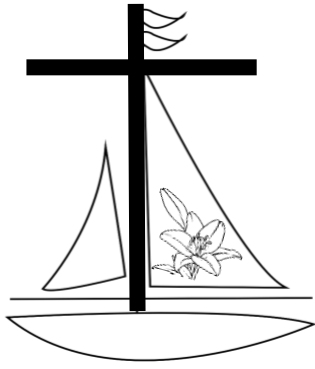




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 652 5655
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
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6th July 2025 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 4. "BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED" (LK 1:45). THE VISITATION AND THE MAGNIFICAT

Today we will contemplate the beauty of Jesus Christ our hope in the mystery of the Visitation. The Virgin Mary visits Saint Elizabeth; but it is above all Jesus, in His mother's womb, who visits His people (cf. Lk 1:68), as Zechariah says in his hymn of praise.

After the astonishment and wonder at what has been announced to her by the Angel, Mary gets up and sets out on a journey, like all those who are called to in the Bible, because "the only act with which man can respond to God who is revealed to him is that of unlimited readiness" (H.U. von Balthasar, Vocation, Rome 2002, 29). This young daughter of Israel does not choose to protect herself from the world; she does not fear dangers and the judgements of others but goes out towards other people.

When we feel loved, we experience a force that sets love in motion; as the apostle Paul says, "the love of Christ impels us" (2Cor 5:14), it drives us, it moves us. Mary feels the push of this love and goes to help a woman who is her relative, but also an elderly woman who, after a long wait, is welcoming an unhoped-for pregnancy, difficult to deal with at her age. But the Virgin also goes to Elizabeth to share her faith in the God of the impossible and her hope in the fulfilment of His promises.

The encounter between the two women produces a surprising impact: the voice of Mary, "full of grace", who greets Elizabeth provokes the prophecy in the child the older woman is carrying in her womb, and inspires in her a dual blessing: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Lk 1:42). And also, a beatitude: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (v. 45).

Faced with the recognition of the messianic identity of her Son and her mission as mother, Mary does not speak of herself but of God, and raises a praise full of faith, hope and joy, a song that resounds every day in the Church during the prayer of Vespers: the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55).

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	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish	SP
		11am Bob D’Arcy R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses			
Monday	Ferial	9am Thanksgiving	OL
Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church			
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am Frank Morris R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!			
Wednesday	Ferial	9am Trevor Owen	OL
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	SAINT BENEDICT	9:30am Members of the Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	HC
Saturday	Ferial		
Sunday	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Paddy Lewis R.I.P.	SP
		11am People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Graham Dixon R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Sr Mary Brennan rc R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2025

That the world might grow in compassion. Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his heart learn to have compassion on the world.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, 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

Patrick Burns, Fr David Mawson & Winefride Padmore.

PARISH

PARISH BBQ – NEXT SUNDAY 13TH JULY (please note the new date) – our parish BBQ will again take place after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady's, donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall, please leave them at the back of either church. Please bring family & friends with

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you. Volunteers will also be needed to help with set up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets at the back of Our Lady's church to register your support.

THANK YOU to Mrs Clare Higgins who retires as Headteacher of Holy Cross school at the end of this school year. We thank Clare for her untiring commitment to children of the school & her joyful support of our parish. We wish you every blessing Mrs Higgins & don't be a stranger!

SEA SUNDAY (13th July 2025) – Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Please encourage your parish to stand alongside seafarers and fishers so that they will always have a friend in port who they can turn to.

WALKING FOR MND – Margaret O'Sullivan's husband, Ian, has Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and he will walk 4 of the 13 miles to support the Wirral MND Association who are amazing supporters of the people on the Wirral with MND. Their advice and encouragement has made a massive difference to their lives and ability to cope with the life-changing symptoms of the disease. Any contribution will help. There is a collection box at the back of Our Lady's for contributions.

WIRRAL COASTAL WALK – Many people today will be walking the Wirral Coastal Path for different charities. I can remember Dad walking it last year in aid of CAFOD despite his progressing illness. Thank you to everyone who is walking today in aid of their chosen charities.

UPTON HALL SCHOOL – Upton recently underwent its Catholic inspection by the Diocese. They were found to be outstanding in all aspects of their Catholic education. Their report can be found using this link [Catholic Schools Inspection Report - Upton Hall School, May 2025](#). Applications to sit the entrance exam in September (for entry in September 2026) close on 11th July 2025.

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, two of the young people from our Birkenhead Confirmation group introduced themselves at Mass last Sunday. The cost of the pilgrimage is £725, they have received £250 in grants, we will use the proceeds from the parish BBQ to support them. Anything over £250 raised will also go to them. They will be back after the summer with photos to tell you all about their experiences.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – The next focus group meeting will take place at Saint Columba's Chester in the Newman Room this Wednesday July 2nd at 7.30pm. All Hospitality members are welcome to attend.

LOURDES HOSPITALITY PREDEPARTURE MASS – this year's Pilgrimage pre-departure Mass will take place at 11.00am on Sunday 20th July at Saint Mary's Church, Gatefield Street, Crewe CW1 2JP. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Caritas Centre and a Hospitality Meeting starting at 1.15pm. All Hospitality members are invited to attend.

SUNDAY RAFFLE – Continues today after 11am Mass. Proceeds will be used to support the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Last week the prizes were won by tickets 847 & 853, congratulations to the winners. Any donations for raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated, please leave them at the back of either church.

THE TABLET IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW HALL SCHOOL are hosting a one-day conference entitled 'Leadership and Legacy: The Future of Women in the Church' on Friday 11th July 2025 from 10:30am until 5:00pm at New Hall Boreham House, Chelmsford. Lunch and refreshments are included throughout the day and there is a free shuttle from Chelmsford Station to the venue. The price includes a quarterly *digital subscription* to *The Tablet* (worth £21.50), which can be gifted to a friend or parishioner. For more information or to purchase tickets simply go

to www.thetablet.co.uk/events or for exhibition stand enquiries, please contact adyoung@thetablet.co.uk

ALONE OR BORED IN YOUR MARRIAGE? - Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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.

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.

FAMILY & SOCIAL GROUP STAYS AT CASTLERIGG THIS AUGUST – Castlerigg Manor is a Catholic residential youth centre in the Lake District, and it is opening its doors to family groups and social groups this August. There are single rooms, twin rooms, and large family rooms at very cheap rates. Guests have access to the grounds, chapel, games room, and lounges, with Keswick and the Lake only a short walk away. For more info visit www.castleriggmanor.com/open

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!

PARISH FINANCES

29th June 2025

Offertory – £256.60 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)

£5 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £8.50

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

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 28th June 2025 was 4, congratulations to the winner. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers to buy 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.