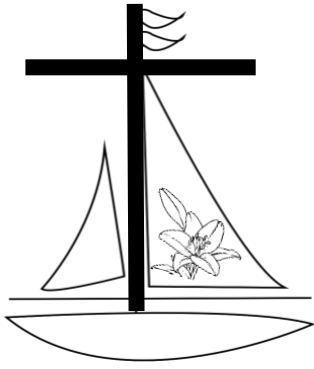




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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

19th October 2025 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE ENCOUNTERS 3. ZACCHAEUS. “TODAY I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE!” (LK 19:5)

But when you have a strong desire, you do not lose heart. You find a solution. However, you need to be courageous and unashamed; you need a little of the simplicity of children and not to worry about your own image. Zacchaeus, just like a child, climbs a tree. It should be a good vantage point, especially in order to watch without being seen, hiding behind the branches.

But with the Lord, the unexpected always happens. Jesus, when He comes close, raises His eyes. Zacchaeus feels he has been discovered, and probably expects a public rebuke. The people may have hoped for it, but they are disappointed: Jesus asks Zacchaeus to come down immediately, almost surprised to see him in the tree, and says to him, “Today I must stay at your house!” (Lk 19:5). God does not pass by without looking for those who are lost.

Luke highlights the joy in Zacchaeus’ heart. It is the joy of one who feels that he has been seen, acknowledged, and above all forgiven. Jesus’ gaze is not one of reproach, but of mercy. It is that mercy we sometimes struggle to accept, especially when God forgives those who, in our opinion, do not deserve it. We grumble because we would like to impose limits on God’s love.

In the scene at home, Zacchaeus, after listening to Jesus’ words of forgiveness, stands up, as if he were arising from a condition of death. And he gets up to make a commitment: to return four times what he has stolen. It is not a price to be paid, because God’s forgiveness is free, but rather the desire to imitate the One by whom he felt loved. Zacchaeus makes a commitment to which he was not bound, but he does so because he understands that this is his way of loving. And he does so by combining the Roman legislation regarding theft and the Rabbinic law on penance. Zacchaeus, then, is not only the man of desire; he is also one who knows how to take practical steps. His purpose is not generic or abstract, but stems precisely from his history: he looked at his life and identified the point from which to begin his transformation.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn from Zacchaeus not to lose hope, even when we feel we have been cast aside or are incapable of change. Let us nurture our desire to see Jesus, and above all let us allow ourselves to be found by the mercy of God, who always comes in search of us, in whatever situation we may be lost.

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	TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Paddy & Martina Carraher	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Saint Peter of Alcantara			
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Christopher Hughes Varco R.I.P.	OL
		12:30pm	Funeral Service for Jean McGrath	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Wyn Brack R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Frank & Winnie Harris (60 th Wedding Anniversary)	SP
		11am	Jacintho Viegas R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Katherine Ryan at Our Lady's and Sr Pauline 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, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Pat Dunne, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Frances Scarisbrick, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Jean McGrath, Keith Maxwell & Catherine Murdoch

PARISH

PAUSE FOR HOPE – An ecumenical service for anyone in anyway affected by cancer is to be held this afternoon at 3:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. www.pauseforhope.org.uk.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We will be starting the preparation sessions for this year's confirmation programme for any young person who is in Y8 or above on Thursday 6th November at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates on should be available next weekend.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC – For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, has been baptised as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running an enquiry course called Sycamore starting with an initial meeting on Thursday 6th November at 6pm at Saint Joseph's presbytery on Willowbank road, Birkenhead. Interested? Got questions? We will support you on this journey of faith through to full communion with the Catholic Church. If you're interested, please speak to Fr Michael.

CAFOD: HARVEST FAST DAY – Thank you for your generosity to support the work of CAFOD during the Harvest Fast appeal. £216.07 was raised by the collection.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is today. Please pray in particular for the work of Missio & consider supporting them by taking a red box or through Direct Debit & help spread the Gospel globally today's Mass.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a sign up sheet is available in the porch to add your name for Sat 1st November.

ANNUAL ANSELMIAN ASSOCIATION MASS OF REMEMBRANCE for Deceased Members will be celebrated at 11am on Saturday 1st November in the College Chapel. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All Anselmians and family members are welcome to join us as we remember members of our community who have died during the past year.

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?

ROSARY RETREAT DAY AND JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE – Bishop Mark Davies will lead this Jubilee Pilgrimage at the Eucharistic Shrine in Saint Joseph's church, Stockport on Saturday 25th October. The Rosary Retreat will begin at 9.30am with reflections and the praying of the Mysteries of the Rosary scriptural meditations. Holy Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark at 11am who will renew the entrustment of the Diocese to Our Lady especially entrusting in this shrine dedicated to Eucharistic Adoration and intercession for the sanctification of priests and new and generous priestly vocations all vocations to the Priesthood. The day will conclude with a Eucharistic Procession and Solemn Benediction at 3.30pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

VACANCY FOR TRUSTEES AT WIRRAL FOODBANK – For further information please email manager@wirralfoodbank.org.uk or contact Richard Roberts, General Manager, Wirral Foodbank: 07518034579. Closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2025.

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.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR FERTILITY – Crewe pro-life group is hosting Ira Winter, of [Fiat Fertility Care](http://FiatFertilityCare), for a talk on "God's Design For Fertility". She will also explain the potential of Natural Reproductive Medicine for couples struggling to conceive or wishing to space pregnancies. The talk will take place on Thursday, 30th October at 7pm at St Mary's Caritas Centre, Delamere Rd, Crewe CW1 2JX.

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.

JOB VACANCIES

CLERGY WELFARE SUPPORT WORKER IN THE DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY. The role would be to support the Diocesan Welfare Nurse in her duties. **Hours:** 22.5 per week over 3 days, with a degree of flexibility. **Salary:** Competitive. For more details, please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CV's should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date:** Friday 24th October 2025.

PARISH SECRETARY AT OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, ELLESMERE PORT- Hours of work: flexible 3 days per week between 9am and 1pm. **Hourly rate:** £14 per hour. **Closing date:** Friday 24th October. For more information, please see the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> CVs should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

PARISH FINANCES

12th October 2025

**Offertory – £365.65 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£2 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £12.**

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 in the draw held on Saturday 11th October was 53 & congratulations to the winner from Saint Paul's. If you would like to join a list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you for your continued support. 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 can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.