



## **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>  
Livestream: <https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>  
E-mail: [info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org](mailto:info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org)

## **7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE PARABLES 7. “JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. THE SAMARITAN. WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE HAD COMPASSION” (LK 10:33B)**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

We will continue to meditate on some parables of the Gospel, which are an opportunity to change perspective and open ourselves up to hope. The lack of hope, at times, is due to the fact that we fixate on a certain rigid and closed way of seeing things, and the parables help us to look at them from another point of view.

Today I would like to talk to you about an expert, knowledgeable person, a doctor of the Law, who however needs to change his perspective, because he is concentrated on himself and does not notice others (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37). Indeed, he questions Jesus on the way in which eternal life is “inherited”, using an expression that intends it as an unequivocal right. But behind this question perhaps it is precisely the need for attention that is concealed: the only word he asks Jesus to explain is the term “neighbour”, which literally means *he who is near*.

Jesus therefore tells a parable that is a path for transforming that question, to pass from *who loves me?* to *who has loved?* The first is an immature question, the second is the question of an adult who has understood the meaning of his life. The first question is the one we ask when we sit in the corner and wait, the second is the one that drives us to set out on the path.

The parable that Jesus tells has, in fact, a road as its setting, and it is a difficult and impervious road, like life. It is the road travelled by a man going down from Jerusalem, the city on the mountain, to Jericho, the city below sea level. It is an image that already foreshadows what might happen: it happens that the man is attacked, beaten, robbed and left half dead. It is the experience that happens when situations, people, sometimes even those we have trusted, take everything from us and leave us in the middle of the road.

### **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 WEEK				
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am	Susan Jones R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	1pm	Terry O’Hanlon (80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)	OL
Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Theresa Bate (60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Weekday of Advent			
Thursday	Weekday of Advent	12:30pm	Funeral Service for Winifred Moore	OL
Friday	Weekday of Advent	9:30am	Patrick Connor	HC
Saturday	Saint Lucy			
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Larry Long R.I.P.	OL

### **SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

The lamp burns for the intentions Andrew Torrie at Our Lady's and Ian McKensie 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**

*Herbert Graham, Ian McKensie & Winifred Moore*

### **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2025**

**For Christians in areas of conflict.** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the middle east, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

### **PARISH**

**PARISH FEAST DAY** - To celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is the dedication of Our Lady's church and so one of our parish Feast Days then we will have Mass at 1pm followed by sandwiches, tea & coffee in the Saint Joseph chapel. Come along & bring a friend!

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL – there will be a collection in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal TODAY. 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](http://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](mailto:info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk)

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR IAN MCKENSIE will take place on Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> December) at 2pm in Christ the King church (Beckwith Street) followed by committal at Landican crematorium at 3pm. Margaret and the boys would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

INDUCTION OF MGR DAVID CHARTERS AS PARISH PRIEST – On Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Bishop Davies will induct Mgr David Charters as parish priest of Saint Werburgh's, Chester. You are very welcome to attend. Parking is very limited, but there is plenty of public parking in and around the city. The church is also a 10min minute from Chester train station. The Mass will be livestreamed <https://www.churchservices.tv/stwerburghchester>. Father David counts on your prayers and assures you all of his

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES are available this weekend, please do take cards for family, friends & neighbours to encourage them to join us for the Feast of our Lord's birth at Christmas.

ADVENT REFLECTION SERVICE at Saint John the Evangelist, New Ferry, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. The service will end with Benediction.

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 (11<sup>th</sup> December) at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available from Fr Michael.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative Christmas gifts? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise or. World Gifts from CAFOD? <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of Parish funds next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December after 11am Mass in Our Lady's. 1<sup>st</sup> prize is a £25 M&S voucher with lots of other prizes. Tickets are £1 and are available to buy now. 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 next Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026.

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?

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – There will be midday Mass Saint Mary's Crewe on 8<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Refreshments will be available after Mass, everyone is welcome.

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk)

### **PARISH FINANCES**

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Offertory – £412.62 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)**

**£5 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £15.**

*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 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November was 46 & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to continue or join, the next payment will be due by next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December for draw's commencing on 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

If you have collected the items for the reverse advent calendar, please leave them this week either 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.