

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

1st February 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. 10. THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC. "WHEN JESUS SAW HIM LYING THERE AND KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN ILL FOR A LONG TIME, HE SAID TO HIM, "DO YOU WANT TO BE WELL?"

Indeed, this man replies in a more articulate way to Jesus' question, revealing his true vision of life. He says first of all that he has no-one to immerse him in the pool: so he is not to blame, but the others who do not take care of him. This attitude becomes the pretext for avoiding responsibility. But is it really true that he had no-one to help him? Here is Saint Augustine's enlightening answer: "Truly he had need of a 'man' to his healing, but that 'man' one who is also God. ... He came, then, the Man who was needed: why should the healing be delayed?".

The paralytic then adds that when he tries to immerse himself in the pool, there is always someone who arrives before him. This man is expressing a fatalistic view of life. We think that things happen to us because we are not fortunate, because destiny is against us. This man is discouraged. He feels defeated in the struggle of life.

Instead, Jesus helps him to discover that his life is also in his hands. He invites him to get up, to raise himself up from his chronic situation, and to take his stretcher (cf. v. 8). That mat is not to be left or thrown away: it represents his past of sickness, his history. Until that moment, the past had blocked him; it had forced him to lie like a dead man. Now it is he who can take that mat and carry it wherever he wishes: he can decide what to make of his history! It is a matter of walking, taking responsibility for choosing what road to take. And this is thanks to Jesus!

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord for the gift of understanding where our life is stuck. Let us try to give voice to our desire to be healed. And let us pray for all those who feel paralyzed, who do not see a way out. Let us ask to return to dwell in the Heart of Christ, which is the true house of mercy!

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Michael Kelly	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	12pm	REQUIEM MASS MARY ROSE	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Saint Werburgh	9:30am	McKensie Family	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Saint Agatha			
Friday	Saints Paul Miki & Companions	9:30am	Annette McVeigh	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	The McGagh Family	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions *Carmella Bartkiw R.I.P.* at Our Lady's and Mary Dooley at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS	
<u>Those who are sick</u>	
<i>Fr Paul O'Grady, Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Fr Philip McGovern, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.</i>	
<u>Those who have died</u>	
<i>Carmella Bartkiw, Maureen Duckworth, Vincent Duggan, David Gower, Trevor Owen, Mary Rose, Steven Sales & Deacon Terry Simms</i>	

JOB VACANCY: CHAPLAIN AT UPTON HALL SCHOOL

3 days per week term time only. We are seeking to appoint a Catholic School Chaplain to play a leading role in the spiritual development of the school community, make links with parishes and able to work alongside the governors, priests and staff in enabling our students to continue on r spiritual journey through active experience of their spirituality. Closing date is **TOMORROW**.

PARISH

RETIRED PRIESTS FUND – collection held last Sunday raised £246.25. You can still make & Gift Aid donations at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund. Thank you for your support.

SYROMALABAR YOUTH RAFFLE VALENTINES RAFFLE – over the next couple of weeks after 11am Mass the SyroMalabar Youth will be selling raffle tickets for their Valentine's Hamper (see poster) tickets are 50p each or £2 per strip.

"ENCOUNTERING GOD IN JOHN": A DAY WITH PROFESSOR DAVID F. FORD OBE OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – hosted by Liverpool Cathedral will be held **NEXT** Saturday 7th February 2026, 10am to 2.45pm. You are invited to explore John's Gospel this Lent and beyond with Professor David F. Ford, international renowned expert on John's Gospel. Registration is open to anyone from local churches to attend. There is a small charge for the event, to cover light refreshments and cost of the room. For more information and to book, please contact CTMR Office 0151 709 0125 or email at office@ctmr.org.uk.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY MEETING – Join Kathryn Keenan, CAFOD representative for the Diocese, for this meeting in advance of Lent Family Fast Day on Wednesday 11th February 4pm-6pm in Saint Alban's Parish Hall, Mill Lane, Liscard, Wallasey CH44 5XB. CAFOD LENT FAST DAY MEETING – Join Kathryn Keenan, CAFOD representative for the Diocese, for this meeting in advance of Lent Family Fast Day on Wednesday 11th February 4pm-6pm in Saint Alban's Parish Hall, Mill Lane, Liscard. Find out more about our work, funded by donations from previous fast days, and hear how communities are adapting to climate change. All CAFOD volunteers, supporters and anyone who is interested in learning more are welcome. Email kkeenanan@cafod.org.uk for more info and to register (not essential but helpful).

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE ROADSHOWS – The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Management Committee invites you to drop in to one of our roadshows to learn more about joining our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2026, as we celebrate our 75th annual pilgrimage, at Christ the King, Bromborough (CH62 6AT) on Saturday 21st February between 11am – 12:30pm

CONFIDENT CHRISTIANITY HALF DAY CONFERENCE – a half day conference will be held on Saturday 28th February 2026, at Hope Community Church, Aintree, L10 2JJ with keynote speakers Andy Bannister and David Hutchings from Solas, partnering with Northwest Baptist Association and Together for the Harvest. The conference will help believers become confident and empowered to talk about Jesus more naturally, engage in evangelism that persuades people, and feel more equipped to have good conversations with friends. Please contact 0151 291 6640 or email office@hccaintree.co.uk to book your place, tickets are £5 each.

MEDITATION OF CARDINAL TIMOTHY RADLCIFFE at the recent consistory of the cardinal's can be accessed on the Dominican website https://www.op.org/memory-and-newness-cardinal-radcliffes-meditation-at-the-extraordinary-consistory/?mc_cid=f9caf338b1&mc_eid=3e2c5e84e8

HOLY YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS – to mark the 8th centenary of the death of Saint Francis, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Holy Year dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi. You can read the Pope's letter to members of the Franciscan community here. <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/letters/2026/documents/20260107-lettera-morte-sf.html>


PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise (pens £1, Mugs £6, bundle deal of one mug and two pens £7) or World Gifts from CAFOD? <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a sign up sheet is available in the porch to add your name for next Saturday 7th February 2026.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSEBOUND – If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, please ask them to contact the Parish Office or help them to do so.

CARITAS – If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury at Wheatland Lane, Wallasey, CH44 7ED Tel: 0151 652 1281, email: info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winner on Saturday 24th January was no. 29; congratulations to the winner from Saint Paul's. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due by 22nd February for draw's commencing on 28th February 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday 25th January 2026</u></p> <p>Offertory – £421.34 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</p> <p>£2 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £11.99.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>		<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 

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.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you to everyone who has supported Wirral Foodbank's and please do continue your support in this New Year. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul'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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY – can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.

JOB VACANCIES

CHRISTIAN, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICER – Saint

St John's United Reformed Church (URC), Warrington, seeks a committed Christian to serve as Community Outreach Officer. Applications closing date for applications is 26th February 2026. For details about the role and to access the application process, please go to <https://www.stjohnsurc.co.uk> contact Maggie at 07956026823.

HOUSEKEEPER AT SAINT ANNE'S PRESBYTERY, ROCK FERRY – 12 hours per week @ £13.45 per hour
HOUSEKEEPER AT SAINT ANNE'S, ROCK FERRY – 12 hours per week @ £13.45 per hour

SALES LEDGER CLERK – 20 hours per week, term time only contract. Hourly rate £14.60.

PILGRIMAGE BOOKING & CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR – 20 hours per week, term time only contract with the possibility of some remote working. Hourly rate £14.60.

CV and covering letter for the Diocesan vacancies should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Closing date: Friday 20 February 2026. For more information, please follow the link [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)