

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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30th March 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 14. THE BRIDE'S GIFTS. THE CHARISMS, GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOR COMMON USE

In the last three catecheses, we talked about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which is implemented in the sacraments, in prayer and by following the example of the Mother of God. But let us listen to what a famous text from Vatican II says: "It is not only through the sacraments and the ministries of the Church that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God and enriches it with virtues, but, 'allotting his gifts to everyone according as He wills'" (cf. *1 Cor* 12:11) (*Lumen gentium*, 12). We too have personal gifts that the Spirit gives to each one of us.

Therefore, the moment has arrived to talk also about this second way the Holy Spirit works, which is charismatic action. Two elements contribute to defining what charism is. A somewhat difficult word, I will explain it. First, the charism is the gift given "for the common good" (*1 Cor* 12:7), to be useful to everyone. It is not, in other words, destined principally and ordinarily for the sanctification of the person, but for the "service" of the community (cf. *1 Pt* 4:10). This is the first aspect. Secondly, the charism is the gift given "to one", or "to some" in particular, not to everyone in the same way, and this is what distinguishes it from sanctifying grace, from the theological virtues and from the sacraments, which instead are the same and common to all. The charism is given to a specific person or community. It is a gift that God gives you.

The Council explains this too. The Holy Spirit, it says, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church, according to the words of the Apostle: 'The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit'" (*1 Cor* 12:7).

The charisms are the "jewels" or the ornaments that the Holy Spirit distributes to make the Bride of Christ more beautiful. One can thus understand why the Conciliar text ends with the following exhortation: "These charisms, whether they be the more outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused, are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation for they are perfectly suited to and useful for the needs of the Church" (*LG* 12).

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	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am People of the Parish		SP
		11am Anna Coughlan		OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9am Sr Frances 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>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am Dennis Kelly R.I.P.		OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9am Margaret Walsh		OL
Thursday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>			
Friday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9:30am Members of the Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund		SP
Saturday	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>	8am Sr Damien O'Mahoney		OL
Sunday	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.		SP
		11am People of the Parish		OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Anna Coughlan at Our Lady's and All Mothers 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

Chris Bridge, Julie Ann Brown, Judith Christley, Edward O'Neil & Brenda Wilson.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person and will help us face the crises of our time.

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 *Spaces are running out fast so please book ASAP!*

Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing the two young people from our Birkenhead post Confirmation group who will be joining the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. Following this we will be organising fundraising events to support them! Watch this space.

BBC RADIO 4 LENT TALKS – These are on Sunday evenings at 7:45pm. They are available afterwards on the BBC Sounds app or the Radio 4 website. This year the theme is the Nicene Creed.

LENT COURSE – On Friday mornings during Lent in the community room at Saint Paul's after Mass we will be showing 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.

12 HOURS ADORATION FOR LENT – In conjunction with our SyroMalabar brothers and sisters we will be having 12 hours adoration in Our Lady's on Saturday from 8am to 8pm. Fr Michael will start with Mass at 8am.

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 – There will be an informal meeting on Wednesday 9th April at 7pm, in Saint Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA to reflect on the role and purpose of the Hospitality, with a view to developing a more unified vision. All members are welcome. Please email secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk if you would like to attend. They are also praying the rosary on Wednesdays during Lent via Zoom. Details from the secretary via above email

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.

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT – will be held tomorrow 31st March; and then 28th April & 2nd June from 1pm until 3pm in A&K Community Hub formerly 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.

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.

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 are invited. RSVP with the number of tickets required to: stjosephs.upton@gmail.com by 5th April.


SUPPORTING THE VOCATION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE - all those who are interested in supporting the vocation of marriage and family are invited to join Jane Deegan Director of Marriage and Family Life Vocation for a retreat day to find out more about this important work and the various ways you can help. 7th June 2025 9.30am-4.00pm at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels Church, Wicker Lane, Hale Barnes WA15 0HG. To Register and for More Information please contact: Monika at monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or 07549226794

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 As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>23rd March 2025</u></p> <p>Offertory £386 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £71 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas 15.96</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 - Congratulations to the winner in the draw held on Saturday 22nd March with no. 26. 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.

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