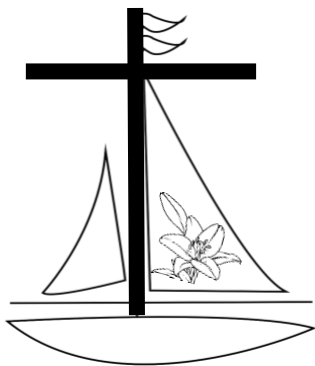




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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Parish Sister: **Sr Pauline** 07710 717207
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20th September 2026 – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. HOPE. IV. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD 2. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THE RESPONSE TO HUMAN SADNESS.

Jesus listens to them, allowing them to unburden their disappointment. Then, with great frankness, he rebukes them for being “foolish ... and slow of heart to believe that all the prophets have declared!” (v. 25), and through the Scriptures he shows that Christ had to suffer, die and rise again. The warmth of hope is rekindled in the hearts of the two disciples, and then, when night falls and they arrive at their destination, they invite their mysterious travelling companion to stay with them.

Jesus accepts and takes his seat at the table with them. Then he takes the bread, breaks it and offers it. At that moment, the two disciples recognize him... but he immediately disappears from their view (vv. 30-31). The gesture of the breaking of the bread reopens the eyes of the heart, illuminating once again the vision clouded by despair. And then everything becomes clear: the shared journey, the tender and powerful word, the light of truth... Immediately, joy is rekindled, energy flows back into their weary limbs, and gratitude returns to their memory. And the two hurry back to Jerusalem to tell the others everything.

“The Lord has risen indeed” (cf. v. 34). In this adverb, indeed, the certain outcome of our history as human beings is fulfilled. It is no coincidence that this is the greeting Christians exchange on Easter Day. Jesus did not rise in words, but in deeds, with his body bearing the marks of his passion, a perennial seal of his love for us. The victory of life is not an empty word, but a real, tangible fact.

May the unexpected joy of the disciples of Emmaus be a gentle reminder to us when the going gets tough. It is the Risen One who radically changes our perspective, instilling the hope that fills the void of sadness. On the paths of the heart, the Risen One walks with us and for us. He bears witness to the defeat of death and affirms the victory of life, despite the darkness of Calvary. History still has much goodness to hope for.

To recognize the Resurrection means to change one’s outlook on the world: to return to the light to recognize the Truth that has saved us, and that saves us. Sisters and brothers, let us

remain watchful every day in the wonder of the Pasch of the risen Jesus. He alone makes the impossible possible!

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 is something expressed in everything we do.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For the care of water – Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Andrew Holden	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	SAINT MATTHEW	9am	Pat Eaton R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Fr David Peters 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 Pius of Pietrelcina</i>			
Thursday	OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Trevor Jones	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Michael Brown, Christopher Browne,
Gerard & Paul Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe Fortune,
Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Kerry Morgan, Helen Ryan,
Philip Smith, Michael Toner, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Patricia Eaton, Fr John Marsh, Ann Claver Rixon & Margaret Roberts

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Angela Taylor (60th Birthday) at Our Lady's and Anna & Michael Coughlan (Wedding Anniversary) at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – From Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September many places across Wirral will be open to visit as part of the heritage open days. For example, Flaybrick Cemetery where Bishop Hugh Singleton the second Bishop of Shrewsbury (section RC2; grave 467) & Canon Tallon (section RC3; grave 834) are buried. For more information visit: www.flaybrick.org; for more information about the many other events in Wirral visit: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

As part of the Heritage Open Days, we will be opening Our Lady's church for visitors to come & find out more about our history & heritage, as well as more about who we are as a Catholic Christian community! The church will be open again *Today* 12.30pm–3:30pm. If you would like to stay behind to volunteer, please speak to a helper at the back of church!

HOME MISSION SUNDAY (TODAY) gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Let us pray for our parish community, that we will become intentionally missionary in our life and witness, especially in our own area here in Birkenhead. It is appropriate that the church will be open not just for Mass but also for the Heritage Open Days!

PAUSE FOR HOPE – An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer. Sunday 18th October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, New Hey road, Woodchurch. www.pauseforhope.org.uk.

ANSELMIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER – is to be held at Saint Anselm's College next Friday 25th September from 7pm. Tickets cost £35pp and can be purchased from Bill Iveson at billiveson37@gmail.com . Please see the posters at the back of each church for further details.

PENSIONERS MONTHLY AFTERNOON TEA – this free of charge live entertainment light lunch will be held on Wednesday 30th September at A& K Community Hub, 310 Park Road North from 12:30pm until 3:00pm. For details of other events held there during the week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5560 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com

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. Next dates are 2nd to 4th October. To find out more visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info or phone 07887 296 983.

NESTON FLOWER SOCIETY invite you to Flower arranging workshop. Tuesday 13th or Tuesday 20th October 1pm–3pm in United Reformed church Hall, Moorside Lane, Neston Ch66 6UZ. The sessions are hands on using sustainable materials. Tea, Coffee & cake provided. Cost £15 per person. For more information or to book on please contact the secretary Barbara Fisher barbfish54@gmail.com

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 12th September was 26, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church or to continue, the next payment is due **TODAY**. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 13th September 2026</u> Offertory £395.97 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders) £15 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £15.10 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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JOB VACANCY

CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN (PRIEST OR LAY) – This is a unique opportunity to support women in custody and prison staff through spiritual leadership, pastoral care and ministry. Alongside providing faith-based care to Roman Catholic prisoners and staff, you will work collaboratively with colleagues to meet the pastoral needs of people of all faiths and none. Through your ministry, you will help create an environment where women can rediscover dignity, purpose and hope. We are looking for someone who is empathetic, resilient and committed to serving others with respect and integrity. This role provides an opportunity to live out your vocation in a setting where your faith and pastoral gifts can have a profound and lasting impact. This is a one day a week post 8 hours. For more information, please contact Managing Chaplain Jo Hirst at Joanna.hirst1@justice.gov.uk or 01625 553015.

CHARITY

TESCO BAGS OF HELP – If you shop in Tesco Extra Bidston Moss then please use your blue tokens (available at the checkout) to support Saint Paul's school, they are hoping to get the money via the scheme for a new fruit fridge helping our children to continue to make healthy choices!

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 2nd October. There will be a retiring collection to support the work of CAFOD at Masses on Sunday 4th October, Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope

RED MISSIO BOX TO BE COLLECTED – Please contact Angela on 07864336321 to arrange a pickup or alternatively please leave in sacristy at either church.

WIRRAL FOODBANK HARVEST APPEAL – please see the posters or the Word search sheets at the back of each church for the Harvest shopping list or for further details visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk. 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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**