

Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Coughlan 652 1074
Parish Deacon: Bernard McConnell 07724 643883
Parish Sister: Sr Pauline 07710 717207
Parish Secretary: Lorraine Forshaw 652 1074 / 07709 186201
Web: <http://www.holycrossourladysaintpaul.org>
Livestream: <https://our-lady-birkenhead.click2stream.com/>
E-mail: info@holycrossourladysaintpaul.org

19th April 2026 - Third Sunday of Easter

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS - JUBILEE 2025. JESUS CHRIST OUR HOPE. III. THE PASSOVER OF JESUS. 1. THE PREPARATION OF THE SUPPER. "MAKE THE PREPARATIONS FOR US THERE" (MK 14:15)

Today too, like then, there is a supper to prepare. It is not only a matter of the liturgy, but of our readiness to enter into a gesture that transcends us. The Eucharist is not celebrated only at the altar, but also in daily life, where it is possible to experience everything as an offering and giving of thanks. To prepare to celebrate this thanksgiving does not mean doing more, but leaving room. It means removing what encumbers us, reducing our demands and ceasing to hold unrealistic expectations. Indeed, too often we confuse preparations with illusions. Illusions distract us; preparations guide us. Illusions seek a result; preparations make an encounter possible. True love, the Gospel reminds us, is given before it is reciprocated. It is an anticipatory gift. It is not based on what is received, but on what one wishes to offer. It is what Jesus lived with his disciples: while they still did not understand, while one of them was about to betray him and another to deny him, he was *preparing* a communion supper for them all.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too are invited to "prepare the Passover" of the Lord. Not only the liturgical one: that of our life too. Every gesture of willingness, every gratuitous act, every forgiveness given in advance, every effort patiently accepted, is a way to prepare a place where God can dwell. We can ask ourselves, then: what spaces in my life do I need to put in order so that they are ready to receive the Lord? What does it mean for me today to "prepare"? Perhaps to renounce a demand, to stop waiting for others to change, to take the first step. Perhaps to listen more, to act less, or to learn how to trust in what has already been prepared.

If we accept the invitation to prepare the place of communion with God and among ourselves, we will discover we are surrounded by signs, encounters and words that guide us towards that room, spacious and already prepared, in which the mystery of an infinite love, sustaining us and always preceding us, is celebrated unceasingly. May the Lord grant us to be humble preparers of his presence. And, in this daily readiness, may that serene trust also grow in us, allowing us to face everything with a free heart. Because where love has been prepared, life can truly flourish.

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 APRIL 2026

For Priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

The lamp burns for the intentions Irene Fortune R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Sr Louise Swaanston SMN at Saint Pauls. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

MASSES FOR WEEK				
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Lourecin & Requelin Rodrigues R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Ferial	9am	Vincent Duggan R.I.P.	OL
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am	Jenny Ross R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday morning. Everyone is welcome!</i>				
Wednesday	Ferial	9am	Eileen Gurney R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	<i>Saint George</i>			
Friday	Ferial	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
		12:30pm	REQUIEM MASS FOR JEAN ANN NOLAN	OL
Saturday	<i>Saint Mark</i>			
Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30am	Kathleen Sparkes R.I.P.	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

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

Those who have died

Irene Fortune, Jean Ann Nolan, Joseph O'Leary, Deacon Ben Tomnay.

PARISH

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026 - bookings are now open for the 2026, 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Lourdes. By coach 30th July to 7th August and by air 31st July to 6th August. Brochures can be found on the pilgrimage website www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk along with a link to the new online booking system.

NOVENA FOR VOCATIONS started on Friday & continues this week leading to 4th Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, so called because the Gospel of the day is always a section from chapter 10 of Saint John's Gospel where Jesus talks about the figure of the Good Shepherd. It is a day dedicated to praying for vocations. We are praying for more priests & deacons in our Diocese & our parish but also that each one of us reflects on where is the Lord calling us, what work has He entrusted to us that has been given to no one else? How are we responding to Lord's call in our own lives & in how we contribute to the life of our parish?

