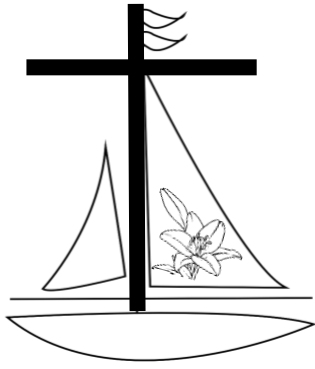




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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20th July 2025 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 5. “TO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY A SAVIOUR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD” (LK 2,11). THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND THE SHEPHERDS’ VISIT

In our Jubilee journey of catechesis on Jesus, who is our hope, today we will reflect on the event of his birth in Bethlehem.

The Son of God enters history as our travelling companion, and begins to travel while still in His mother's womb. The evangelist Luke tells us that as soon as He was conceived, He went from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth; and then, at the end of the pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Mary and Joseph were forced to go to the city of King David, where Joseph had also been born. The long-awaited Messiah, the Son of the God Most High, allows Himself to be counted, that is, counted and registered, like any other citizen. He submits to the decree of an emperor, Caesar Augustus, who thinks he is the master of all the earth.

Luke places Jesus' birth in “an exactly datable time” and in “an exactly indicated geographical setting”, so that “the universal and the concrete touch each other” (BENEDICT XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 77). God, who comes into history, does not dismantle the structures of the world, but wants to illuminate them and recreate them from within.

Bethlehem means “house of bread”. There, the days of childbirth were fulfilled for Mary and there Jesus was born, bread descended from heaven to satisfy the hunger of the world (cf. *Jn* 6:51). The angel Gabriel had announced the birth of the Messianic King in the sign of greatness: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (*Lk* 1:32-33).

However, Jesus is born a way entirely unprecedented for a king. Indeed, “while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (*Lk* 2:6-7). The Son of God is not born in a royal palace, but at the back of a house, in the space where the animals are kept.

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	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bosco Viegas R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Fr John Poland & Fr Tony McGrath	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	SAINT MARY MAGDALENE	9:30am	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN	9am	Maureen Doyle	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	SAINT JAMES	9:30am	O'Brien Family R.I.P	SP
Saturday	Saints Joachim & Anne	12pm	Wedding of Rachel Carey & Jonathan Keddie	OL
Sunday	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	George Sindall	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Daine Gilmartin at Our Lady's and Raymond Michael Stevens at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2025

For formation in discernment. Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Laurence Barron, Christopher Browne, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

PARISH

SEA SUNDAY – We will be sending £100 to support the work of Stella Maris.

WALKING FOR MND – Margaret & Ian would like to thank parishioners for their amazing generosity toward MND charity, the retiring collections raised £186.70.

PARISH BBQ (LAST SUNDAY) – Thank you to everyone who attended the BBQ and has supported our ongoing fundraising efforts across both churches in our parish. The BBQ raised £506.62 which will principally go towards funding our Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

SUNDAY RAFFLE AT BBQ – Congratulations to the winners but there are several unclaimed prizes so please check your tickets as follows: 129; 231; 328; 377; 556; 558 & 576. Please see a helper at the back of Our Lady's church after Mass today or phone the Parish Office from Tuesday. Any unclaimed prizes will be re-raffled after 11:00 Mass on 27th July.

LOURDES HOSPITALITY PRE-DEPARTURE MASS – this year's Pilgrimage pre-departure Mass will take place at 11.00am on Sunday 20th July at Saint Mary's Church, Gatefield Street, Crewe CW1 2JP. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Caritas Centre and a Hospitality Meeting starting at 1.15pm. All Hospitality members are invited to attend.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: WISHLIST TO SUPPORT ASSISTED PILGRIMS – the Lourdes Management Team have launched a 'wish list' to support our assisted pilgrims. Supporters of the pilgrimage can directly help by purchasing equipment to support their care in the Accueil alongside items to enhance and enrich their all-round experiences in Lourdes. To view the Wishlist and purchase items for the Pilgrimage please follow this link: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/42FRNUVO3GUX?ref_=wl_share

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – if anyone has intentions, they would like Fr Michael to take to the grotto at Lourdes with him please put them in an envelope clearly marked, "Lourdes Prayer Intention", these will not be opened just placed in the prayer intentions box in the Domaine. Please do not put money in the envelope.

On Thursday our Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage will depart for Lourdes, with the theme 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. Our Youth section leaves on Wednesday, the main pilgrimage coach and the Juniors coach leave on Thursday, and the planes on Friday. There are almost 430 pilgrims this year, which is our biggest number since covid. On Sunday 27th July we will be joining the International Mass at 8.30am BST and on Monday 28th July we will be joining with Hexham & Newcastle Diocese at the Grotto for Mass at 9am BST. Both Masses and other liturgies will be available to watch on Lourdes TV which can be accessed via www.lourdes-france.com

While we are in Lourdes we will be praying for you, please pray for us and join with this year's pilgrimage intentions:

- ❖ For peace in the world
- ❖ For every human life to be held sacred
- ❖ For the new evangelisation of our country and for the increasing number of young adults seeking faith and Baptism
- ❖ For our new Holy Father, Pope Leo, in his supreme apostolic ministry

- ❖ For the renewal of our local church by new and generous vocations especially to Marriage as the foundation of the family; to the Priesthood, the vocation on which all other vocations depend; to the Permanent Diaconate in its generous service; to the Consecrated Life of women and men in its radiant witness; and for the apostolic life and apostolate in the midst of the world.

ROSALEEN GALLAGHER R.I.P. – Many of you will know or remember Fr Owen Gallagher who was ordained at Saint Michael's a few years ago. Sadly & unexpectedly his mother returned to the House of the Father on Monday, her funeral was Thursday last week. Please keep Fr Owen & his family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST? – Have you considered exploring a vocation to the diocesan priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? Why not speak to Fr Michael or the diocesan vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org.

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE – Chester Across Group are going to Lourdes on 14th to 23rd August. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims and for nurses and helpers. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk

LOURDES FUNDRAISING CURRY NIGHT – to be held at Wallasey Hive, Poulton Road, Wallasey on Monday 28th July, at 7pm to raise money for the Wirral and Chester Across Groups' pilgrimages to Lourdes. The cost is £15 and please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk to reserve a place.

CATENIANS – The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other's company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact p.davenport.123@btinternet.com.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA – the order believes in charity, unity & fraternity, over many years they have helped priests, parishes & our Catholic schools & many projects internationally. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. Please contact Tony Connolly on 07950 392193.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. 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>13th July 2025</u> Offertory – £388.42 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) Zambia/Caritas £6.01 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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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 – The winning number in the draw held on 12th July was 14, congratulations to the winner. 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 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.