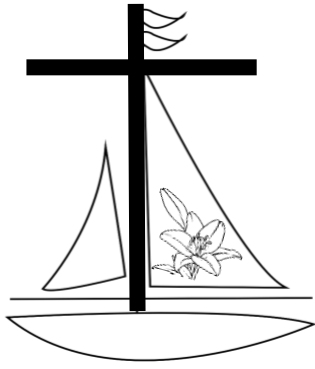




Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
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10th August 2025 – 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. I. THE INFANCY OF JESUS. 6. “THEY SAW THE CHILD ... THEY PROSTRATED THEMSELVES AND DID HIM HOMAGE” (MT 2:11). THE VISIT OF THE MAGI TO THE NEWBORN KING

However, the scribes, who are able to identify the Messiah’s birthplace exactly, show the way to others, but they themselves do not move! Indeed, it is not enough to know the prophetic texts to tune in to the divine frequencies; one must let them to enter within and allow the Word of God to revive the yearning to seek, the kindle to desire to see God.

At this point Herod, acting in secret, as do the deceitful and violent, asks the Magi the precise moment of the appearance of the star and incites them to continue their journey and then to return to bring him news, so that he too can go and adore the newborn. For those attached to power, Jesus is not the hope to be welcomed, but a threat to be eliminated!

When the Magi set off again, the star reappears and leads them to Jesus, the sign that creation and the prophetic word represent the alphabet with which God speaks and lets Himself be found. The sight of the star inspires an irrepressible joy in those men, because the Holy Spirit, who stirs the heart of whoever sincerely seeks God, also fills it with joy. Having entered the house, the Magi prostrate themselves, adore Jesus and offer Him precious gifts, worthy of a king, worthy of God. Why? What do they see? An ancient author writes: they see “a humble little body that the Word has assumed; but the glory of divinity is not hidden from them. They see an infant child; but they worship God” (CROMAZIO DI AQUILEIA, *Comment on the Gospel of Matthew*, 5:1). The Magi thus become the first believers among the pagans, the image of the Church drawn together from every language and nation.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us, too, follow in the footsteps of the Magi, these “pilgrims of hope” who, with great courage, turned their steps, hearts and goods towards the One who is the hope not only of Israel but of all peoples. Let us learn to adore God in His smallness, in His kingship that does not crush but rather sets us free and enables us to serve with dignity. And let us offer Him the most beautiful gifts, to express our faith and our love.

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	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am Phil Sindall	SP
		11am People of the Parish	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses			
Monday	Saint Clare		
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church			
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am Kath Pearson	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone is welcome!			
Wednesday	Ferial	9am Frank Morris R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe		
Friday	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	12pm Jessie Davenport R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial		
Sunday	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish	SP
		11am Michael Christopher Coughlan R.I.P.	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2025

For mutual coexistence – Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

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, Steven Sales, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams, Pat Wise, & Canon Philip Moor.

Those who have died

PARISH

LOURDES BY JUMBULANCE – Chester Across Group are going to Lourdes from 14th to 23rd August. There are vacancies for sick and disabled pilgrims and for nurses and helpers. For more information, please contact Tony Murphy on 07881 656974 or tonymurphyefc2002@yahoo.co.uk

A&K COMMUNITY HUB (formerly Our Lady's Parish Centre) would like to thank everyone who attended the first pensioners event held by them on 6th August and they are already planning the next one! The hub is available to hire for family occasions,

and a range of activities are held there during the week. For further information please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

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.

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. The next programme is to be held from 17th-19th October. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 0788 7296983.

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.

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.

“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.*

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 As you are shopping online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising! Our latest payout is £28.17. 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> 3rd August 2025 Offertory – £409.58 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders) Zambia/Caritas £26.40 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i>	To donate online, please scan the QR code. 
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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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number in the draw held on 2nd August was 56 but as there was not a winner it will be a rollover for next week's draw. If you would like to join the next payment will be due by 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.