The novena for vocations on our website, why not pray it each day this week?

SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE WEEKDAY FIRST READINGS

During Easter time why not revisit Fr Michael's short introductions to the first readings at weekday Masses as we follow the Acts of the Apostles & the growth of the early Church. Search for Fr Michael Coughlan on YouTube or click the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0QICVtcWk8&t=1s>

MISSIO DIOCESAN MASS - with Bishop Mark is to be held on Saturday 6th June at 12:15pm at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1UE. All are welcome to attend.

MISSIO RED BOXES are now due for emptying. Please ring Angela Hawkesworth on 0151 653 0884 to arrange their collection or drop them off in the sacristy at either church for collection.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES - this year's envelopes have been renumbered, so please **DO NOT USE** envelopes from previous year as donation details will be incorrect. Donors for envelopes 42; 53 & 57 if would like to make future donations, spare boxes are available at the back of each church & please complete and return the slip with the first envelope you submit for audit purposes. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to join the annual Gift Aid envelopes scheme &/or if you would prefer to donate by *STANDING ORDER*, please see Fr Michael after Mass or contact the parish office during the week.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY will be holding their first focus group of 2026 at Saint Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1PL this Tuesday 21st April, at 7pm. Please confirm your attendance by emailing secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

THE SIXTEENS CHORAL PILGRIMAGE TOUR 2026 - a concert will be held on Friday 24th April at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral at 7:15pm to 9:15pm. The music of the Spanish Renaissance is the focus of this year's tour, 'Lead, Kindly Light'. Tickets cost £17 and are available at <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2026-liverpool/> or phone 02079 363 420.

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS - How to lead groups in reflective prayer. Join the Jesuit Institute for a short online formation course building the skills and confidence needed to hold and guide groups of those who wish to deepen their relationship with Jesus, in conversation with others, through reflectively praying with gospel texts. Tuesday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm; 21st April - 9th June

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

A&K COMMUNITY HUB PENSIONERS AFTERNOON TEA - this free of charge event with entertainment is to be held Wednesday 29th April from 12:30 until 3pm at the Hub, 310 Park Road North, Birkenhead. For information about this & other activities that are held please contact Laura on 0151 458 5562 or Lauara.akcommunity@gmail.com

ANOINTING & HEALING SERVICE – to be held at Saint John’s Church, Bebington Road, New Ferry, CH62 5BJ on Friday 1st May at 7pm.


EASTER RAFFLE – I would like to thank you for your continued support and £181.41 was raised. Some prizes are still unclaimed so please check the winning ticket numbers at the back of church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLEANING OUR LADY’S CHURCH SATURDAY 25TH APRIL – from 9am to 11am. If you can help next please put your name on the signup sheet in the porch.

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?

BONUS BALL SCHEME – The winning number on Saturday 11th April was 31, as there was no winner the money will rollover again to next week’s draw. If you would like to join, the next payment is due by 3rd May for draw’s commencing Saturday 9th May 2026. A list of available numbers is at the back of each church. The National Lottery draw’s are changing & information will be given soon!

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 12th April 2026</u> Offertory £477.29 (Cash); £36.25 (Standing Orders) £5 (Card/Contactless/Web); Zambia/Caritas £27 <i>Thank you for your continuing generosity.</i></p>	<p>To donate online, please scan the QR code.</p> 
--	--

JOB VACANCIES

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEMBER

Both vacancies are 35 hours per week including evening and weekend work, salary is competitive dependent upon experience. SYMT is tasked by Bishop Mark to give witness in the parishes and schools of the Shrewsbury Diocese and to invite young people to youth retreats, formation days and events which the team will organise, facilitate and lead. For more information visit <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Closing date for both is 29th April 2026. Please send applications to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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 YOU DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER ITEMS.**