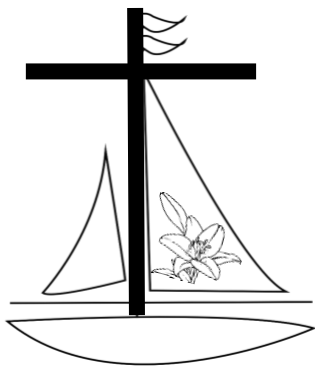




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: **Fr Michael Coughlan** 652 1074
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Parish Sister: **Sr Pauline** 07710 717207
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9th August 2026 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS 9. THE RESURRECTION. “PEACE BE WITH YOU!” (JN 20:21)

In this way, the Lord shows himself to be naked and defenceless. He does not demand, he does not hold us to ransom. His is a love that does not humiliate; it is the peace of one who has suffered for love and can now finally affirm that it was worthwhile.

Instead, we often mask our wounds out of pride, or for fear of appearing weak. We say, “it doesn’t matter”, “it is all in the past”, but we are not truly at peace with the betrayals that have wounded us. At times we prefer to hide our effort to forgive so as not to appear vulnerable and to risk suffering again. Jesus does not. He offers his wounds as a guarantee of forgiveness. And he shows that the Resurrection is not the erasure of the past, but its transfiguration into a hope of mercy.

Then, the Lord repeats: “Peace be with you!”. And he adds, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (v. 21). With these words, he entrusts the apostles with a task that is not so much a power as a responsibility: to be instruments of reconciliation in the world. As if he said: “Who will be able to proclaim the merciful face of the Father, if not you, who have experienced failure and forgiveness?”.

Jesus breathes on them and gives them the Holy Spirit (v. 22). It is the same Spirit who sustained him in obedience to the Father and in love even to the cross. From that moment, the apostles will no longer be able to remain silent about what they have seen and heard: that God forgives, lifts up, and restores trust.

This is the heart of the mission of the Church: not to administer power over others, but to communicate the joy of those who are loved precisely when they did not deserve it. It is the strength that gave rise to the Christian communities and made them grow: men and women who discovered the beauty of returning to life to be able to give it to others.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are sent. The Lord shows us his wounds and says: *Peace be with you*. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us, too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

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	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Jessie Davenport R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	SAINT LAURENCE	9am	Agnes Daly R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	<i>Saint Clare</i>	9:30am	Fr Bernard Forshaw (Ruby Jubilee)	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Moira McLaughlin R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	<i>Saint Maximilian Kolbe</i>	9:30am	Pauline Lynch	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Pat Caraher	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Sylvia Brady, Thomas Burns & Moira McLaughlin

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2026

For evangelisation in the city – that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions of Johnny Jones R.I.P. Anniversary at Our Lady's and Moira McLaughlin R.I.P. at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church, £5 donation.

PARISH

WIRRAL FOODBANK are seeking new volunteers. Please see the poster for more information or visit <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/volunteer/>

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE – Act now, contact our MP Alison McGovern. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11th September 2026. Our clear principled objection to this Bill remains and we renew our call for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation: "This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

ANointing & HEALING SERVICE – is to be held on Friday 4th September 2026 at 7pm at St John's Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry CH62 5BJ.

"MASS TOURISM" – Many of you are going to be away over the summer. This is a time when we forget all our normal routines, and Mass is often one of them. We have a hazy memory of hearing that the obligation to attend Mass is suspended "for travellers" and don't ask ourselves whether someone within easy reach of every facility civilisation can offer, including churches, really counts as a traveller in that sense. This is a pity because far from being the reluctant execution of an irksome obligation, "Mass tourism" is a rich and fulfilling activity. The Church is universal, which means that we are part of it wherever we go. To go to Mass means instant belonging. Instead of being in a (more or less) picturesque location ornamented with (more or less) picturesque personages, you are in a real place, doing, with real people, what real people do. I strongly recommend that if you are going away, you make it part of your planning to establish where the churches are and what the times of Masses are. Don't hold obstinately to Sundays either. There are enriching experiences to be had on any day of the week. *Taken from the Universalis newsletter, July 2024.*

ANIMATED FILM David will be shown in Birkenhead's Vue cinema daily from 21st August. The screening will be at 12:45pm. The film is based on the life of David as told in the First Book of Samuel, it is rated PG.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED? – the programme will resume on Monday 7th September at 7pm in Our Lady's. Come along & find out more!

CARD MACHINE – There is now a card machine for payment at both churches, this can be used for offertory giving as well as paying for Mass intentions, items from Piety stall etc.

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. Next dates are 2nd to 4th October. To find out more visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info or phone 07887 296 983.

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 our diocesan vocations director, Fr Sean Davidson. You can also visit www.Shrewsburyvocations.org

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 1st August was 29 congratulations to the winner from Saint Pauls. If you would like to continue, the next payment is due by 16th August or to join, a list of available numbers is at the back of each church. Thank you for your continued support.

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!

<u>PARISH FINANCES</u> <u>Sunday 2nd August 2026</u> Offertory £399.30 (Cash); £77.50 (Standing Orders) £0 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £25 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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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

Emergency Food is not the solution – Through their Food Bank plus project delivered by Citizens Advice on their behalf Wirral Food bank is helping people get support with some of the underlying issues that can lead to them needing emergency food.

Council Tax reduction campaign – Some people who are on a low income are eligible for a reduction in their council tax but due to a recent policy change they could be paying an additional £34 per month. Individuals on a low fixed income are having to spend more to cover essential costs. This could result in them having less money for essentials, getting into debt & increased Food Bank use.

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.**

