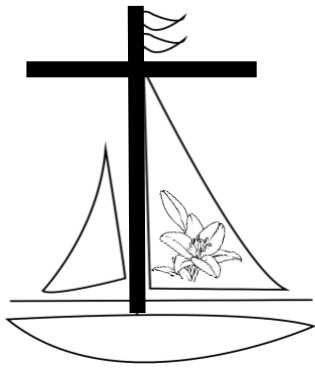




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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31st August 2025 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS 8. “SON, WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS TO US?” (LK 2:49). THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.

In this last catechesis dedicated to the childhood of Jesus, we will start from the episode in which, at twelve years of age, He stays in the Temple without telling His parents, who are anxiously looking for Him and find Him after three days. This account presents us with a very interesting dialogue between Mary and Jesus, which helps us to reflect on the path of the mother of Jesus, a journey that was certainly not easy. Indeed, Mary set out on a spiritual itinerary during which she advanced in her understanding of the mystery of her Son.

Let us look back at the various stages of this journey. At the beginning of her pregnancy, Mary visits Elizabeth and stays with her for three months, until the birth of the little John. Then, when she is now in her ninth month, due to the census she goes with Joseph to Bethlehem, where she gives birth to Jesus. After forty days they go to Jerusalem for the presentation of the child; and they return on a pilgrimage to the Temple every year thereafter. But with Jesus still a baby they had taken refuge in Egypt for a long time to protect Him from Herod, and only after the king's death did they settle again in Nazareth. When Jesus, having become an adult, begins His ministry, Mary is present and a protagonist at the wedding at Cana; then she follows Him “at a distance”, up to His last journey to Jerusalem, and until His passion and death. After the Resurrection, Mary remains in Jerusalem, as Mother of the disciples, sustaining their faith while awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout this journey, the Virgin is a pilgrim of hope, in the strong sense that she becomes the “daughter of her Son”, the first of His disciples. Mary brought into the world Jesus, Hope of humanity; she nourished Him, made Him grow, followed Him, letting herself be the first to be shaped by the Word of God. As [Benedict XVI](#) said, “We see how completely at home Mary is with the Word of God ... we see how her thoughts are attuned to the thoughts of God, how her will is one with the will of God. Since Mary is completely imbued with the Word of God, she is able to become the Mother of the Word Incarnate” (Encyclical [Deus caritas est](#), 41). This unique communion with the Word of God does not however save her the effort of a demanding “apprenticeship”.

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Ferial			
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Maureen Lovatt (Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Saint Gregory the Great			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Douglas Fernandes R.I.P. (Birthday)	OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

For our relationship with all of creation – Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might, experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of respect.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Gina Caraher at Our Lady's and Teachers in our Parish Primary Schools 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, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Harry Brightmore, Alan Hughes, Susan Jones, Larry Long, Gerard Lynch & Francis Nelson.

PARISH

WIRRAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – From 12th – 21st 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. They have events & tours throughout the time. For more information about

Flaybrick 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 on Saturdays 13th & 20th September 1pm – 5pm & Sundays 14th & 21st September 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!

UPCOMING DAYS OF PRAYER

Tomorrow, Monday 1st September begins the Season of Creation, linked to harvest time & reminding us of the importance of Our Common the Earth! See the Pope's Prayer intention for September.

Sunday 14th September – Education Sunday. As our schools all return this 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!

Sunday 21st September – *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday (formerly Home Mission Sunday). This day of prayer 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," the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19. We are encouraged to pray for our parish community, that we will become intentionally missionary in our life and witness, especially in our own area here in the North end of Birkenhead. It is appropriate that the church will be open this day not just for Mass but also for the Heritage Open Days as well!

2026 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!* By air: Friday 31st July – Thursday 6th August / By coach: Thursday 30th July – Friday 7th August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 29th July – Friday 7th August

Our Young People from across the Diocese were amazing again this year, they were prayerful, respectful & always cheerful even when sleep deprived!

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.

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA – Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, "Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering."

JUBILEE EVANGELISATION EVENT – Sharing Hope with a Broken World with guest speaker Mark Saunders on Saturday 13th September 10.30am-2.15pm at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. To book email: natalie.oreface@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

BENEDICTION IN HONOUR OF SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX – Saturday 28th September at 3pm in Birkenhead Carmelite Monastery.

JUBILEE FOR CATECHISTS WITH BISHOP MARK DAVIES – also with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph and Natalie Orefice, Diocesan Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis. On Saturday 15th November at Saint Joseph's Eucharistic Shrine, Tatton Street, Stockport SK1 1EJ. Book your free place here: <https://bit.ly/Jubilee-for-Catechists>

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) – BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT – In September, the SVP will be running another series of its successful programme 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. If you feel this programme would be helpful to you or someone you know, please contact us, in confidence, on telephone 07894 240 469 or by emailing recovery.hamsvp@gmail.com or speak to an SVP member.

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.

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY – this free of charge event for pensioners, with live entertainment is to be held on Wednesday 3rd September from 12:30pm until 3pm, in the A & K community hub (310 Park Road North). For further information about this & the other activities that are held at the Hub during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

EASY FUNDRAISING As you are shopping online, don't forget to use Easy Fundraising even for car, home or travel insurance! **Our latest payout is £38.33.** Thank you to everyone who has used it.

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u>	
<u>24th August 2025</u>	
Offertory – £334.85 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) £5 (Card/Contactless); Zambia/Caritas £20	
<i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	
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 23rd August was 5 and ‘Congratulations’ to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to continue or to join the next payment of £5 is now due for draws commencing 6th September. 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.