



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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16th March 2025 – Second Sunday of Lent

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 13. A LETTER WRITTEN WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD: MARY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Among the various means by which the Holy Spirit implements His work of sanctification in the Church – the Word of God, the Sacraments, prayer – there is one in entirely particular, and it is *Marian piety*. In the Catholic tradition there is this motto, this saying: “ *Ad Iesum per Mariam*”, that is, “to Jesus by means of Mary”. Our Lady lets us see Jesus. She opens the doors to us, always! Our Lady is the mother who leads us by the hand towards Jesus. Our Lady never points to herself, Our Lady points to Jesus. And this is Marian piety: to Jesus by the hands of Our Lady. The true and only mediator between us and Christ, indicated as such by Jesus Himself, is the Holy Spirit. Mary is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to bring us to Jesus [1].

Saint Paul defines the Christian community as “a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh” (2 Cor ;3:3). Mary, as the first disciple and figure of the Church, is also a letter written with the Spirit of the living God. Precisely for this reason, she can be “known and read by all” (2 Cor 3:2), even those who do not know how to read theology books, those “little ones” to whom Jesus says that the mysteries of the Kingdom, hidden to the wise, are revealed (cf. Mt 11:25).

By saying her “Yes” – when Mary accepts and says to the Angel, “Yes, let the Lord’s will be done” and accepts to be the mother of Jesus – it is as though Mary said to God: “Here I am, I am a tablet to be written on: let the Writer write what he wants, make of me what the Lord of all wishes” [2]. At that time, people wrote on waxed tablets; today we would say that Mary offers herself like a blank page on which the Lord can write whatever He wants. Mary’s “Yes” to the Angel – as a renowned exegete wrote – represents “the apex of all religious behaviour before God, since she expresses, in the highest manner, passive availability combined with active readiness, the deepest emptiness that accompanies the greatest fullness” [3].

This, then, is how the Mother of God is an instrument of the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification. In the midst of the endless profusion of words said and written about God, the Church and holiness (that very few, or no-one, is able to read and understand fully), she suggests a few words that everyone, even the simplest, can say on any occasion: “*behold*” and “*let it be done*”. Mary is the one who said “Yes” to the Lord, and with her example and by her intercession urges us to say our “Yes” to Him too, whenever we are faced with an act of obedience to perform or a trial to overcome.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	SAINT PATRICK	10am	REQUIEM MASS FOR JOHN M^CGAGH	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am	Rhian Jones (Healing)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	SAINT JOSEPH	9am	Brian Godwin (Healing)	OL
Thursday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>			
Friday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am	Dennis Large R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>			
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Benetton Fernandes (Birthday)	OL

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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for *Chloe Fortune & LB* at Our Lady's and *Chris Fenna* at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye,
Chloe & Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Frank Morris,
Michael Murphy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward.*

Those who have died

Judith Christley, Joe Croft & John McGagh.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

PARISH

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Wednesday mornings after Mass or join the SyroMalabar community Fridays at 6pm in Our Lady's.

2025 JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – bookings for the pilgrimage are now open. The brochure and booking forms are available to download from the Pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk

LENT COURSE – On Friday mornings during Lent in the community room at Saint Paul's after Mass we will be showing the following the DVD based course "No Greater Love – A Biblical Walk through Christ's Passion." You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you – grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – was held on Friday 14th March and our donations this Lent will help mums in Africa to grow food in harsh climates, building safety nets for their families. Envelopes are available at the back of church, or you can donate by virtual envelope online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope>

CAFOD's BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR - You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY LENT ROSARY – Wednesdays during Lent via Zoom. Details from secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

GIFT AID ENVELOPES are available for collection after Mass today in both churches. 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.

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS – Friday 4th April at 7.30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels. A Night at the Musicals" performed by the Warrington Male Voice Choir. We invite you to join us on what we are sure will be a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Tickets price £8.00 are available from Saint Philip Neri Parish Office at Saint Joseph's 652 5767 or via contacting Deacon Gerard Boyle 07742659728. We will arrange for the tickets to be delivered to the parish office for you to collect.

MANCHESTER BAROQUE - will be playing at Manchester Cathedral on Good Friday, April 18th at 7pm to 10 pm, to perform Bach's Saint John Passion with Manchester Cathedral Choir, performed for the occasion in the Church calendar for which it was originally written. You can also hear them on Sunday March 30th at 7.30 pm to 10pm, performing Bach's Mass in B Minor at Manchester Cathedral with York University Choir. Tickets for both concerts start at £10. To book for the Saint John Passion head to: <https://shorturl.at/kowtW> or for the B Minor Mass see <https://shorturl.at/7Mk5l>. They are offering a 25% discount for tickets booked through Churches using the code CHURCHDISCOUNT on Eventbrite only. This year Manchester Baroque

have a number of tickets available for people who genuinely can't afford to pay, by using the code COMMUNITY also on Eventbrite only.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT - will be held on 31st March; 28th April & 2nd June from 1pm until 3pm in A&K Community Hub formally known as Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The events are free of charge but donations are welcome. The bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks; and hot & cold drinks & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

FR LUCAS NGWA will celebrate the Ruby Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination, at Saint Joseph's Upton, on Saturday 26th April 2025; this will also be his Farewell Reception. Mass will begin at 12 noon followed by speeches, presentation of gifts; then photographs and reception at Upton Hall school. Any parishioners who may have known Fr Lucas during his 17 years in the Diocese of Shrewsbury are invited. Please RSVP with the number of tickets required to: stjosephs.upton@gmail.com by 5th April at the latest.

WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY is a new online mission series starting in March on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm. What is wholehearted monthly? It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>. Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 8th April - Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian.
- ❖ Tuesday 13 May - Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

STRONGER TOGETHER COMMUNITY GROUP empowers members to address daily life challenges in a supportive environment. *Tuesday mornings (9:30am-12pm)* in Saint Joseph's parish centre, North Road. The group is facilitated by Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury.

EASY FUNDRAISING - thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, *our latest payout is £47.04*. As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising donation reminder so that the parish can collect even more free donations as you shop!

PARISH FINANCES

9th March 2025

**Offertory £587.65 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders);
£15 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £26**

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



STANDING ORDERS - You can set a standing order 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 - Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on Saturday 8th March with no. 21. If you would like to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left at the back of 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.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – used ones can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.