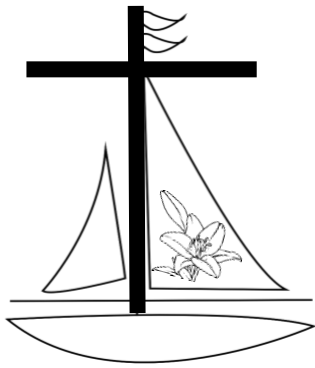




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 652 5655
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
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13th July 2025 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 4. "BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED" (LK 1:45). THE VISITATION AND THE MAGNIFICAT

This praise to God the saviour, which gushed forth from the heart of his humble servant, is a solemn memorial that synthesizes and fulfils the prayer of Israel. It is interwoven with biblical resonances, a sign that Mary does not want to sing "out of the choir" but to tune in with the forefathers, exalting her compassion for the humble, those little ones whom Jesus in his preaching will declare "blessed" (cf. Mt 5:1-12).

The prominent presence of the paschal motif also makes the Magnificat a hymn of redemption, which has as its backdrop the memory of the liberation of Israel from Egypt. The verbs are all in the past, imbued with a memory of the love that lights up the present with faith and illuminates the future with hope: Mary sings of the grace of the past, but she is the woman of the present who carries the future in her womb.

The first part of this canticle praises God's action in Mary, a microcosm of the people of God who adhere fully to the covenant (vv. 46-50); the second ranges from the work of the Father in the macrocosm of the history of His son (vv. 51-55), through three key words: memory, mercy, promise.

The Lord, who bowed down to the humble Mary to fulfil "great things" in her and make her the mother of the Lord, began to save His people starting from the exodus, remembering the universal blessing promised to Abraham (cf. Gen 12:1-3). The Lord God who is the faithful for ever, showered an uninterrupted stream of merciful love "from age to age" (v. 50) upon the people loyal to the covenant, and now manifests the fullness of salvation in His Son, sent to save the people from their sins. From Abraham to Jesus Christ and the community of believers, the Passover thus appears as the hermeneutical category for understanding every subsequent liberation, up to that realized by the Messiah in the fullness of time.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord today for the grace to be able to wait for the fulfilment of every one of His promises; and to help us to welcome Mary's presence in our life. By following her example, may we all discover that every soul that believes and hopes "conceives and begets the Word of God" (Saint Ambrose, Exposition of the Gospel according to Luke 2, 26).

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	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Paddy Lewis R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	John McGagh R.I.P.	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Saint Bonaventure	9:30am	Mary Cranney (Birthday)	OL
		12pm	Funeral Service for Patrick Burns	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	9am	Muriel May Davey (40 th Anniversary)	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Frank Connor R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Saint John Plessington	12pm	Thanksgiving	OL
Sunday	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bosco Viegas R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Graham Dixon R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Sr Mary Brennan rc R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2025

For formation in discernment. Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

Fr Gerard McGuinness, Patrick Burns, Rita Clarke & Winifred Padmore.

PARISH

PARISH BBQ TODAY – our parish BBQ will again take place after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady's, donations are still welcome for the bottle stall. Volunteers are needed to help with running the BBQ & especially clearing up at the end.

SEA SUNDAY (TODAY) – Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime agency of the Catholic Church. Its teams of chaplains provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Please stand alongside seafarers and fishers so that they will always have a friend in port who they can turn to. There will be a second collection today to support the work of Stella Maris.

WALKING FOR MND – Margaret O'Sullivan's husband, Ian, has Motor Neurone Disease (MND); he managed to walk a mile of the Wirral Coastal Walk last weekend to support the Wirral MND Association who are amazing supporters of the people on the Wirral with MND. Their advice and encouragement has made a massive difference to their lives and ability to cope with the life-changing symptoms of the disease. Margaret, Ian & the MND association are very grateful for your contributions & above all your support. You can still make donations this Sunday at Our Lady's.

UPTON HALL SCHOOL – Upton recently underwent its Catholic inspection by the Diocese. They were found to be outstanding in all aspects of their Catholic education. Their report can be found using this link [Catholic Schools Inspection Report - Upton Hall School, May 2025](#).

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – if anyone has intentions they would like Fr Michael to take to the grotto at Lourdes with him please put them in an envelope clearly marked, "Lourdes Prayer Intention", these will not be opened just placed in the prayer intentions box in the Domaine. Please do not put money in the envelope.

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, two of the young people from our Birkenhead Confirmation group introduced themselves at Mass recently. The cost of the pilgrimage is £725, they have received £250 in grants, we will use the proceeds from the parish BBQ to support them. Anything over £250 raised will also go to them. They will be back after the summer with photos to tell you all about their experiences.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: WISHLIST TO SUPPORT ASSISTED PILGRIMS – the Lourdes Management Team have launched a 'wish list' to support our assisted pilgrims. Supporters of the pilgrimage can directly help by purchasing equipment to support their care in the Accueil alongside items to enhance and enrich their all-round experiences in Lourdes. To view the Wishlist and purchase items for the Pilgrimage please follow this link: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/42FRNUVO3GUX?ref_=wl_share

LOURDES HOSPITALITY PREDEPARTURE MASS – this year's Pilgrimage pre-departure Mass will take place at 11.00am on Sunday 20th July at Saint Mary's Church, Gatefield Street, Crewe CW1 2JP. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Caritas Centre and a Hospitality Meeting starting at 1.15pm. All Hospitality members are invited to attend.

SUNDAY RAFFLE – Continues today after 11am Mass. Proceeds will be used to support the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Last week the prizes were won by tickets 5 & 935, congratulations to the winners. Any donations for raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated, please leave them at the back of either church.

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.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF ADAM BAMBER AND JOSEPH FAWCETT-WOOD:
Congratulations to both Adam & Joseph who have been ordained by Bishop Mark as priests to serve in our Diocese on the last two Saturdays. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their ministry among us.

ALONE OR BORED IN YOUR MARRIAGE? - Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. We have helped thousands of couples get back on track. Call to find out more www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

EVERY LIFE MATTERS – SPUC have sent postcards which are at the back of both churches if you would like to know more about their work & become involved with it. Postcards can be filled in & posted through the presbytery letterbox & Fr Michael will return them to SPUC.

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.

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE – Chester Across Group are going to Lourdes on 14th to 23rd August. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims and for nurses and helpers. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk

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 £28.17. Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don't forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

PARISH FINANCES

6th July 2025

Offertory – £449.66 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)

£20 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £18.20

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

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 5th July was 15, congratulations to the winner. 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 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.