

=Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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3rd May 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 2. THE BETRAYAL. "SURELY IT IS NOT I?" (MK 14:19)

Jesus then adds a phrase that troubles us and makes us think. "But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born" (Mk 14:21). They are harsh words, certainly, but they must be understood well: it is not a curse, but rather a cry of pain. In Greek, that "woe" sounds like a lamentation, an "alas", an exclamation of sincere and deep compassion.

We are used to judging. Instead, God accepts suffering. When he sees evil, he does not avenge it, but grieves. And that "better if he had never been born" is not a condemnation imposed *a priori*, but a truth that any of us can recognize: if we deny the love that has generated us, if by betraying we become unfaithful to ourselves, then we truly lose the meaning of our coming into the world, and we exclude ourselves from salvation.

And yet, precisely there, at the darkest point, the light is not extinguished. On the contrary, it starts to shine. Because if we recognize our limit, if we let ourselves be touched by the pain of Christ, then we can finally be born again. Faith does not spare us from the possibility of sin, but it always offers us a way out of it: that of mercy.

Jesus is not scandalized by our fragility. He knows well that no friendship is immune from the risk of betrayal. But Jesus continues to trust. He continues to sit at the table with his followers. He does not give up breaking bread, even for those who will betray him. This is the silent power of God: he never abandons the table of love, even when he knows he will be left alone.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too can ask ourselves today, with sincerity: "Surely it is not I?". Not to feel accused, but to open a space for truth in our hearts. Salvation begins here: with the awareness that we may be the ones who break our trust in God, but that we can also be the ones who gather it, protect it and renew it.

Ultimately, this is hope: knowing that even if we fail, God will never fail us. Even if we betray him, he never stops loving us. And if we allow ourselves to be touched by this love - humble, wounded, but always faithful - then we can truly be reborn. And we can begin to live no longer as traitors, but as children who are always loved.

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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

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

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Mick Walsh	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>The English Martyrs</i>	10am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Vincent Duggan R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Eileen Gurney R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	John McGagh R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Anne Gillett	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, Mary Dooley, 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

Irene Fortune, Mary Kennedy and Jean Ann Nolan.

PARISH

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30th July to 7th August and by air 31st July to 6th August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL – Next Sunday we welcome Sr Ann Jentrix, a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Sisters' Missions Committee. This is a group of 12 Orders of Missionary Sisters. The sisters live and work in many different parts of the world, witnessing to the love of Christ for his people in ministries of teaching, medical and health care, catechesis, social & pastoral work and so on. The Franciscan Missionaries of Saint Joseph were founded in Rochdale by Alice Ingham and companions. Their first overseas mission was in Sarawak and Sabah, East Malaysia, spreading later to countries in Africa and the Americas. Currently they serve in Kenya, Uganda & Ecuador as well as in this country.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE 2026 – Parishioners celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2026 are invited to attend the **Diocesan Mass for Marriage, which will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 13th June at Saint Columba's, Chester**. The Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch for invited guests. To receive an invitation from the Bishop's Office, parishioners should contact their Parish Priest or Parish Secretary with the following information: names, address and which significant anniversary is being celebrated. Invitations will only be issued through parishes. The closing date to receive an invitation is Friday 22nd May.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY are holding a day of reflection on Saturday 23rd May at Shrewsbury Cathedral Chapter House. The day will include reflections from Father Sean Henry and Dr Kieran Moriarty. There will also be Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All Hospitality members and their guests are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS

During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube or click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtWk8&t=1s>

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS – with Bishop Mark is to be held on Saturday 6th June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.

MISSIO RED BOXES are now due for emptying. Please ring Angela Hawkesworth on 0151 653 0884 to arrange their collection or drop them off in the sacristy at either church for collection.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – this year's envelopes have been renumbered, so please **DO NOT USE** envelopes from previous year as donation details will be incorrect. If you would like to make future donations, spare boxes are available at the back of each church & please complete and return the slip with the first envelope you submit for audit purposes. 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.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS – How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm–8:30pm; 21st April – 9th June

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

SPRING SING'26 WITH WARRINGTON MALE VOICE CHOIR – 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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com

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?


CATHOLIC FAMILY HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT - Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is offering budget-friendly holidays for Catholic families during May, August, and early September. Breakfast and evening meal are included and there will be Mass on site. Guests have full use of the site including the grounds, games room, chapel, and lounges, and Castlerigg is just a short walk from Keswick and Lake Derwentwater. Ideal for individuals, couples, families, or groups of friends. Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711 or www.castleriggmanor.com

YOUTH MINISTRY GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE AGED 18-25 – The Diocese of Lancaster has a Youth Ministry team based in Keswick in the Lake District who run retreats at Castlerigg Manor and also work in Churches and schools around the area. The 'Youth Ministry Internship' scheme comes with high quality training, experience, and recognised qualifications and gives young people the chance to join a welcoming community and a vibrant team doing some amazing work. Contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or www.castleriggmanor.com

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 25th April was 23, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, the next payment is due today for draw's commencing Saturday 9th May 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

The National Lottery draws are changing from June 7th & current Bonus Ball participants will be given written details today of how the changes will affect our *Draw's*.

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>PARISH FINANCES Sunday 26th April 2026 Offertory £417.96 (Cash); £70 (Standing Orders) £17 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £8 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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CHARITY

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.**