

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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24th May 2026 - Pentecost Sunday

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 4. THE SURRENDER. 'WHOM ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?' (JN 18:4)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will focus on a scene that marks the beginning of the Passion of Jesus: the moment of his arrest in the Garden of Olives. The evangelist John, with his usual depth, does not present a frightened Jesus who flees or hides. On the contrary, he shows us a free man, who comes forward and speaks, openly facing the hour in which the light of the greatest love can be revealed.

“Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, ‘Whom do you seek?’” (Jn 18:4). Jesus knows. However, he decides not to retreat. He gives himself up. Not out of weakness, but out of love. A love so full, so mature, that it does not fear rejection. Jesus is not seized: he lets himself be taken. He is not the victim of an arrest, but the giver of a gift. In this gesture, he embodies a hope of salvation for our humanity: to know that, even in the darkest hour, one can remain free to love to the end.

When Jesus replies, “I am he”, the soldiers fall to the ground. It is a mysterious passage, since this expression, in biblical revelation, recalls the very name of God: “I am”. Jesus reveals that God’s presence is manifested precisely where humanity experiences injustice, fear, loneliness. Right there, the true light is ready to shine without fear of being overcome by the advancing darkness.

In the middle of the night, when everything seems to be falling apart, Jesus shows that Christian hope is not evasion, but decision. This attitude is the result of profound prayer in which God is not asked to spare us from suffering, but rather to give us the strength to persevere in love, knowing that life offered freely for love cannot be taken away by anyone.

“If you seek me, let these men go” (Jn 18:8). At the time of his arrest, Jesus does not worry about saving himself: he wishes only for his friends to go free. This shows that his sacrifice is a true act of love. Jesus lets himself be taken and imprisoned by the guards only so that his disciples may be set free.

Jesus lived every day of his life as preparation for this dramatic and sublime hour. This is why when it comes, he has the strength not to seek an escape route. His heart knows well that to lose one’s life for love is not a failure, but rather a mysterious fruitfulness, like a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and does not remain alone but dies and becomes fruitful.

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 MAY 2026

That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	PENTECOST	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Larry Long R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Mary Mother of The Church</i>	10am	Bracegirdle Family	OL
Tuesday	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	9:30am	Jean Nolan R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	<i>Saint Augustine of Canterbury</i>	9am	Joseph O'Leary R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST</i>			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Helen Williams (Birthday)	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Julie & Reggie D'Souza R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Mary Dooley, John Miller, Marion Tolley and Stacey Watkinson.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

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

PARISH

Next Sunday we welcome Jane Hamlet Barton as she is baptised as an adult. Commonly adults are baptised at the Easter vigil when we celebrate the resurrection, for a number of reasons this wasn't possible but we look forward to welcoming Jane and her family next weekend!

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 – If you plan to travel independently and organise your own accommodation in Lourdes, you still need to register especially if you wish to volunteer or join in with the pilgrimage. You can register via the new online booking system at <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – We are starting an exploration programme on Monday 8th June at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more! We will meet every two weeks for an hour following the Sycamore programme a short video presentation with pauses for reflection, questions and discussion.

RELICS OF SAINT GERARD MAJELLA – In the last week of May, our diocese, will host Saint Gerard's relics on their tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Saint Gerard was a Redemptorist lay-brother from Southern Italy who died at 29, he is popularly invoked as the patron of mothers, couples trying to conceive, those looking for work, and making a good confession. There will be four locations across the Diocese; The Cathedral, Chester, New Brighton, and Stockport. See the posters at the back of each church for details.

TWO CATHEDRALS WALK – **3pm TODAY.** The Churches of the Liverpool City Region invite you to celebrate Pentecost with a walk from the Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral to the Anglican Cathedral. It will start on the plaza outside the Metropolitan Cathedral before walking together along Hope Street to Liverpool Cathedral and will finish at the Anglican Cathedral. Along the way there will be family friendly activities & numerous stalls from local charities advertising their work.

PARISH BBQ will be held on Sunday 12th July 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 each church. Helpers will be needed to help with set-up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets at the back of church to register your support.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – Next Saturday 30th May from 9am to 11am. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the porch if you can help.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB PENSIONERS AFTERNOON TEA – this free of charge event with entertainment is to be held this Wednesday 27th May from 12:30pm until 3:00pm at Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. For information about this & other activities held there during each week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week.

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS – The annual Diocesan Missio Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark on Saturday 6th June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.

SPRING SING'26 WITH WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR – Next Friday 29th May at 7:30pm in Saint Michael and All Angels church in aid of their parish funds. Ticket price is £8.00 and can be obtained from the parish office 652 5767 or from Deacon Gerard on 07742 649728.


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?

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. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

THE TABLET AND NEW HALL FESTIVAL 2026 – Faith in Action: Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church 10-11 July 2026 at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford. Join a powerful two-day Catholic festival, bringing people from across the UK together to pray, reflect and act for justice, peace and human dignity. A joyful, welcoming space for worship, dialogue and renewal. See the poster for details.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 16th May was 20 congratulations to the winner from Saint Paul's. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due on 7th June for draws commencing Saturday 13th June 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

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!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 17th May 2026</u> Offertory £342.42 (Cash); £70 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £11.01 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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CHARITY

CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK, 24-30 MAY – is a time when Parishes and Catholic charities such as CAFOD celebrate the work made possible in the life of the Church through gifts in 'Wills'. Find out more about the week at www.cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek

WHITE CHARITY OFFERTORY COLLECTION ENVELOPE – with the closure of the Eye Fund the proceeds from our weekly charity collection will now be split equally between the Mulanga Clinic run by the sisters of charity in Zambia and our own Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

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.

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.**

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who taught the hearts of the faithful, by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.