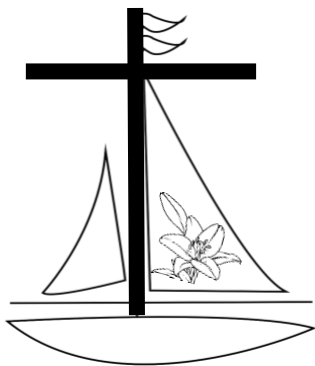




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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13th September 2026 – Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. HOPE. IV. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD 2. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THE RESPONSE TO HUMAN SADNESS.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! And welcome to you all!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is an event that one never finishes contemplating and meditating on, and the more one explores it, the more one is filled with wonder, drawn in as if by an overwhelming yet fascinating light. It was an explosion of life and joy that changed the meaning of reality itself, from negative to positive; yet it did not happen in a striking way, much less a violent one, but gently, hidden, one might say humbly.

Today we will reflect on how Christ's resurrection can heal one of the malaises of our time: sadness. Intrusive and widespread, sadness accompanies the days of many people. It is a feeling of precariousness, at times profound desperation, which invades one's inner space and seems to prevail over any impetus to joy.

Sadness robs life of meaning and vigour, turning it into a directionless and meaningless journey. This very current experience reminds us of the famous account in the Gospel of Luke (24: 13-29) of the two disciples of Emmaus. Disappointed and discouraged, they leave Jerusalem, leaving behind the hopes they held in Jesus, who has been crucified and entombed. In the opening lines, this episode presents a paradigm of human sadness: the end of the objective to which so much energy has been invested, the destruction of what seemed to be the essence of their lives. Their hope is dashed; desolation has taken hold of their hearts. Everything has imploded in a very short space of time, between Friday and Saturday, in a dramatic sequence of events.

The paradox is truly emblematic: this sad journey of defeat and return to ordinary life occurs on the same day as the victory of light, of the Pasch that has been fully consummated. The two men turn their backs on Golgotha, on the terrible scene of the cross, still imprinted on their eyes and their hearts. It seems that all is lost. They must return to their former lives, keeping a low profile and hoping not to be recognized.

At a certain point, a traveller joins the two disciples, perhaps one of the many pilgrims who have been to Jerusalem for Easter. It is the risen Jesus, but they do not recognize him. Sadness clouds their gaze, erasing the promise that the Master had made several times: that he would be killed and that on the third day he would rise again. The stranger approaches and shows interest in what they are saying. The text says that the two "stood still, looking *sad*" (Lk 24:17). The Greek adjective used describes an all-encompassing sadness: the paralysis of the soul is apparent on their faces.

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 is something expressed in everything we do.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For the care of water – Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Gloria Brightmore R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	9:30am	Maurice Cranney R.I.P.	HC
Tuesday	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9:30am	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	<i>Saints Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	9am	Thomas Farrell R.I.P. (Anniversary)	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Angela Taylor (60 th Birthday)	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Andrew Holden	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

*Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Michael Brown, Christopher Browne,
Gerard & Paul Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Pat Eaton,
Chloe Fortune, Anne Gillet, Aidan Hampsen, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Kerry Morgan,
Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Philip Smith, Michael Toner, Eileen & Julia Ward,
Sarah & Gary Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Sylvia Brady, Patricia Eaton, Fr Joseph Kendall & Margaret Roberts

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Mary Theresa Upton (née Hulse) at Our Lady's and Brian Kane R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – From Friday 11th to Sunday 20th September many places across Wirral will be open to visit as part of the heritage open days. For example, Flaybrick Cemetery where Bishop Hugh Singleton the second Bishop of Shrewsbury (section RC2; grave 467) & Canon Tallon (section RC3; grave 834) are buried. For more information visit: www.flaybrick.org; for more information about the many other events in Wirral visit: www.wirralhistoryandheritage.org.uk

As part of the Heritage Open Days, we will be opening Our Lady's church for visitors to come & find out more about our history & heritage, as well as more about who we are as a Catholic Christian community! The church will be open again next Saturday 1pm–5pm & Sunday 12.30pm–3:30pm. We need as many volunteers as possible to help during these times, there is a list at the back of Our Lady's church with volunteering slots, please do sign up!

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM are seeking to appoint both a programme coordinator & a team member. Both roles are based in Stockport. For more information, visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers> Closing date: Friday 18th September. Please send CVs to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with making & serving Tea & Coffee after 11am Mass on Sunday morning. This will be on a rota basis. It is ideal opportunity for couples or families!

EDUCATION SUNDAY (TODAY: Sunday 14th September) – As our schools have returned this week for their first full week, we are invited to pray for our Young People especially who are starting new schools or starting school for the first time. We continue to pray for parents as the first educators of their children & for the teachers & staff in our Catholic schools without whom there would be no Catholic schools!

HOME MISSION SUNDAY (Sunday 21st September) – gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Let us pray for our parish community, that we will become intentionally missionary in our life and witness, especially in our own area here in Birkenhead. It is appropriate that the church will be open not just for Mass but also for the Heritage Open Days!

JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE DAY AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH – As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at Saint Francis Church, Chester, THIS Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis. Please see the posters at the back of church.

ANSELMIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER – is to be held at Saint Anselm's College on Friday 25th September from 7pm. Tickets cost £35pp and can be purchased from Bill Iveson at billiveson37@gmail.com . Please see the posters at the back of each church for further details.

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. Next dates are 2nd to 4th October. To find out more visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info or phone 07887 296 983.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 5th September from was 36, congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church or to continue, the next payment is due **20th September 2026**. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 6th September 2026</u> Offertory £499.46 (Cash); £87.50 (Standing Orders) £10 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £13. <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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JOB VACANCIES - CURIAL OFFICE

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT INTER-DIOCESAN FUEL MANAGEMENT – **Salary:** £27 to 28K depending on experience. **Hours:** 35 per week. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website using this link www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers/administrator-for-inter-diocesan-fuel-management-limited

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT – full time, based in Birkenhead. For more information visit <https://dioceseofshrewsbury.org/careers>. Closing date for both jobs is Friday 18th September & please send covering letter and CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

CHARITY

TESCO BAGS OF HELP – If you shop in Tesco Extra Bidston Moss then please use your blue tokens (available at the checkout) to support Saint Paul's school, they are hoping to get the money via the scheme for a new fruit fridge helping our children to continue to make healthy choices!

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – Friday 2nd October. There will be a retiring collection to support the work of CAFOD at Masses on Sunday 4th October, Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/envelope

RED MISSIO BOX TO BE COLLECTED – Please contact Angela on 07864336321 to arrange a pickup or alternatively please leave in sacristy at either church.

WIRRAL FOODBANK HARVEST APPEAL – please see the posters or the Word search sheets at the back of each church for the Harvest shopping list or for further details visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul'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 NO OTHER ITEMS ARE INCLUDED.**