Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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25th October 2026 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025: JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. IV. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD. 5. EASTER SPIRITUALITY AND INTEGRAL ECOLOGY.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We are reflecting, in this Jubilee Year dedicated to hope, on the relationship between the Resurrection of Christ and the challenges of the contemporary world, that is, our challenges. At times, Jesus, the Living One, wants to ask us too: "Why do you weep? Who do you seek?". Indeed, challenges cannot be faced alone, and tears are a gift of life when they purify our eyes and liberate our gaze. John the Evangelist draws to our attention a detail that we do not find in the other Gospels: weeping near the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene did not immediately recognize the risen Jesus, but thought he was the gardener. Indeed, already narrating the burial of Jesus, at sunset on Good Friday, the text was very precise: "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there" (*Jn* 19:40-41).

Thus, in the peace of the Sabbath and the beauty of a garden, the dramatic struggle between darkness and light that began with the betrayal, arrest, abandonment, condemnation, humiliation and killing of the Son, who "having loved his own who were in the world … loved them to the end" (*Jn* 13:1), comes to a close. Cultivating and keeping the garden is the original task (cf. *Gen* 2:15) that Jesus brought to fulfilment. His last words on the cross – "It is finished" (*Jn* 19:30) – invite each of us to rediscover the same task, our task. For this reason, "he bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (v. 30).

Dear brothers and sisters, Mary Magdalene was not entirely mistaken then, believing she had encountered the gardener! Indeed, she had to hear her own name again and understand her task from the new Man, the one who in another text of John says: "Behold, I make all things new" (*Rev* 21:5). Pope Francis, with the Encyclical *Laudato si'*, showed us the extreme need for a contemplative gaze: if he is not the custodian of the garden, the human being becomes its destroyer. Christian hope therefore responds to the challenges to which all humanity is exposed today by dwelling in the garden where the Crucified One was laid as a seed, to rise again and bear much fruit.

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2026

For mental health ministry – Let us pray that the mental health ministry may be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**	**9:30am** **11am**	People of the Parish Nahid Stevens (Birthday)	**SP** **OL**
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	*Saints Chad & Cedd*	**9am**	Ann Conlon R.I.P.	**OL**
Tuesday	Ferial	**9:30am**	Alan Martin Stevens R.I.P. (Anniversary)	**OL**
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	*Saints Simon & Jude*			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	**9:30am**	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	**SP**
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	**ALL SAINTS**	**9:30am** **11am**	People of the Parish Anna Coughlan	**SP** **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, Fr Pat English, Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Rev. Bernard McConnell, Clare McElroy, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Michael Toner, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Thomas Dunne, Kerry Morgan & Mark Silcock

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Fr Alberto Clarke R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Bishop Brian Noble R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

CELEBRATING THE CREATION OF OUR PARISH – Thank you to everyone who helped & celebrated 75 years since the reopening of Our Lady's church last Sunday, it was a great celebration. Next year will mark 170 years since the creation of Our Lady's parish & 165 years since the opening of the church, to celebrate this Bishop Mark will be joining us for a Sunday celebration in May with further details next year.

NOVEMBER LISTS – envelopes are available at the back of each church for people to place the names of deceased family & friends. When completed please place them in the baskets in front of the altars from now until the first Sunday of Advent. We will pray for them each day during November & Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS – we will begin preparation for First Forgiveness & First Holy Communion for those children who do not attend Catholic schools on Saturday 7th November at 4pm in the presbytery at Our Lady's.

CONFIRMATION 2027 – We will be starting the preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in Y8 or above on Thursday 5th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates will be available in the next couple of weeks.

THE ANNUAL ANSELMIANS ASSOCIATION MASS – will be celebrated by Fr. Bernard Forshaw in Saint Anselm's College chapel at 11am on Saturday 31st October. At the Mass all Anselmians and family members who have passed away during the past year will be commemorated and prayed for. Bereaved family members are cordially invited and there will be light refreshments afterwards.
For further details please contact the Association at anselmianassociation@st-anselms.com

FLAYBRICK ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – will take place on Wednesday 11th November from 10:30 am around the Cross of Sacrifice. In a slight change to the previous format, children from four local schools will be giving readings during the event, and local clergy will lead the service.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We will be holding our Christmas Raffle in the coming weeks to raise money for Parish funds. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and Biscuits for raffle prizes. Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or the sacristy at Saint Pauls. Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

PENSIONERS MONTHLY AFTERNOON TEA – this free of charge live entertainment light lunch will be held on Wednesday 28th October at A& K Community Hub, 310 Park Road North from 12:30pm until 3:00pm. For details of other events held there during the week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5560 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 17th October was 50, congratulations to the winner. 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 ***TODAY.*** Thank you for your continued support.

EASY FUNDRAISING – As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising especially when shopping for car, home or travel insurance! Thank you to everyone who has used it.

PARISH FINANCES **Sunday 18th October 2026** **Offertory £351.20 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders)** **£20 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £15** *Thank you for your continuing generosity.*	To donate online, please scan the QR code.

JOB VACANCY

FUNDRAISING AND PLANNED GIVING MANAGER – A vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Fundraising and Planned Giving Manager. Hours: Full time. Rate of pay: Competitive, commensurate with experience. Further details can be found via the Diocesan Website https://dioceseofshrewsb27ury.org/careers/fundraising-and-planned-giving-manager-2 Closing date: 27th November 2026. Please contact Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org for an application form.

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN (PRIEST OR LAY) – This is a unique opportunity to support women in custody and prison staff through spiritual leadership, pastoral care and ministry. Alongside providing faith-based care to Roman Catholic prisoners and staff, you will work collaboratively with colleagues to meet the pastoral needs of people of all faiths and none. Through your ministry, you will help create an environment where women can rediscover dignity, purpose and hope. We are looking for someone who is empathetic, resilient and committed to serving others with respect and integrity. This role provides an opportunity to live out your vocation in a setting where your faith and pastoral gifts can have a profound and lasting impact. This is a one day a week permanent 8 hours post. For info, please contact Managing Chaplain Jo Hirst at Joanna.hirst1@justice.gov.uk or 01625 553015. Closing date for applications is 26th November.

CHARITY

TESCO BAGS OF HELP – If you shop in Tesco Extra Bidston Moss then please use your blue tokens (available at the checkout) to support Saint Paul's school, they are hoping to get the money via the scheme for a new fruit fridge helping our children to continue to make healthy choices!

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – You can still donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope

RED MISSIO BOX TO BE COLLECTED –Angela will collect any boxes in late November. Contact her on 07864336321 or leave in the sacristy at either church.

WIRRAL FOODBANK APPEAL – please see the '*Reverse Advent Calendar*' for the duration of November or for further details visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk . Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's.

For this year's Appeal we will be collecting at the 3 big Tesco Stores in Heswall, Bidston & Rock Ferry at the end of November. If you would like to volunteer, please see the posters at the back of each church for time slots.

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**.