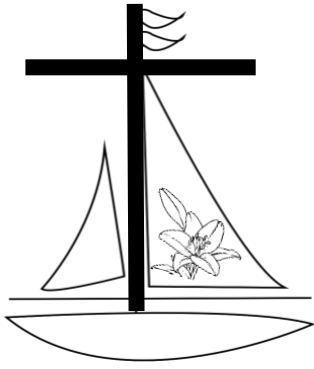




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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5th October 2025 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 2. THE SAMARITAN WOMAN. “GIVE ME A DRINK!” (JN 4:7)

The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: “Give me a drink!” (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire. But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman’s salvation. “He who was asking drink”, says Saint Augustine, “was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself”. [\[1\]](#)

Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental, but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman’s desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus.

When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversion to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: “I am he, the one who is speaking with you” (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved.

At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize.

Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus’ feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus’ feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden

of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel.

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	TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Jane Christley R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Maureen Farrell R.I.P. (Wedding Anniversary)	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Our Lady of the Rosary	9:30am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Saint John Henry Newman			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Paddy & Martina Carraher	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 Mary Teresa Upton (nee Hulse) at Our Lady’s and Bishop Mark at Saint Paul’s. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS	
<u>Those who are sick</u>	
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, Frances Scarisbrick, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.	
<u>Those who have died</u>	

PARISH

JUBILEE ICON has been visiting Our Lady & Saint Edwards school and will remain in Our Lady's church until tomorrow. Please take the opportunity today to pray with it.

CAFOD: HARVEST FAST DAY – was Friday last week (3rd October). There will be a short talk at the end of Mass today as well as a retiring collection to support the work of CAFOD.

PAUSE FOR HOPE – An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer. Sunday 19th October at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. www.pauseforhope.org.uk.

CHRISTIE TOWER RUN – Thank you to everyone who sponsored my brother Kevin doing the Christie Tower Run last Sunday. He managed the 46 floors of the Beetham Tower in 5mins & 45s. Your generosity alone raised £122 which will go to the Christie Hospital Cancer charity in memory of Dad.

RED MISSIO BOXES TO BE COLLECTED – Please contact Angela on 07864336321 to arrange a pickup or alternatively please leave in the Church.

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 a rota.

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?

ROSARY SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY – Tuesday 7th October at 2pm in Saint John's church, New Ferry. The speaker will be Mrs Brenda Bell.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE RETREAT DAY – next Saturday 11th October, 9:30am–4pm in the Parish room at Shrewsbury Cathedral. For more information or to register please contact monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION hosted by the parishes of Saint John, Saint Anne & Saint Luke – Sunday 12th October 12pm–4pm in Saint Anne's Social Club, Highfield road, Rock Ferry.

ROSARY RETREAT DAY AND JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – Bishop Mark Davies will lead this Jubilee Pilgrimage at the Eucharistic Shrine in Saint Joseph's church, Stockport on Saturday 25th October. The Rosary Retreat will begin at 9.30am with reflections and the praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary scriptural meditations. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark at 11am who will renew the entrustment of the Diocese to Our Lady especially entrusting in this shrine dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and intercession for the sanctification of priests and new and generous priestly vocations all vocations to the Priesthood. The day will conclude with a Eucharistic Procession and Solemn Benediction at 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

VACANCY FOR TRUSTEES AT WIRRAL FOODBANK – For further information please email manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk or contact Richard Roberts, General Manager, Wirral Foodbank: 07518034579. Closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.

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.

ASSISTED DYING BILL is now progressing through the House of Lords, please read Archbishop John Sherrington's statement & also write to members of the House of Lords.

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>

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.

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY – this free of charge event for pensioners, with live entertainment is to be held this Wednesday 8th October from 12:30pm until 3pm, in the A & K community hub (310 Park Road North). For further information about this & the other activities that are held at the Hub during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

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

JOB VACANCIES

PARISH SECRETARY AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, ELLESMERE PORT - **Hours of work:** flexible 3 days per week between 9am and 1pm. **Hourly rate:** £14 per hour. **Closing date:** Friday 24 October. For more information, please see the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CVs should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CLERGY WELFARE SUPPORT WORKER IN THE DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY. The role would be to support the Diocesan Welfare Nurse in her duties. **Hours:** 22.5 per week over 3 days, with a degree of flexibility. **Salary:** Competitive. For more details, please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CV's should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** Friday 24 October 2025.

PARISH FINANCES

28th September 2025

Offertory – £399.02 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)

£11 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £16.

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 Saturday 27th September was 59 & as there was no winner it will be a rollover next week. If you would like to join the next payment of £5 is now due for draws commencing on 11th October 2025. 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.