



## *Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul*

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## **27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES. THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 2. *Where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom.***

Saint Paul made all of this the fundamental law of Christian action: “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Cor 3:17), he said. A free person, a free Christian, is one who has the Spirit of the Lord. This is a very special freedom, quite different from what is commonly understood. It is not freedom to do what one wants, but the freedom to freely do what God wants! Not freedom to do good or evil, but freedom to do good and do it freely, that is, by attraction, not compulsion. In other words, the freedom of children, not of slaves.

Saint Paul was well aware of the abuse or misunderstanding that can arise from this freedom. In fact, he wrote to the Galatians: “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another” (Gal 5:13). This is a freedom that expresses itself in what appears to be its opposite; it is expressed in service, and in service is true freedom.

We know when this freedom becomes a “pretext for the flesh”. Paul gives an ever relevant list: “fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like” (Gal 5:19-21). But so too is the freedom that allows the rich to exploit the poor, an ugly freedom that allows the strong to exploit the weak, and everyone to exploit the environment with impunity. And this is an ugly freedom, it is not the freedom of the Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, where do we obtain this freedom of the Spirit, so contrary to the freedom of selfishness? The answer is in the words Jesus addressed one day to his listeners: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). The freedom that Jesus gives us. Let us ask Jesus to make us, through his Holy Spirit, truly free men and women. Free to serve, in love and joy. Thank you!

### **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	<b>30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am</b> Jacinth Viegas R.I.P.	<b>SP</b> <b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	<b>SAINTS SIMON &amp; JUDE</b>	<b>9am</b> Vera Shaw R.I.P.	<b>OL</b>
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Ferial	<b>9:30am</b> Eileen Boylan	<b>OL</b>
<i>Tea &amp; Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Ferial	<b>9am</b> Michael & Mary Walsh	<b>OL</b>
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	<b>ALL SAINTS</b>	<b>12pm</b> People of the Parish	<b>OL</b>
Saturday	<b>COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED</b>	<b>7pm</b> Annual Mass of Remembrance	<b>OL</b>
Sunday	<b>31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	<b>9:30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11am</b> John Pearson R.I.P.	<b>SP</b> <b>OL</b>

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*Those who are sick*

*Irene Fortune, Anna & Michael Coughlan, Canon Philip Moor, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne, Rob Creer, Eileen & Julia Ward, Fr Febin Thomas CMI, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye*

*Those who have died*

*Mgr Peter Walton, Fr Dennis Maher & Ellen Mary Kenny*

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2024**

*For a shared Mission that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a synodal lifestyle, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission among priests, religious and lay people.*

**SAINT JOSEPH LAMP**

This week the lamp burns for Elaine McGunigal at Our Lady's and Fr Peter Sharrock at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

**ASSISTED DYING BILL**

As you will have seen in the news Kim Leadbeater MP introduced a Bill into parliament last week to legally permit medical doctors to end the life of those with a terminal illness. This bill is likely to be concerning on several levels but especially in this attempt to move doctors out of their primary duty to care for patients and towards participation in what will soon, if the bill is passed, become a new UK business sector of euthanasia provision. You may find it helpful to watch the documentary '[Better off Dead](#)' written and presented by the disabled actress Liz Carr for BBC One and iPlayer about the rapid extension of assisted dying in Canada from just terminally ill people to a much wider group to

assist you in contributing to these debates. My own research in Europe shows that disabled and other marginalised people can be most at risk. Please write to our MP, Alison McGovern in your own words – not more than one page – sharing your own experiences and views. MPs will have a free vote and so will be interested to hear what you have to say. The government themselves have stated that social care, the NHS, social benefits for carers are not fit for purpose. Hospices and palliative care are massively underfunded too. Aside from any other factors in such circumstances it seems to me the wrong time to introduce such a bill before reform and resources are addressed. Alison can be contacted by email [alison.mcgovern.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alison.mcgovern.mp@parliament.uk) or through her constituency office 77 New Chester Road, New Ferry, Wirral CH62 1AB.

## **PARISH**

DILEXIT NOS is the fourth encyclical of Pope Francis. In this encyclical he reflects on the human and divine love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Holy Father describes his letter as bringing together precious reflections of previous magisterial texts and a long history that goes back to the Sacred Scriptures to re-propose to the whole Church, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Francis has written this Encyclical Letter amid the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the apparitions to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. Bishop Mark was asked to write an introduction for the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales website, this can be accessed here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishop-davies-dilexit-nos/>

The encyclical itself can be accessed on the Vatican website (link below). We also make available hopefully soon some printed copies for sale, for anyone who wants to purchase one. <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2024/10/24/enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>

ZAMBIA/EYE FUND/CARITAS ENVELOPES – for the year 24/25 commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> November are now available for collection at the back of each church.

SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 at 1pm in Saint Mary's Caritas centre, Crewe CW1 2JX. All members are invited to attend. Please send any apologies to [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk). Prior to the meeting, Mass will be celebrated in Saint Mary's church at midday.

LIVERPOOL BACH COLLECTIVE PRESENTS: Du sollt Got, deinen Herren, lieben (You shall love God, your Lord, with all your heart – [Cantata 77]) – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6:30pm in Saint Michael & All Angels church, Woodchurch. This will be a service of Evening Prayer & the cantata.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC – For anyone who has been baptised as a Catholic, as a member of another Christian community or never been baptised at all, we will be running the Catholicism course. Our next meeting is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm in the presbytery.

UPTON HALL SCHOOL MASS – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 11am in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. This Mass is to celebrate Catholic Education & to pray for the present school community. Everyone associated with Upton Hall or Holt Hill convent schools is warmly invited to participate in this celebration. This year also celebrates 175 years of Upton Hall school & 25 years of the school annual Mass.

ROSARY SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at 2pm in Saint John the Evangelist church, New Ferry. The guest preacher will be Fr Humphrey O'Connor.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025 – After a successful & prayerful pilgrimage this year the dates for next year are out now, *SAVE THE DATE!*

By air: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July / By coach: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Youth pilgrimage: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August

*Our Young People from across the Diocese were amazing this year, they were prayerful, respectful & always cheerful even when sleep deprived! Hopefully we can bring many more of our young people especially from our Birkenhead parishes next year, watch this space!*

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.

CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD? – Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? For more information see [shrewsburyvocations.org](http://shrewsburyvocations.org) If you would like to explore God’s call for your life and learn about other opportunities for discernment, please email the vocations director, Fr Tony McGrath [vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

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.

**PARISH FINANCE - 20th October 2024**

**Offertory £372.10 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders); £32 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £27**

*Thank you for your continuing generosity.*

To donate online, please scan the QR code.



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.

EASY FUNDRAISING – Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). Thank you to everyone who supports our parish by using Easy Fundraising. ***Our latest payout was £52.60***

BONUS BALL SCHEME – Congratulations to last week’s winner in the draw held on 19<sup>th</sup> October with no.25. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church, speak to Carol at Saint Paul’s or anyone at the back of Our Lady’s church to join.

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**CHARITY**

HARVEST COLLECTION @ WIRRAL FOODBANK – donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul’s or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady’s. ***The foodbank is URGENTLY in need of Tinned tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, meat, jam, deodorant & washing up liquid.***

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – please donate used ones to support the Marie Curie charity.

STAMPS – The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES – Please donate any old glasses to support the work of the Eye Fund. Boxes for donations are at the back of each church.