

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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15th February 2026 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. 11. THE BLEEDING WOMAN AND JAIRUS' DAUGHTER. "DO NOT BE AFRAID; JUST HAVE FAITH!" (MK 5:36).

That woman embarks on the path of salvation when the faith that Jesus can heal her germinates: so, she finds the strength to come out and go in search of him. She wants to reach out and at least touch his garment.

Around Jesus there is a large crowd, and therefore many people were touching him, and yet nothing happens to them. Instead, when this woman touches Jesus, she is healed. Where does the difference lie? In his commentary on this point of the text, Saint Augustine says – in Jesus' name – "The crowd jostles, faith touches" (*Sermon* 243, 2, 2). It is thus: every time we perform an act of faith addressed to Jesus, contact is established with Him, and immediately his grace comes out from Him. At times we are unaware of it, but in a secret and real way, grace reaches us and gradually transforms our life from within.

Perhaps today too, many people approach Jesus in a superficial way, without truly believing in his power. We walk the surfaces of our churches, but maybe our heart is elsewhere! This woman, silent and anonymous, conquers her fears, touches the heart of Jesus with her hands, considered unclean because of her illness. And she is immediately healed. Jesus says to her: "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (*Mk* 5:34).

In the meantime, the father receives the news that his daughter is dead. Jesus says to him: "Do not be afraid; just have faith" (v. 36). He then goes to the house and, seeing that everyone is weeping and wailing, says: "The child is not dead but asleep" (v. 39). He enters the chamber where the child is lying, takes her hand, and says to her: "*Talità kum*", "Little girl, arise!". The girl stands up and starts to walk (cf. vv. 41-42). Jesus' act shows us that not only does He heal from every illness, but He also awakens from death. For God, who is eternal Life, death of the body is like sleep. True death is that of the soul: of this we must be afraid!

One last detail: Jesus, after reviving the child, tells the parents to give her something to eat (cf. v. 43). Here is another very concrete sign of Jesus' closeness to our humanity. But we can also understand it in a deeper sense, and ask ourselves: when our children are in crisis and need spiritual nourishment, do we know how to give it to them? And how can we, if we ourselves are not nourished by the Gospel?

Dear brothers and sisters, in life there are moments of disappointment and discouragement, and there is also the experience of death. Let us learn from that woman, from that father: let us go to Jesus: He can heal us, He can revive us. Jesus is our hope!

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	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Michael Murphy	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Bernard Murray R.I.P.	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Bridget & Terry O'Hanlon	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	ASH WEDNESDAY	9am	Rob Creer R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Thursday after Ash Wednesday			
Friday	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:30am	Mary Butler R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Saturday after Ash Wednesday			
Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	John McGagh R.I.P. 1 st Anniversary	OL

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

For children with incurable diseases. Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions Kevin Coughlan at Our Lady's and Bishop Mark (Anniversary of Ordination) 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

***Stuart & Jackie, Samuel Adodo, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Gerard Carey,
Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Mary Dooley, Chloe & Irene Fortune,***

*Colin James, Clare McElroy, Fr Philip McGovern, Canon Philip Moor, Helen Ryan,
Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.*

Those who have died

Maureen Duckworth, Vincent Duggan, Fr Paul O'Grady, Trevor Owen & Jack Sui.

PARISH

SYROMALABAR YOUTH RAFFLE VALENTINES RAFFLE – the raffle will be drawn after 11am Mass today.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR PAUL O'GRADY – he will be received into Saint Werburgh's church, Birkenhead at 7pm on Sunday 22nd February; Bishop Mark will celebrate Fr Paul's Requiem Mass on Monday 23rd February at midday in Saint Werburgh's church, Birkenhead. Fr Paul will be laid to rest with his family in Southern Cemetery in Manchester.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE ROADSHOWS – The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Management Committee invites you to drop in to one of our roadshows to learn more about joining our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2026, as we celebrate our 75th annual pilgrimage, at Christ the King, Bromborough (CH62 6AT) next Saturday 21st February between 11am – 12:30pm.

CONFIDENT CHRISTIANITY HALF DAY CONFERENCE – a half day conference will be held on Saturday 28th February 2026, at Hope Community Church, Aintree, L10 2JJ with keynote speakers Andy Bannister and David Hutchings from Solas, partnering with Northwest Baptist Association and Together for the Harvest. The conference will help believers become confident and empowered to talk about Jesus more naturally, engage in evangelism that persuades people, and feel more equipped to have good conversations with friends. Please contact 0151 291 6640 or email office@hccaintree.co.uk to book your place, tickets are £5 each.

BETROTHED: A MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE OFFERED BY THE SHREWSBURY DIOCESE will help to prepare both from a spiritual/faith perspective and relational perspective. You are welcome to attend the course whether you are to be married at the parish where it is being run or not. The course runs over two consecutive Saturdays 9.30am to 4.30pm at Saint Clare's Church Parish Hall (Downsfield Road, Chester CH4 8HH) on 7th & 14th February or 20th & 27th June 2026. For more information, please contact Jane Deegan at jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org &/or Mobile: 07517 906435. Registration is essential by contacting Monika at: monika.golembiewska@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

YEAR OF ST FRANCIS PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI – Pope Leo has declared this a Jubilee Holy year for Saint Francis, therefore the parish of Saint Anne & Saint John are trying to organise a special pilgrimage to Assisi on from 28th June to 3rd July. The pilgrimage includes Mass in the Basilica of Saint Francis, veneration of Saint Carlos Acutis's body in the church of Saint Mary Major, a trip to the Holy House in Loreto, visits to both the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angel Portiuncula where the Franciscan movement started and the monastery of the first order of Saint Clare in San Damiano. Cost £995. If interested, it is IMPORTANT that you, please telephone Maria Fryer on 07576 243343 NOW to secure a place.

SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS – Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Six


consecutive Tuesdays starting 17 Feb | 24 Feb | 03 Mar | 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar at 7pm – 8:15pm.
Free of Charge | LIVE on YouTube. Registration: comeandsee.org/lent26

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for all occasions is available to buy at each church. Looking for alternative gifts? To families & friends? Why not look at our parish branded merchandise (pens £1, Mugs £6, bundle deal of one mug and two pens £7) or World Gifts from CAFOD? <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/all>

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.

CARITAS – 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

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 7th February was 40 & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. If you would like to join, the next payment will be due by 22nd February for draw's commencing on 28th February 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>Sunday 8th February 2026</u></p> <p>Offertory – £412.92 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)</p> <p>£4 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £14.</p> <p><i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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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.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Thank you to everyone who has supported Wirral Foodbank's and please do continue your support in this New Year. 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 YOU DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ITEMS**, sadly this has continued to happen

JOB VACANCIES

CHRISTIAN, FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICER – Saint John's United Reformed Church (URC), Warrington, seeks a committed Christian to serve as Community Outreach Officer. Closing date is 26th February 2026. For details about the role and to access the application process, please go to <https://www.stjohnsurc.co.uk> contact Maggie at 07956026823.

HOUSEKEEPER AT SAINT ANNE'S PRESBYTERY, ROCK FERRY - 12 hours per week @ £13.45 per hour

SALES LEDGER CLERK - 20 hours per week, term time only contract. Hourly rate £14.60.

PILGRIMAGE BOOKING & CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR - 20 hours per week, term time only contract with the possibility of some remote working. Hourly rate £14.60.

CV and covering letter for the Diocesan vacancies should be sent to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. Closing date: Friday 20 February 2026. For more information, please follow the link [Latest Vacancies - Diocese](#)