

***Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul***

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**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Second Sunday of Easter**

**CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE 16. PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EVANGELIZATION.**

After having reflected on the sanctifying and charismatic action of the Spirit, we will dedicate this catechesis to another aspect: the *evangelizing work of the Holy Spirit*, that is, on the role of preaching in the Church. The First Letter of Peter defines the apostles as “those who preached the good news to you [through] the holy Spirit” (cf. 1:12). In this expression we find the two constitutive elements of Christian preaching: its *content*, which is the Gospel, and its *means*, which is the Holy Spirit. Let’s say something about one and the other.

In the New Testament, the word “Gospel” has two principal meanings. It can indicate any one of the four canonical Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and according to this definition the Gospel means the good news proclaimed *by* Jesus during His earthly life. After the Pasch, the word “Gospel” assumes its new meaning of good news *about* Jesus, that is, the Paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord. This is what the Apostle calls “Gospel” when he writes: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). The preaching of Jesus and, subsequently, that of the Apostles, also contains all the moral duties that stem from the Gospel, starting from the ten commandments up to the “new” commandment of love. But if we do not want to relapse into the error denounced by the Apostle Paul of putting the law before grace and deeds before faith, it is necessary always to start anew from the proclamation of what Christ has done for us. Therefore, the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* insists a lot on the first of these two things, namely the *kerygma* or “proclamation”, on which every moral application depends.

Indeed, “in catechesis too, we have rediscovered the fundamental role of the first announcement or *kerygma*, which needs to be at the centre of all evangelizing activity and all efforts at Church renewal. ... The first proclamation is called ‘first’ not because it exists at the beginning and can then be forgotten or replaced by other more important things. It is first in a qualitative sense because it is the principal proclamation, the one which we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another through the process of catechesis, at every level and moment. ... We must not think that in catechesis the *kerygma* gives way to a supposedly more ‘solid’

formation. Nothing is more solid, profound, secure, meaningful and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation" (nos. 164-165), namely, the *kerygma*.

**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.

<b>MASSES FOR THE WEEK</b>			
Sunday	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Judith Christley R.I.P. <b>11am</b> People of the Parish	<b>SP</b> <b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	<b>SAINT GEORGE</b>	<b>11am</b> <b>REQUIEM MASS FOR FRANK MORRIS</b>	<b>OL</b>
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	<i>Saint Catherine of Siena</i>	<b>9:30am</b> John Pearson R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Ferial	<b>9am</b> Julie Ann Brown R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Saint Athanasius	<b>9:30am</b> <b>NO MASS</b>	
Saturday	Saints Philip & James		
Sunday	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am</b> Zoya Vaz (Birthday)	<b>SP</b> <b>OL</b>

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for Frank Morris at Our Lady's and Julie Brown at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</b>
<u><i>Those who are sick</i></u>
<i>Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe &amp; Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Philip Smith, Pat Wise, Eileen &amp; Julia Ward &amp; Sarah Williams.</i>
<u><i>Those who have died</i></u>
<i>The Holy Father, Pope Francis; Joseph Toole, Frank Morris, Maureen Richards, Christine Bridge, Brenda Wilson &amp; Patricia Hunt (nee Mosses).</i>

**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**

ROSARY VIGIL FOR FRANK MORRIS - to be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm at Thomas McMullan Funeral Services, Valley Lodge, Borough Road, Birkenhead, CH42 9JE.

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS begins on Friday this week leading to 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, so called because the Gospel of the day is always a section from chapter 10 of Saint John's Gospel where Jesus talks about the figure of the Good Shepherd. It is a day dedicated to praying for vocations. We are praying for more priests & deacons in our Diocese & our parish but also that each one of us reflects on where is the Lord calling us, what work has He entrusted to us that has been given to no one else? How are we responding to Lord's call in our own lives & in how we contribute to the life of our parish?

The novena for vocations on our website, why not pray it each day starting Friday?

TUESDAY MORNING we welcome students from several year groups Saint Anselm's college joining us to celebrate the Feasts of Saint Anselm (21<sup>st</sup> April) & Blessed Edmund Rice (founder of the Christian Brothers).

THE HOLY FATHER - on Monday morning we got the sad news of the death of Pope Francis with his Requiem Mass being celebrated yesterday. Please also keep the cardinals in your prayers at this time as they meet to pray & discern where the spirit is leading the church in this moment before they go into conclave to elect the new Holy Father.

ASSISTED DYING BILL - this legislation returns to parliament in the coming weeks after Easter, please read the pastoral letter from the Bishops of England & Wales which was enclosed with last week's Newsletter. Please also write to our MP Alison McGovern asking her to oppose this bill, you can use the postcard which are available at the back of each church.

### SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS

During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL - Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

CONFIRMATION 2025 - congratulations to the 13 young people from across our Birkenhead parishes including from our own who were confirmed by Bishop Mark on Friday evening. Congratulations also to Steph & Kamil from our parish who also made their confirmation, this means a total of seven adults have been baptised, confirmed or received into the church in our parish this Easter!

CARING CONNECTIONS SOCIAL EVENTS - RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT - the next events will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or 07549226794.

MARRIAGE HELP – Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Their next course is 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June at Welwyn Garden City. For more information visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) or tel. 07887 296983


STREET ANGELS is a nighttime welfare team of volunteers, walking the streets of Birkenhead at weekends helping those in vulnerable & difficult situations. Making Birkenhead feel & be a safer place to live, work & spend time at night. For more information visit [www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk](http://www.streetangelsbirkenhead.org.uk)

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE WALLASEY ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT TWO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – for more information, please see Fr Michael.

WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY – What is wholehearted monthly? It's an online mission series which started in March 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>. The final session will be held on Tuesday 13 May from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. The speaker is Chine McDonald who 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><b><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></b></p> <p><b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b></p> <p><b>Offertory £702.11 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</b></p> <p><b>£15 (card/contactless); Zambia/Caritas £10</b></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 rollover winner in the draw held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 with no. 33. If would like to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy 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.