

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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14th June 2026 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 5. THE CRUCIFIXION. " I THIRST" (JN 19:28)

This is the Christian paradox: God saves not by doing, but by letting himself do. Not by defeating evil with force, but by accepting the weakness of love to the very end. On the cross, Jesus teaches us that man does not realize himself in power, but in trustful openness to others, even when they are hostile and enemies. Salvation is not found in autonomy, but in humbly recognizing one's own need and in being able to express it freely.

The fulfilment of our humanity in God's plan is not an act of strength, but a gesture of trust. Jesus does not save with a dramatic twist, but by asking for something that he cannot give himself. And it is here that the door to true hope opens: if even the Son of God chose not to be self-sufficient, then our thirst too - for love, for meaning, for justice - is a sign not of failure, but of truth.

This truth, seemingly so simple, is difficult to accept. We live in a time that rewards self-sufficiency, efficiency, performance. And yet the Gospel shows us that the measure of our humanity is not given by what we can achieve, but by our ability to let ourselves be loved and, when necessary, even helped.

Jesus saves us by showing us that asking is not unworthy but liberating. It is the way out of the hiddenness of sin, so as to re-enter the space of communion. Ever since the beginning, sin has begotten shame. But forgiveness - real forgiveness - is born when we can face up to our need and no longer fear rejection.

Jesus' thirst on the cross is therefore ours too. It is the cry of a wounded humanity that seeks living water. And this thirst does not lead us away from God but rather unites us with him. If we have the courage to acknowledge it, we can discover that even our fragility is a bridge towards heaven. It is precisely in asking - not in possessing - that a way of freedom opens up, because we cease to pretend to be self-sufficient.

In fraternity, in the simple life, in the art of asking without shame and offering without ulterior motives, a joy is born that the world does not know. A joy that restores us to the original truth of our being: we are creatures made to give and receive love.

Dear brothers and sisters, in Christ's thirst we can recognize all of our own thirst. And to learn that there is nothing more human, nothing more divine, than being able to say: I need. Let us not be afraid to ask, especially when it seems to us that we do not deserve. Let us not be ashamed to reach out our hand. It is right there, in that humble gesture, that salvation hides.

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2026

For the value of sports. Let us pray that sports can be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Linda & Jacinth Viegas R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Irene Fortune R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Christopher Jones	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	John Bolton	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Mary Kennedy R.I.P.	HC
Saturday	<i>Saint Alban</i>	10:30 am	<i>Celebration of First Holy Communion</i>	OL
Sunday	TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Linda & Jacinth Viegas R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Catherine Bingham, Beryl Ann Brown and Mary Dooley.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Kevin Coughlan at Our Lady's and Mary Dooley R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

PARISH

WIRRAL COASTAL WALK – last Sunday Margaret O'Sullivan and two of her boys walked the first part of the walk up to Leasowe Lighthouse in memory of Ian, her husband, who died of Motor Neurone Disease in November. Many thanks to all who have already contributed, the collecting tin will be at the back of Our Lady's church again today if anyone would like to contribute to the Wirral MND association who supported Ian and all the family so well.

PARISH ACCOUNTS 2025-2026 were enclosed with last week's newsletter the parish accounts. The sheet also gave the comparison for the past three years as well. You will also find on the noticeboard of each church a coloured pie chart showing in visual form the income and expenditure for the past year. Please do have a look at both.

NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE – To mark 175th Anniversary of our Diocese of Shrewsbury a new website has been launched for the Diocese. The renewed website is not merely a platform for information but offers a window on the life and witness of our Shrewsbury Diocese. The website can be accessed by clicking on: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/>

WE BELIEVE FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE will be held on Friday 24th – Monday 27th July 2026, at Saint Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. WeBelieve Festival brings the Church together in England and Wales to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Church, to experience the joy of community, and to encounter personally the Lord Jesus, our salvation. Join us at the historic and beautiful setting of Saint Mary's College, Oscott, for a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. Book your tickets at www.webeliefefestival.com

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 – If you plan to travel independently and organise your own accommodation in Lourdes, you still need to register especially if you wish to volunteer or join in with the pilgrimage. You can register via the new online booking system at <https://shrewsburylourdes.fillout.com/application>

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – We are starting an exploration programme tomorrow 8th June at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more! We will meet every two weeks for an hour following the Sycamore programme a short video presentation with pauses for reflection, questions and discussion.

PARISH BBQ will be held on Sunday 12th July after 11am Mass in the presbytery garden at Our Lady's. Donations of bottles are welcome for the bottle stall, please leave them at the back of each church. Helpers will be needed to help with set-up, running the BBQ & especially clearing up. Please see the sheets at the back of church to register your support.

BBQ RAFFLE TICKETS will be on sale from today £1 per strip and will be drawn at the BBQ so please keep your tickets safe until then.

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. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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?

THE TABLET AND NEW HALL FESTIVAL 2026 – Faith in Action: Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church 10th – 11th July 2026 at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford. Join a powerful two-day Catholic festival, bringing people from across the UK together to pray, reflect and act for justice, peace and human dignity. A joyful, welcoming space for worship, dialogue and renewal. See the poster for details.


NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 'ADOREMUS' will be held in London on Saturday 10th October. The day will begin with Holy Mass at Saint George's Cathedral, Southwark and there will a Eucharistic Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to be part of the Shrewsbury Diocese Pilgrimage Group to Adoremus, please register an interest with Mrs Natalie Orefice via email: natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

A&K COMMUNITY HUB 310 PARK ROAD NORTH, BIRKENHEAD - For information about activities held there during each week please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com

BOOGIE BEARS MUSIC & MOVEMENT – Sessions at 9:30am & 11am; Tuesday @ Little Centre, Beechwood; Thursday @ A&K community hub. No booking required: £5 per child, discount for siblings. Tea & Coffee for grown-ups, snack for little ones.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 7th June was 50 congratulations to the winner. If you would like to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

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!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 7th June 2026</u> Offertory £583.24 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £20 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £15 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
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CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK –The immediate shortages are Shampoo, Tinned Fruit & custard, Tinned vegetables. Donations can be left outside the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's or in the sacristy at Saint Paul's. Please see the poster in the porch for further details or visit www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk.

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.**

