

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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16th February 2025 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 11. "HE HAS ANOINTED US AND PUT HIS SEAL UPON US". CONFIRMATION, SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today, we will continue our reflection on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church through the Sacraments.

The sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit reaches us primarily through two channels: the Word of God and the Sacraments. And among all the Sacraments, there is one that is quintessentially the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit, and this is what I would like to focus on today. It is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the New Testament, in addition to baptism with water, another rite is mentioned, the imposition of hands, which has the purpose of communicating the Holy Spirit visibly and in a charismatic way, with effects that are analogous to those produced by the Apostles at Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles refer to a significant episode in this regard. Having heard that some in Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John there from Jerusalem. They "came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit" (8:14-17).

Moreover, there is what Saint Paul writes in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: "it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" (1:21-22). The guarantee of the Spirit. The theme of the Holy Spirit as a "royal seal" with which Christ marks his sheep is at the basis of the doctrine of the "indelible character" conferred by this rite.

With the passing of time, the rite of anointing took shape as a Sacrament in itself, assuming diverse forms and content in the various ages and different rites of the Church. This is not the place to retrace this very complex history. What the Sacrament of Confirmation is in the understanding of the Church seems to me to be described in a very simple and clear way by the Catechism of adults of the Italian Episcopal Conference. It says: "Confirmation is for all the faithful what Pentecost was for the entire Church. ... It reinforces the baptismal incorporation into Christ and the Church and the consecration to the prophetic, royal and priestly mission. It communicates the abundance of the gifts of the Spirit. ... If, therefore, Baptism is the Sacrament of birth, Confirmation is the Sacrament of

growth. For this very reason it is also the Sacrament of witness, because this is closely linked to the maturity of Christian existence”.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK			
Sunday	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		11am People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am Quinn Lasare	OL
		12pm <i>Funeral Service for Denis Kelly</i>	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9:30am Eileen Gurney	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!			
Wednesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am Margaret Doran R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Ferial</i>	2pm <i>Funeral Service for Cecilia Thompson</i>	OL
Friday	<i>Ferial</i>	9:30am Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	SP
Saturday	CHAIR OF ST PETER		
Sunday	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish	SP
		11am Josefa Alves Garcia	OL

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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Sr Brigid, Sr Mary & Sr Maura at Our Lady's and Clare Higgins 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, Christopher Browne, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Frank Morris, Michael Murphy, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward.

Those who have died

Josefa Alves Garcia, John McGagh, Joe Croft, Michael McElroy, Denis Joseph Kelly & Cecilia Thompson

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE – Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

PARISH

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY – There will be a meeting of Shrewsbury Lourdes Hospitality at Saint Columba's Church (Newman Room), Plas Newton Lane Chester CH2 1SA on Saturday 1st March at 2.00pm. Please forward any apologies, or items to be discussed under AOB, to secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

CRIB – Volunteers are needed to help after Mass *TODAY* to dismantle the Crib structure in Our Lady's and to assist with lifting and carrying it for storage. Many hands make light work.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION is an online course for all staff and volunteers in parishes provided by the Caritas Social Action Network. The programme will be spread over five Tuesdays – 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March & 1st April. The course will be delivered online via zoom and is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life. The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*. For more information or to register, please contact the course administrator, Bernadette, at bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk

JOB VACANCY FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS – The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a Deputy Director of Schools. The role is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position. The successful candidate will join a dedicated and committed team at a significant time for the education sector, for Catholic education nationally, and for the schools and colleges across our own Diocese as we look to serve Bishop Mark and the mission of our Church with Christ as the foundation of our entire educational enterprise. **Closing date: 10th March 2025.** For more information, please visit <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/deputy-director-of-schools-birkenhead-2171685>

JOB VACANCY AT SYMT – The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a new Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Diocese: 35 hours a week including some evening and weekend working. For more information and job description please see the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>
New closing date: Friday 21st February. Please send your CV to Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY is a new online mission series starting in March on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm. What is wholehearted monthly? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory. It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. Hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism>

Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 11th March – Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints.

- ❖ Tuesday 8th April – Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian.
- ❖ Tuesday 13 May – Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC – Our next meeting is tomorrow Monday 17th February at 6pm in Our Lady’s.


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.

CARING CONNECTIONS – RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT: *This Thursday 20th February 1-3 pm* in A&K Hub formally Our Lady’s Parish Centre, Park Road North. The event is free of charge & the bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks. Hot & cold drinks, & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

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 – thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, our latest payout is £47.04. As you are shopping online, don’t forget to use the Easy Fundraising donation reminder so that the parish can collect even more free donations as you shop!

<p><u>PARISH FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>9th February 2025</u></p> <p>Offertory £433.72 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £5 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £24.99</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 a standing order 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- There was no winner in the draw held on 8th February with no. 51, so the prize money will roll over to the draw to be held on 15th February. If you would like to join, please see a helper at the back of each church for available numbers to buy.

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.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS - used ones can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.