



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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23rd November 2025 – Christ the King

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. II. THE LIFE OF JESUS. THE PARABLES 6. THE SOWER. HE SPOKE TO THEM AT LENGTH IN PARABLES (MT 13:3A.)

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am pleased to welcome you in this, my first general Audience. Today I will resume the cycle of Jubilee catecheses, on the theme “Jesus Christ Our Hope”, initiated by Pope [Francis](#). Let us continue today to meditate on the parables of Jesus, which help us to regain hope, because they show us how God works in history. Today I would like to dwell on a parable which is somewhat peculiar, because it is a sort of introduction to all the parables. I refer to that of the sower (cf. *Mt* 13:1-17). In a certain sense, in this account we can recognize Jesus’ way of communicating, which has a great deal to teach us for proclaiming the Gospel today.

Every parable tells a story that is taken from everyday life, yet wants to tell us something more, to refer us to a deeper meaning. The parable raises questions in us; it invites us not to stop at appearances. Before the story that is told or the image that is presented to me, I can ask myself: where am I in this story? What does this image say to my life? In fact, the term “parable” comes from the Greek verb *paraballein*, which means *to throw in front of*. The parable throws before me a word that provokes me and prompts me to question myself.

The parable of the sower talks precisely about the dynamic of the word of God and the effects it produces. Indeed, every word of the Gospel is like a seed that is thrown on the ground of our life. Jesus uses the image of the seed many times, with different meanings. In chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew, the parable of the sower introduces a series of other short parables, some of which talk precisely about what is happening on the terrain: the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, the treasure hidden in the field. What, then, is this soil? It is our heart, but it is also the world, the community, the Church. The word of God, in fact, makes fruitful and provokes every reality.

At the beginning, we see Jesus who leaves the house and gathers a great crowd around him (cf. *Mt* 13:1). His word fascinates and intrigues. Among the people there are obviously many different situations. The word of Jesus is for everyone, but it works in each person in a different way. This context allows us to understand better the meaning of the parable.

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	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bosco Fernandes (Birthday)	OL
Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses				
Monday	Saints Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	9am	Michael & Mary Walsh	OL
Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church				
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Rob Creer R.I.P.	OL
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	November Lists	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Eliza & D'Costa & Bulla D'Costa R.I.P.	OL

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for Catherine Brown at Our Lady's and Mary & Terry McGhee R.I.P. 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, Gerard Carey, Pat Cockran, Anna Coughlan, Teresa Denye, Chloe & Irene Fortune, Colin James, Clare McElroy, Canon Philip Moor, Joe Roper, Helen Ryan, Steven Sales, Deacon Terry Simms, Philip Smith, Eileen & Julia Ward, Sarah Williams & Pat Wise.

Those who have died

Herbert Graham & Winifred Catherine Moore

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions – Let us pray that, believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice & human fraternity.

PARISH

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND COLLECTION – the annual collection for the priests' training fund will take place **TODAY**. This fund pays for the education of our seminarians & helps to support our future priests in formation for our Diocese. It is also VITAL to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers to His harvest. Let us pray that young men will respond generously to the call of God in their lives.

SHREWSBURY DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE @ 75 – The Pilgrimage Management Team will be launching the 2026, 75th Anniversary, Pilgrimage on Saturday 29th November with Mass at 12 noon in parish of Saint Hugh & Saint John in Timperley (314 Manchester Road, West Timperley WA14 5NB) followed by refreshments and pilgrimage information in the Parish Hall. Car park access is via Abbotsford Grove & St Hugh's Close.

CONFIRMATION 2026 – We have started the preparation sessions for this year's Confirmation. Our next session for any young person who is in Y8 or above is on Thursday 4th December at 7pm in Our Lady's. Information cards with all the times & dates are available from Fr Michael.

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL – there will be a collection in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal in December. Every penny you give goes directly to help those most in need within our Diocese, providing crisis food vouchers, practical support, and the reassurance of care and compassion when it matters most. You can also donate online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

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

REIMAGINING BAPTISM – Next Saturday 29th November 2025 10:30am to 4:15pm at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Tatton Street, Stockport, SK1 1EJ. Baptism is transformative, it is the gateway to Christ. Go & join a national conversation about how Baptism is understood in the life of the Church today. The Keynote talk will be given by Abbot Hugh Allen. To book a place or if you need any further information, please contact Natalie Orefice on 07730 526826 or by email natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org.

PIETY STALL – A selection of cards for Christmas & all occasions is available to buy at each church.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE – We will be holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of Parish funds on Sunday 14th December after 11am Mass in Our Lady's. 1st prize is a £25 M&S voucher with lots of other prizes. Tickets are £1 and are available to buy now. We would be grateful for donations of Spirits, Wine, Chocolates and Biscuits for raffle prizes. *Please put in the box at the back of Our Lady's church or the sacristy at Saint Pauls.* Many thanks for all your support and generosity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY'S CHURCH – If you can help with the monthly cleaning a signup sheet is available in the porch to add your name for Sat 6th December.

FRIDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTION – each week after Friday morning Mass in the community room at Saint Paul's. Why not come for a brew, a short video & time to sit & chat about aspects of our faith & what they mean?

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.

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. For further details please visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or telephone 07887 296983.

PRACTICAL, CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOR LIFE – “Life Charity has been my safe haven during my stormy seas.” To keep up to date with news from the UK's only charity focused on real-time, practical support to enable women to continue their pregnancy in deeply challenging situations, visit: www.lifecharity.org.uk/join-us-on-social.

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.

A&K COMMUNITY HUB - for information about activities that are held at the Hub (310 Park Road North) during the week & also the availability to hire it for family occasions, please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Laura.akcommunity@gmail.com.

SAINT JOSEPH'S CHOIR – consists of those who sing at 9.30am Mass on Sundays at Saint Joseph's, with other members who sing at numerous funerals, weddings & other events in local churches and beyond. They rehearse together every Saturday at Saint Michael and All Angels church 11.00am–12.00pm. New members from all parishes are welcome. Please contact the Parish Office leaving your name and phone number if you would like to join 0151 652 5767 admin@saint-philip-neri.co.uk

PARISH FINANCES

16th November 2025

**Offertory – £318.57 (Cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders)
£0(Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £23.11.**

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

To donate online,
please scan the
QR code.



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 on Saturday 15th November was 25 & congratulations to the winner from Our Lady's. The next payment will be due by 14th December if you would like to continue or join for draw's commencing on 20th December. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR – Please support Wirral Foodbank with donations ready for Christmas using their reverse Advent Calendar. Donations can be left in the sacristy at 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 TO SUPPORT THE MARIE CURIE CHARITY – can be donated at each church but please ensure that you do not include any other items.