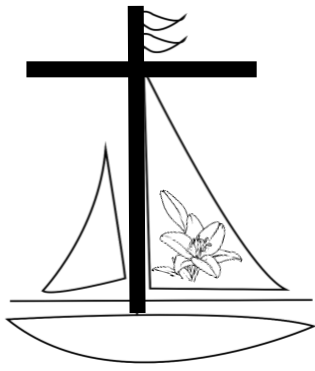




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 07710 717207
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
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16th November 2025 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 5. THE MERCIFUL FATHER. HE WAS LOST AND HAS BEEN FOUND (LK 15:32)

It is these experiences that give rise within us to the distorted belief that we can only be in a relationship as servants, as if we had to atone for a guilt or as if true love could not exist. Indeed, the younger son, when he hits rock bottom, thinks he will go back to his father's house to pick up a few crumbs of affection from the ground.

Only those who truly love us can free us from this false view of love. In the relationship with God, we have precisely this experience. The great painter Rembrandt, in a famous painting, beautifully depicted the return of the prodigal son. Two details in particular strike me: the young man's head is shaven, like that of a penitent, but it also looks like the head of a child, because this son is being born again. And then the father's hands: one male and the other female, to describe the strength and tenderness in the embrace of forgiveness.

But it is the eldest son who represents those for whom the parable is told, he is the son who always stayed at home with his father, yet was distant from him, distant in heart. This son may have wanted to leave too, but out of fear or duty he stayed there, in that relationship. When you adapt unwillingly, however, you begin to harbour anger within you, and sooner or later this anger explodes. Paradoxically, it is precisely the eldest son who in the end risks being left out, because he does not share his father's joy.

The father goes towards him too. He does not reproach him or call him to duty. He wants only that he feels his love. He invites him to enter and to leave the door open. That door remains open for us too. Indeed, this is the reason for hope: we are able to hope because we know that the Father is waiting for us, He sees us from afar, and He always leaves the door open.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves, then, where we are in this wonderful tale. And let us ask God the Father for the grace that we too can find our way back home.

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	THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Rosy Fernandes R.I.P. (Birthday) Francisco & Sharmila (Wedding Anniversary)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	10am	Terry Hughes R.I.P. (1 st Anniversary)	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	November Lists	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:30am	Members of the Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	HC
Saturday	Saint Cecilia			
Sunday	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bosco Fernandes (Birthday)	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Raymond Michael Stevens (Healing) at Our Lady's and Fr John Poland 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, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Joe Roper, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Pat Dunne

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 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.

PARISH

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND COLLECTION – the annual collection for the priests' training fund will take place **next Sunday 23rd November**. This fund pays for the education of our seminarians & helps to support our future priests in formation for our Diocese. It is also VITAL to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers to His harvest. Let us pray that young men will respond generously to the call of God in their lives.

SHREWSBURY DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE @ 75 – The Pilgrimage Management Team will be launching the 2026, 75th Anniversary, Pilgrimage on Saturday 29th November with Mass at 12 noon in parish of Saint Hugh & Saint John in Timperley (314 Manchester Road, West Timperley WA14 5NB) followed by refreshments and pilgrimage information in the Parish Hall. Car park access is via Abbotsford Grove & St Hugh's Close.

SHREWSBURY DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE REUNION – If you ever been on a Shrewsbury Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes as a helper, assisted as part of the Hospitality team, or as a pilgrim, you are warmly invited to a special Reunion NEXT Saturday 22nd November at Saint Columba's Catholic church, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL for a celebration of faith, friendship, and shared memories. Mass will be at 2:00pm with refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to reconnect with old friends, share experiences, and reflect on the blessings of Lourdes.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We have started the preparation sessions for this year's Confirmation. Our next session for any young person who is in Y8 or above is on Thursday 20th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available from Fr Michael.

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL – there will be a collection in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal in December. Every penny you give goes directly to help those most in need within our Diocese, providing crisis food vouchers, practical support, and the reassurance of care and compassion when it matters most. You can also donate online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO of Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury at Wheatland Lane, Wallasey, CH44 7ED Tel: 0151 652 1281, email: info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

REIMAGINING BAPTISM – Saturday 29th November 2025 10:30am to 4:15pm at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Tatton Street, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. Baptism is transformative, it is the gateway to Christ. Go & join a national conversation about how Baptism is understood in the life of the Church today. The Keynote talk will be given by Abbot Hugh Allen. To book a place or if you need any further information, please contact Natalie Orefice on 07730 526826 or by email natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org.

NOVEMBER LISTS – the book of remembrance will be at the back of Our Lady's church throughout the month of November. If you would like to add the names of family members or friends, please use the envelopes which are available at the back of each church & when completed place them in the baskets in front of the altars. Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in the coming weeks to raise money for Parish funds. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and Biscuits for raffle prizes. Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or the sacristy at Saint Pauls. Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

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 Sat 6th December.

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?

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOUSEBOUND – If you know of anyone who wishes to receive Holy Communion at home, please ask them to contact the Parish Office or help them to do so.

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.

PRACTICAL, CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR LIFE – "Life Charity has been my safe haven during my stormy seas." To keep up to date with news from the UK's only charity focused on real-time, practical support to enable women to continue their pregnancy in deeply challenging situations, visit: www.lifecharity.org.uk/join-us-on-social.

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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about activities that are held at the Hub (310 Park Road North) during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHOIR – consists of those who sing at 9.30am Mass on Sundays at Saint Joseph's, with other members who sing at numerous funerals, weddings & other events in local churches and beyond. They rehearse together every Saturday at Saint Michael and All Angels church 11.00am–12.00pm. New members from all parishes are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and phone number if you would like to join 0151 652 5767 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

PARISH FINANCES

9th November 2025

**Offertory – £476.89 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£2(Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £12.30.**

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 – N.B. apologies there was a winner on 1st November for the double rollover week with no. 29. The winning number on Saturday 8th November was 44 & congratulations to the winners. Payment will be due on 13th December if you would like to continue or join for draw's commencing on 20th December & a list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR – Please support Wirral Foodbank with donations ready for Christmas using their reverse Advent Calendar. 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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY – can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.