



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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9th February 2025 – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 10. "THE SPIRIT, GIFT OF GOD". THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

However, to correspond to this vocation, marriage needs the support of he who is the Gift, indeed the quintessential giver. Where the Holy Spirit enters, the capacity for self-giving is reborn. Some Fathers of the Church affirmed that, as the reciprocal gift of the Father and the Son in the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is also the reason for the joy that reigns between them, and they were not afraid, when speaking about it, to use the image of gestures proper to married life, such as the kiss and the embrace.

No one says that such unity is an easy task, least of all in today's world; but this is the truth of things as the Creator designed them, and it is therefore in their nature. Certainly, it may seem easier and quicker to build on sand than on rock; but Jesus tells us what the result is (cf. Mt 7:24-27). In this case, then, we do not even need the parable, because the consequences of marriages built on sand are, unfortunately, there for all to see, and it is mainly the children who pay the price. Children suffer from the separation or the lack of love of the parents! With regard to so many couples, one must repeat what Mary said to Jesus, at Cana in Galilee: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). The Holy Spirit is the one who continues to perform, on a spiritual level, the miracle that Jesus worked on that occasion; namely, to change the water of habit into a new joy of being together. It is not a pious illusion: it is what the Holy Spirit has done in so many marriages, when the spouses decided to invoke him.

It would not be a bad thing, therefore, if alongside the information of a legal, psychological and moral nature that is given to couples during the preparation for marriage, we were to deepen this "spiritual" preparation, the Holy Spirit who makes unity. An Italian proverb says, "Never place a finger between husband and wife" [never interfere between husband and wife]. There is in fact a "finger" to be placed between husband and wife, the "finger of God": that is, the Holy Spirit!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Saint Scholastica</i>	9am	Mick McElroy 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	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	9:30am	Eva Miller	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am	Linda Viegas R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Ferial</i>			
Friday	<i>SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS</i>	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	<i>Ferial</i>			
Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	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 Frank Morris at Our Lady's and Anna Coughlan 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, Irene Fortune, Chloe Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Frank Morris, Michael Murphy, Philip Smith & Eileen & Julia Ward

Those who have died

Josefa Alves Garcia, Michael McElroy, Denis Joseph Kelly & Cecilia Thompson

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE – Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

PARISH

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND – You can still make your donations and Gift Aid them online at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund

LOURDES ROADSHOW – In this Jubilee Year of 2025, Bishop Mark has asked that our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will be our Jubilee Pilgrimage. To help raise the profile of the pilgrimage and to answer any questions your parishioners might have, we have organised two roadshows for those who are interested in joining our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you missed the roadshow last weekend at Our Lady & St John's, Heswall, the next roadshow will be NEXT *Saturday 15th February 2pm-4pm in Saint Anthony's, Wythenshawe*. Information and register of interest cards will be available, and members of the Lourdes Management Team will be present to answer any questions.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – Father Pat Munroe will celebrate Holy Mass *THIS Tuesday 11th February* for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Hospitality members are invited to join him at 7.00pm at St Hugh and St John, West Timperley WA14 5NB. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

There will be a meeting of Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality at Saint Columba's Church (Newman Room), Plas Newton Lane Chester CH2 1SA on Saturday 1st March at 2.00pm. Please forward any apologies, or items to be discussed under AOB, to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

CRIB – Volunteers are needed to help after Mass NEXT Sunday 16th February to dismantle the Crib structure and to assist with lifting and carrying it for storage. Many hands make light work.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 2025 runs between the 7th – 14th of February. Please pray for all marriages during this week. You will find some resources on the diocesan website, in particular a novena for marriage week and prayer. The Novena has also been arranged in Booklet form and can be downloaded and printed off as needed. There is also a link to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, to the message from Bishop Bosco MacDonald, who is the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION is an online course for all staff and volunteers in parishes provided by the Caritas Social Action Network. The programme will be spread over five Tuesdays – 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March & 1st April. The course will be delivered online via zoom and is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life. The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*. For more information or to register, please contact the course administrator, Bernadette, at bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk

JOB VACANCY AT SYMT – The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a new Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Diocese: 35 hours a week including some evening and weekend working. For more information and job description please see the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>
New closing date: Friday 21st February. Please send your CV to Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory. It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in

networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. Hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>

Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 11th March - Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints.
- ❖ 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.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC -Our next meeting is Monday 17th February at 6pm in Our Lady's.

CARING CONNECTIONS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT: Thursday 20th February 1-3 pm in A&K Hub formally Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The event is free of charge & the bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks. Hot & cold drinks, & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

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 £24.38. As you are shopping for your Christmas presents 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

2nd February 2025

**Offertory £477.33 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders);
£12 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £14**

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 1st February with no. 2. If you would like to continue or to join, please give in £5 asap. Please see a helper at the back of each church for available numbers to buy.

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 - The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES - Please donate any old glasses to support the work of the Eye Fund. Boxes for donations are available at each church.

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