



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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3rd November 2024 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 3. "ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD". KNOWING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH GOD'S WORDS.

Let us continue the catechesis on the Holy Spirit who guides the Church towards Christ our hope. He is the guide. Last time we contemplated the work of the Spirit in creation; today we will see it in *revelation*, in which the *Sacred Scripture* is witness inspired by God and authoritative. The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy contains this statement: "All Scripture is inspired by God" (3:16). And another passage in the New Testament says: "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Pt 1:21). This is the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, which we proclaim as an article of faith in the Creed, when we say that the Holy Spirit "has spoken through the prophets". The divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, is also the one who explains and makes them perennially living and active. From *inspired*, he makes them *inspiring*. The Sacred Scriptures "as inspired by God", says Vatican Council II, "and committed once and for all to writing ... impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles" (21). In this way the Holy Spirit continues, in the Church, the action of the Risen Jesus who, after Easter, "opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures" (cf. Lk 24:45).

Indeed, it can happen that in a certain passage of the Scripture, that we have read many times without particular emotion, one day we read it in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, and then that text is unexpectedly illuminated, it speaks to us, it sheds light on a problem we are living, it makes God's will for us clear in a certain situation. To what is this change due, if not to an enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? The words of the Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous; and in those cases, we touch with our own hands how true is the statement in the Letter to the Hebrews: "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (4:12).

Brothers and sisters, the Church is nourished by the spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture, that is, by reading under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that inspired it. At its centre, like a beacon that illuminates everything, there is the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, which fulfils the plan of salvation, realizes all the figures and the prophecies, unveils all the hidden mysteries and offers the true key to reading the entire Bible. The death and resurrection of Christ is the beacon that illuminates all the Bible, and it also illuminates our life. Revelation describes all of this with the image of the Lamb that breaks the seals of the book "written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals" (cf. 5:1-9), that is, the Scriptures of the Old Testament. The Church, Bride of Christ, is the authorized interpreter of the inspired text of the Scriptures; the Church is the mediator of its authentic

proclamation. Since the Church is gifted with the Holy Spirit – this is why she is the interpreter – she is the “pillar and bulwark of the truth” (1 Tm 3:15). Why? Because she is inspired, held steady by the Holy Spirit. And the task of the Church is to help the faithful and those who seek the truth to interpret the biblical texts correctly.

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	31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish	SP
		11am John Pearson R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	Saint Charles Borromeo	9am Billy Boylan R.I.P. (Anniversary)	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Ferial	9:30am Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Ferial	9am November Lists	OL
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Ferial	9:30am Theresa Bate (Birthday)	SP
Saturday	<i>THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA</i>		
Sunday	32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am People of the Parish	SP
		11am Francisco & Sharmila (Anniversary)	OL

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 NOVEMBER 2024

For all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter that they will find support in their community and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for Sarah Murphy at Our Lady’s and Fr Bede Leach OSB 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 or through her constituency office 77 New Chester Road, New Ferry, Wirral CH62 1AB.

PARISH

CONFIRMATION Any young person who is in Y8 or above and wishes to enrol in this year's Confirmation programme please get an information flyer from Fr Michael.

NOVEMBER LISTS – in each church in front of the altar from now until the first Sunday of Advent is a basket for people to place the names of deceased family & friends. We will pray for them each day during November & Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

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 350th 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>

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 tomorrow Monday 4th November at 6pm in the presbytery.

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

UPTON HALL SCHOOL MASS – this Saturday (9th 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.

TALK BY CARDINAL MICHAEL FITZGERALD - at Saint Werburgh's church in Chester (CH1 1QD) at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th November. Cardinal Fitzgerald has spent all his working life as a missionary on the interface between Islam and Christianity, heading important Vatican departments in this field & working in key Middle East postings, including Egypt & Jerusalem. He is coming to talk about *Muslim-Christian Relations Today*, & to answer our questions. All welcome.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONSIGNOR PETER WALTON - Fr Peter will be received into Saint Alban's, Wallasey on **Monday 18th November** with a Vigil Mass at 7.00pm. Bishop Mark will offer the Requiem Mass on **Tuesday 19th November** at 11.30am. If driving please park at the 'Cherry Tree Centre' beside the church, which is a Pay and Display carpark. Light refreshments will be available at Saint Alban's Parish Centre following the Requiem Mass.

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

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 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

PARISH FINANCE - 27th October 2024

**Offertory £381.15 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders);
£0 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £17**

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.

BONUS BALL SCHEME - Congratulations to last week's winner in the draw held on 26th October with no.13. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK - Would like to thank everyone for their continued support and who have made contributions to the foodbank during the last year.

WIRRAL FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR - is at the back of Our Lady's church. During November each date square on the calendar has an item to be donated which this week includes Rice pudding; Tinned vegetables; Tinned tomatoes; Tinned fish; Cereal; Chocolate bars & Tinned meat. *Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.*

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.

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