



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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4th January 2026 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE PARABLES 8. THE LABOURERS IN THE VINEYARD. “AND HE SAID TO THEM, ‘YOU TOO GO INTO MY VINEYARD’” (MT 20:4)

This tireless master, who wants at all costs to give value to the life of every one of us, instead goes out at five. The labourers who had remained in the marketplace had probably given up all hope. That day had come to nothing. Nevertheless, someone still believed in them. What point is there to take on labourers only for the last hour of the working day? And yet, even when it seems we are able to do little in life, it is always worthwhile. There is always the possibility to find meaning, because God loves our life.

And the originality of this landowner is also seen at the end of the day, at pay time. The master had agreed to pay the first workers, who go into the vineyard at dawn, one denarius, which was a typical day's wage. He tells the others he will give them what is fair. And it is right here that the parable provokes us: what is fair? For the owner of the vineyard, that is, for God, it is just that each person has what he needs to live. He called the labourers personally, he knows their dignity, and on the basis of this, he wants to pay them, and he gives all of them one denarius.

The story says that the labourers from the first hour are disappointed: they cannot see the beauty of the gesture of the landowner, who was not unjust, but simply generous; who looked not only at merit, but also at need. God wants to give his Kingdom, that is, full, eternal and happy life, to everyone. And this is what Jesus does with us: he does not establish rankings, he gives all of himself to those who open their hearts to him.

In the light of this parable, today's Christian might be tempted to think, "Why start work immediately? If the pay is the same, why work more?". Saint Augustine responds to these doubts, saying: "Why dost thou put off him that calleth thee, certain as thou art of the reward, but uncertain of the day? Take heed then lest peradventure what he is to give thee by promise, thou take from thyself by delay".

I would like to say, especially to the young, do not wait, but respond enthusiastically to the Lord who calls us to work in his vineyard. Do not delay, roll up your sleeves, because the Lord is generous and you will not be disappointed! Working in his vineyard, you will find an answer to that profound question you carry within you: what is the meaning of my life?

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not be discouraged! Even in the dark moments of life, when time passes without giving us the answers we seek, let us ask the Lord who will come out again and find us where we are waiting for him. He is generous, and he will come soon!

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 WEEK				
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	9:30am Patrick (Paddy) Lewis R.I.P. 11am People of the Parish		SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Weekday of Christmas	9:30am David Clapham		OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Monday	THE EPIHNAY OF THE LORD	4pm People of the Parish		SP
Tuesday		9:30am Ray Stevens R.I.P.		OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Wednesday after the Epiphany			
Thursday	Thursday after the Epiphany			
Friday	Friday after the Epiphany	9:30am Deceased Members of the Cussen, Walsh, Mullen and O'Hanlon families.		HC
Saturday	Saturday after the Epiphany			
Sunday	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Pauline Lynch (nee Caraher) R.I.P.		SP OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions *The Long family* at Our Lady's and *Michael Christopher Coughlan 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 JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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 & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Joe Roper, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Jenny Ross

JOB VACANCIES WITH THE SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM

Vacancies have arisen with SYMT for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member & admin assistant. All the details can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>

If you are interested, please send your CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org, closing date is Friday 23rd January 2026.

PARISH

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHNAY – Morning Mass will be extremely busy that day. We will have Year 2-Year 6 from Our Lady & Saint Edwards along with 125 boys from Saint Anselm's along with staff from both schools. There is also the vigil Mass at Saint Paul's on Monday evening.

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

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative Christmas gifts? 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>

LEGACY FROM MRS MARY GAMBINO – Mary was a parishioner at Our Lady's for many years & we celebrated her funeral in the summer last year. Mary very kindly left a legacy to the parish in her will. After discussions with her family & with the Diocese we have put the £25000 sum into the restoration fund for the church to help with matched funding for grant bids we are putting together.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a signup sheet is available in the porch to add your name for the next date which is 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.

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille is not counselling or group therapy but it's a marriage support programme which helps couples to rediscover trust, hope and healing for their marriage. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296983.

PRACTICAL, CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR LIFE – "Life Charity has been my safe haven during my stormy seas." To keep up to date with news from the UK's only charity focused on real-time, practical

support to enable women to continue their pregnancy in deeply challenging situations, visit: www.lifecharity.org.uk/join-us-on-social.

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u>	
<u>Sunday 21st December 2025</u>	
Offertory - £565.27 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £17 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £28	
<u>Christmas Day 2025</u>	
Offertory - £956.08 (Cash); £46 (Card/Contactless/Web)	To donate online, please scan the QR code.
<u>Sunday 28th December 2025</u>	
Offertory - £432.11 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £11	
<i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	

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 winner on Saturday 20th December was no. 47, and on 27th December was no 21 congratulations to both winners from Saint Pauls. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due by 18th January for draw's commencing on 24th January 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK - Thank you to everyone who has supported Wirral Foodbank's Reverse Advent calendar, it really does make a difference. Please do continue your support over Christmas and into the New Year, donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's.

If you have collected the items for the reverse advent calendar, please leave them this week either in the sacristy at 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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY - can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.



*Wishing everyone a Happy
New Year for 2026.*

Fr Michael