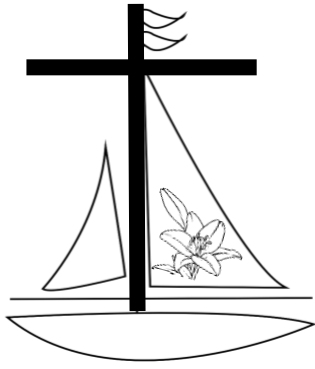




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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26th October 2025 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 4. THE RICH MAN. JESUS LOOKED AT HIM (MK 10:21)

Today we will look at another of Jesus' encounters, narrated by the Gospels. This time, however, the person encountered does not have a name. The evangelist Mark presents him simply as "*a man*" (10:17). He is a man who has observed the commandments ever since his youth but who, despite this, has not yet found the meaning of his life. He is searching for it. Perhaps he is one who has not yet truly made up his mind, despite his appearance as a committed person. Indeed, beyond the things we do, our sacrifices and successes, what truly counts in order to be happy is what we carry in our heart. If a ship has to set sail and leave the port to navigate in the open sea, it can be a wonderful ship, with an exceptional crew, but if it does not pull up the ballast and the anchors that hold it down, it will never manage to depart. This man has made himself a luxurious ship, but he has stayed in the port!

As Jesus makes His way through the street, this fellow runs up to Him, kneels before Him and asks: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Notice the verbs: "*what must I do to have eternal life*". Since observance of the Law did not give him the happiness and security of being saved, he turns to the Master Jesus. What is striking is that this man does not know the vocabulary of gratuitousness! Everything seems to be owed. Everything is a duty. Eternal life is for him an inheritance, something that is obtained by right, through meticulous observance of commitments. But in a life lived in this way, although certainly for good purpose, what space can love have?

As always, Jesus goes beyond appearances. While on the one hand this man sets out before Jesus his fine resume, Jesus goes beyond and looks within. The verb that Mark uses is very significant: "*looking at him*" (v. 21). Precisely because Jesus looks within each one of us, He loves us as we truly are. Indeed, what will He have seen inside this person? What does Jesus see when He looks within every one of us and loves us, despite our distractions and our sins? He sees our fragility, but also our desire to be loved as we are.

Looking at him, says the Gospel, He "*loved him*" (v. 21). Jesus loves this man before He even extended the invitation to follow Him. He loves him just as he is. Jesus' love is gratuitous: exactly the opposite of the logic of merit that has beset this person. We are truly happy when we realize we are loved in this way, freely, by grace. And this also applies to the relationships between us: as long as we try to buy love or beg for affection, those relationships will never make us feel happy.

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 THE WEEK				
Sunday	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Frank & Winnie Harris (60 th Wedding Anniversary)	SP
		11am	Jacintho Viegas R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial			
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>Saints Simon & Jude</i>	9:30am	Alan Stevens R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Susan Jones R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	ALL SAINTS	9:30am	Dennis Small	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions – Let us pray that, believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice & human fraternity.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Pat Cockram at Our Lady's and Canon Sean Riley 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, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey,
Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James,
Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms,
Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

PARISH

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We will be starting the preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in Y8 or above on Thursday 6th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates on should be available this weekend.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC – For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, has been baptised as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running an enquiry course called Sycamore starting with an initial meeting on Thursday 6th November at 6pm at Saint Joseph's presbytery on Willowbank road, Birkenhead. Interested? Got questions? We will support you on this journey of faith through to full communion with the Catholic Church. If you're interested, please speak to Fr Michael.

NOVEMBER LISTS – envelopes are available at the back of each church for people to place the names of deceased family & friends & when completed place them in the baskets in front of the altars from now until the first Sunday of Advent. We will pray for them each day during November & Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church.

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 Sat 1st November.

ANNUAL ANSELMIAN ASSOCIATION MASS OF REMEMBRANCE for Deceased Members will be celebrated at 11am on Saturday 1st November in the College Chapel. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All Anselmians and family members are welcome to join us as we remember members of our community who have died during the past year.

FRIDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTION – each week after Friday morning Mass in the community room at Saint Paul's. Why not come for a brew, a short video & time to sit & chat about aspects of our faith & what they mean?

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSEBOUND – If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, please ask them or help them to contact the Parish Office.

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.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR FERTILITY – Crewe pro-life group is hosting Ira Winter, of [Fiat Fertility Care](#), for a talk on "God's Design For Fertility". She will also explain the potential of Natural Reproductive Medicine for couples struggling to conceive or wishing to space pregnancies. The talk will take place on Thursday, 30th October at 7pm at St Mary's Caritas Centre, Delamere Rd, Crewe CW1 2JX.

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.

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

FR TOM CUNNAH INDUCTION MASS – You are welcome to join Fr Tom for his Mass of Induction at 7pm on 4th November at Saint Winefride's church, Burton Road, Neston, CH64 9RF. Refreshments afterwards.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHOIR - consists of those who sing at 9.30 Mass on Sundays at St Joseph's, with other members who sing at numerous funerals, weddings & other events in local churches and beyond. They rehearse together every Saturday at ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH 11.00 a.m.-12.00 noon. New members from all parishes are welcome to join. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and phone number if you would like to join: 0151 652 5767 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

FLAYBRICK ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 11TH NOVEMBER - will be a traditional service as in previous years and details will be on their website and social media platforms soon. It will be attended by a deputy lieutenant of Merseyside, the Mayor and mayoress of Wirral together with local councillors and staff/children from several local schools please arrive by 10.45am.

FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR DURING NOVEMBER – Please see the poster & leaflets at the back of church with instructions how to use it.

CAFOD ANNUAL COLLECTION ENVELOPES – are at the back of both churches for collections commencing from 2nd November.

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u>	
<u>19th October 2025</u>	
Offertory – £383.10 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)	
£0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £24.	
<i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	
To donate online, please scan the QR code.	
	

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 winning number in the draw held on Saturday 18th October was 19 & as there was no winner there will be a rollover for this week's prize. If you would like to join a list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. Donations can be left 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 can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.