



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday

CATECHESIS: POPE FRANCIS EASTER SUNDAY HOMILY 2025

Mary Magdalene, seeing that the stone of the tomb had been rolled away, ran to tell Peter and John. After receiving the shocking news, the two disciples also went out and – as the Gospel says – “the two were running together” (Jn 20:4). The main figures of the Easter narratives all ran! On the one hand, “running” could express the concern that the Lord’s body had been taken away; but, on the other hand, the haste of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John expresses the desire, the yearning of the heart, the inner attitude of those who set out to search for Jesus. He, in fact, has risen from the dead and therefore is no longer in the tomb. We must look for him elsewhere.

This is the message of Easter: we must look for him elsewhere. Christ is risen, he is alive! He is no longer a prisoner of death, he is no longer wrapped in the shroud, and therefore we cannot confine him to a fairy tale, we cannot make him a hero of the ancient world, or think of him as a statue in a museum! On the contrary, we must look for him and this is why we cannot remain stationary. We must take action, set out to look for him: look for him in life, look for him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, look for him in everyday business, look for him everywhere except in the tomb.

We must look for him without ceasing. Because if he has risen from the dead, then he is present everywhere, he dwells among us, he hides himself and reveals himself even today in the sisters and brothers we meet along the way, in the most ordinary and unpredictable situations of our lives. He is alive and is with us always, shedding the tears of those who suffer and adding to the beauty of life through the small acts of love carried out by each of us.

For this reason, our Easter faith, which opens us to the encounter with the risen Lord and prepares us to welcome him into our lives, is anything but a complacent settling into some sort of “religious reassurance.” On the contrary, Easter spurs us to action, to run like Mary Magdalene and the disciples; it invites us to have eyes that can “see beyond,” to perceive Jesus, the one who lives, as the God who reveals himself and makes himself present even today, who speaks to us, goes before us, surprises us. Like Mary Magdalene, every day we can experience losing the Lord, but every day we can also run to look for him again, with the certainty that he will allow himself to be found and will fill us with the light of his resurrection.

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026

For Priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions Fr Davis Peters R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Fr Bede Leach OSB at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	EASTER SUNDAY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	12pm	Billy Boylan	OL
Tuesday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	10am	Kevin Coughlan (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	12pm	Shena Taylor	OL
Thursday	<i>Easter Octave</i>			
Friday	<i>Easter Octave</i>	10am	Michael Cush	SP
Saturday	<i>Easter Octave</i>			
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Anna Coughlan (Birthday)	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Anne Gillet, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Margaret Cook, Jean Ann Nolan & Joseph O'Leary.

PARISH

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30th July to 7th August and by air 31st July to 6th August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

MISSIO RED BOXES are now due for emptying. Please ring Angela Hawkesworth on 0151 653 0884 to arrange their collection or drop them off in the sacristy at either church for collection.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES – are available for collection now. 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. Over the past several years the Diocese has supported us around £20000, at the end of April I will publish the accounts for this year with a comparison for the past few years. About half of the subsidy each year from the Diocese is covered by the Gift Aid claimed from your donations. Over the coming months we also need to think about costs which can be cut along with an increase in giving to begin to tackle that deficit. Ways to help can be to consider increasing your weekly contribution even if just by £1 or £2; an easy way is if you do not already Gift Aid then please consider doing so. We are also facing an increase in bank charges; therefore, we are being encouraged to have people contribute more by either Standing Order or contactless using either the Dona station at Our Lady's or online.

EASTER RAFFLE will be drawn after Mass in Our Lady's *TODAY*.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY will be holding their first focus group of 2026 at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL on Tuesday 21st April, at 7pm. This will be open to any Hospitality members, even if you haven't attended previous Focus Groups. You will be encouraged to review the commitments made last year to improve the way of working with each other. Fr Sean Henry, Chaplain to the Hospitality, will be attending. Please confirm your attendance by emailing secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026 – a concert will be held on Friday 24th April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS – How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm–8:30pm; 21st April – 9th June

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY RETREAT DAY to help you find out more about what is involved and what help is needed. There will be presentations on the Mission of Marriage, a Reflection on the Book of Tobit and Holy Mass at Midday. Saturday 18th April, 9:30am–4pm in Saint John Vianney parish hall, Saint Wilfred's church, Witton street, Northwich CW9 5NP. To register contact Monika: monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org / 07549 226794

MARRIAGE SUPPORT (RETROUVAILLE) – From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - if you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

SVP BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – During April 2026 the SVP will be running a series called “**At a Loss**” It is designed to provide support for people who are grieving because of the death of a loved one. The seven-session programme aims to provide a safe space for people who have experienced a bereavement recently or in the past. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, to help people to explore steps to promote the path to recovery. The sessions will be held in Wallasey Village. If you

feel this programme would be helpful to you please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com.

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – to be held at Saint John’s Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry, CH62 5BJ on Friday 1st May at 7pm.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise?

A&K COMMUNITY HUB – for information about this & other activities that are held at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 28th March was 18, & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady’s. If you would like to join, the next payment is due by 3rd May for draw’s commencing Saturday 9th May 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don’t forget to use the Easy Fundraising! *Our latest payout was an amazing £171.35!!!!* Thank you to everyone who has used it. Don’t forget to use it when shopping for car, home or travel insurance!

PARISH FINANCES

Sunday 29th March 2026

Offertory - £504.07 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£10 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £19.04

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



JOB VACANCIES

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEMBER

Both vacancies are 35 hours per week including evening and weekend work, salary is competitive dependent upon experience. SYMT is tasked by Bishop Mark to give witness in the parishes and schools of the Shrewsbury Diocese and to invite young people to youth retreats, formation days and events which the team will organise, facilitate and lead. For more information visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Closing date for both is 29th April 2026. Please send applications to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER – Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen within the Diocese for a Health & Safety officer. **Salary** £32,000 - £38,000 dependant on experience. **Hours:** 25 per week, term time only. Please send CV and covering letter to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date** 10th April. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK –The immediate shortages are Shampoo, Tinned Fruit & custard, Tinned vegetables. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady’s or in the sacristy at Saint Paul’s. Please see the poster in the porch for further details or visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk.

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.**