



## *Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul*

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### **1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent**

#### **POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026**

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

#### *Listening*

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through listening. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that,

throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.

**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.

<b>MASSES FOR WEEK</b>				
Sunday	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Ian McKensie R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Lent	<b>9am</b>	Michael Cush	<b>OL</b>
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	Lent	<b>9:30am</b>	Alisha's intentions	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Lent	<b>9am</b>	The Bate Family	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	Lent			
Friday	Lent	<b>9:30am</b>	Andy	<b>SP</b>
Saturday	Lent			
Sunday	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	People of the Parish	<b>SP</b>
		<b>11am</b>	Eileen Boylan	<b>OL</b>

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2026**

For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for the intentions Sean Rudd (Speedy Recovery) at Our Lady's and Sisters of Charity at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

<p><b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</b></p> <p><b><u>Those who are sick</u></b></p> <p><i>Stuart &amp; Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe &amp; Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Fr Philip McGovern, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, , Eileen &amp; Julia Ward, Sarah Williams &amp; Pat Wise.</i></p> <p><b><u>Those who have died</u></b></p> <p><i>Fr Paul O'Grady, Jack Sui &amp; Margie Sui.</i></p>
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## **LENT**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Wednesday mornings after Mass or join the SyroMalabar community Fridays at 5pm in Our Lady's.

**BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS** – every Sunday evening during Lent at 7:45pm, this year they are a series of personal reflections on power inspired by the story of Jesus' Passion. Six essays tracing the hidden currents of power in everyday life: how it shapes us, how it works, how it wounds, and how it can be resisted, claimed, and reclaimed.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY (FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY)** – Please return your envelopes or you can pick up one from the back of church or donate by virtual envelope online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](https://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Thank you for your continued support.

**SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS** – Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Six consecutive Tuesdays which started on 17 Feb | 24 Feb | 03 Mar | 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar at 7pm – 8:15pm. Free of Charge | LIVE on YouTube. Registration: [comeandsee.org/lent26](https://comeandsee.org/lent26)

## **PARISH**

**THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026** – a concert will be held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

**BETROTHED: A MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE OFFERED BY THE SHREWSBURY DIOCESE** will help to prepare both from a spiritual/faith perspective and relational perspective. You are welcome to attend the course whether you are to be married at the parish where it is being run or not. The course runs over two consecutive Saturdays 9.30am to 4.30pm at Saint Clare's Church Parish Hall (Downsfield Road, Chester CH4 8HH) on 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026. For more information, please contact Jane Deegan at [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) &/or Mobile: 07517 906435. Registration is essential by contacting Monika at: [monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**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)

**YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI** – Pope Leo has declared this a Jubilee Holy year for Saint Francis, therefore the parish of Saint Anne & Saint John are trying to organise a special pilgrimage to Assisi on from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The pilgrimage includes Mass in the Basilica of Saint Francis, veneration of Saint Carlos Acutis's body in the church of Saint Mary Major, a trip to the Holy House in Loreto, visits to both the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angel Portiuncula where the Franciscan movement started and the monastery of the first order of Saint Clare in San Damiano. Cost £995. If interested, it is IMPORTANT that you, please telephone Maria Fryer on 07576 243343 NOW to secure a place.

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT** – During April 2026 the SVP will be running a series called "At a Loss" It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe

space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing [recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com](mailto:recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com) or speak to an SVP member.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? - Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath. You can also visit [www.Shrewsburyvocations.org](http://www.Shrewsburyvocations.org).

A&K COMMUNITY HUB - for information about activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead, during the week & also availability to hire for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or [Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com)

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](mailto:info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

CATENIANS - The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other's company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact [p.davenport.123@btinternet.com](mailto:p.davenport.123@btinternet.com).

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA - the order believes in charity, unity & fraternity, over many years they have helped priests, parishes & our Catholic schools & many projects internationally. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. Please contact Tony Connolly on 07950 392193.

BONUS BALL SCHEME - The winning number on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February was 19, 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 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><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026</u></b></p> <p><b>Please see the newsletter next Sunday.</b></p> <p><i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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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 - As Lent 2026 has now started, Wirral Foodbank will continue to provide emergency food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship. The immediate shortages

are Shampoo, Tinned Fruit, Tinned vegetables, Custard & Tinned Potatoes. 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.**