

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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24th August 2025 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. “MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION” (LK 2:30). THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Simeon sings the joy of those who have seen Him, who have recognized Him and are able to transmit to others the encounter with the Saviour of Israel and of the peoples. He is a witness of faith received as a gift and communicated to others; he is a witness of the hope that does not disappoint; he is a witness of God’s love, which fills the heart of man with joy and peace. Filled with this spiritual consolation, the elderly Simeon sees death not as the end, but as fulfilment, fullness; he awaits it like a “sister” that does not annihilate but introduces to the true life that he has already foretasted and in which he believes.

On that day, Simeon is not the only one to see salvation made flesh in the child Jesus. The same also happens to Anna, a woman more than eighty years old, a widow, entirely devoted to service to the Temple and consecrated to prayer. Indeed, upon seeing the child, Anne celebrates the God of Israel, who has redeemed His people in that very child, and tells others about Him, generously spreading the prophetic word. The song of redemption of two elders thus emits the proclamation of the Jubilee for all the people and for the world. Hope is rekindled in hearts in the Temple of Jerusalem because Christ our hope has entered it.

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 AUGUST 2025

For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Ruth O'Brien R.I.P.		SP
		11am People of the Parish		OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Saint Thomas of Hereford</i>	10am Billy Boylan R.I.P.		OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am Anna & Michael Coughlan		OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Saint Monica</i>			
Thursday	<i>Saint Augustine of Hippo</i>			
Friday	<i>The Passion of Saint John the Baptist</i>	9:30am Ian Christley R.I.P.		SP
Saturday	<i>Saints Margaret Clitherow, Margaret Ward & Anne Line</i>			
Sunday	TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.		SP
		11am People of the Parish		OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for John Ellis R.I.P. First Anniversary at Our Lady's and Melissa Connor (Thanksgiving) 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, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith,
Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Gerard Lynch, Harry Brightmore, & Alan Hughes.

PARISH

THANK YOU TO FR TOM CUNNAH - since November Fr Tom has been working full time at the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal based in Our Lady's presbytery. As part of this he kindly offered to celebrate Mass on Wednesdays for me. After a well-deserved break Fr Tom will be taking up an appointment as Parish Priest of Saint Winefride's, Neston alongside his Tribunal work. I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to Fr Tom for his help & support these past few months. We wish him every grace & blessing as he begins his new appointment.

HARRY BRIGHTMORE R.I.P. - Many of you will know Phil who attends Sunday Mass at Our Lady's, his father's Requiem Mass will be held this Friday (29th August) at midday in Saint Anne's church, Rock Ferry.

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA - Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to [pray for peace](#) in the Middle East. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, "Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering."

"MASS TOURISM" - Many of you are going to be away over the summer. This is a time when we forget all our normal routines, and Mass is often one of them. We have a hazy memory of hearing that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended "for travellers" and don't ask ourselves whether someone within easy reach of every facility civilisation can offer, including churches, really counts as a traveller in that sense. This is a pity because far from being the reluctant execution of an irksome obligation, "Mass tourism" is a rich and fulfilling activity. The Church is universal, which means that we are part of it wherever we go. To go to Mass means instant belonging. Instead of being in a (more or less) picturesque location ornamented with (more or less) picturesque personages, you are in a real place, doing, with real people, what real people do. I strongly recommend that if you are going away, you make it part of your planning to establish where the churches are and what the times of Masses are. Don't hold obstinately to Sundays either. There are enriching experiences to be had on any day of the week. *Taken from the Universalis newsletter, July 2024.*

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.

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX - Saturday 28th September at 3pm in Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery,

A&K COMMUNITY HUB (formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre) is available to hire for family occasions, and a range of activities are held there during the week. For further information please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

JUBILEE EVANGELISATION EVENT - Sharing Hope with a Broken World with guest speaker Mark Saunders on Saturday 13th September 10.30am-2.15pm at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. To book email: natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS WITH BISHOP MARK DAVIES - also with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph and Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. On Saturday 15th November at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

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.


ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – In September, the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme 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. 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 or speak to an SVP member.

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.

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.

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don’t forget to use the Easy Fundraising! *Our latest payout is £38.33*. Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don’t forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>17th August 2025</u></p> <p>Offertory – £512.76 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless); Zambia/Caritas £14.00</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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number in the draw held on Saturday 16th August was 37 and unfortunately as there was no winner it will be a rollover for 23rd August. If you would like to join the next payment will be due by 6th September & 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 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.

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