



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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26th January 2025 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 9. "I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT". THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

What does the article of faith we proclaim every Sunday at Mass say to us, believers of today: "I believe in the Holy Spirit"? In the past, it was mainly concerned with the statement that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father". The Latin Church soon supplemented this statement by adding, in the Creed of the Mass, that the Holy Spirit proceeds "also from the Son". Since in Latin the expression "and from the Son" is called 'Filioque', this gave rise to the dispute known by this name, which has been the reason (or pretext) for so many disputes and divisions between the Church of the East and the Church of the West. It is certainly not the case to address the issue here, which, moreover, in the climate of dialogue established between the two Churches, has lost the acrimony of the past and today allows us to hope for full mutual acceptance, as one of the main "reconciled differences". I like to say this: "reconciled differences". Among Christians there are many differences: he belongs to this school, that other one; this person is a Protestant, that person... The important thing is that these differences are reconciled, in the love of walking together.

Having overcome this obstacle, today we can value the most important prerogative for us that is proclaimed in the article of the Creed, namely that the Holy Spirit is "life-giving", the "giver of life". Let us ask ourselves: what life does the Holy Spirit give? At the beginning, in creation, the breath of God gives Adam natural life; the statue of mud is made "a living being" (cf. Gen 2:7). Now, in the new creation, the Holy Spirit is He who gives believers new life, the life of Christ, supernatural life, as children of God. Paul can exclaim: "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2).

In all of this, where is the great and consoling news for us? It is that the life given to us by the Holy Spirit is eternal life! Faith frees us from the horror of having to admit that everything ends here, that there is no redemption for the suffering and injustice that reign sovereign on earth. Another of the Apostle's words assures us of this: "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Rom 8:11). The Spirit dwells in us, He is within us.

Let us cultivate this faith also for those who, often through no fault of their own, are deprived of it and are unable to give meaning to life. And let us not forget to thank Him, who with His death, obtained this inestimable gift for us!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Terence Hughes R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	Saint Angela Merici	10am	Maurice Cranney R.I.P.	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	Saint Thomas Aquinas			
Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!				
Wednesday	Ferial			
Thursday	Ferial			
Friday	Saint John Bosco	9:30am	Terry Connor R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	Ferial			
Sunday	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9:30am	Michael Small	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL

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.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP the lamp burns for Catherine Hyatt (Healing) at Our Lady's and Sr Mary Teresa 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, Irene Fortune, Anna Coughlan, Canon Philip Moor, Lily Baker, Christopher Browne,
Eileen & Julia Ward, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye*

Those who have died

*Brother Anthony, Rob Creer, Lynda Ventre, Sheila Collinson, Michael McElroy,
Denis Joseph Kelly & Cecilia Thompson*

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2025

FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION – Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

PARISH

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY – is TOMORROW Monday 27th January. This year's theme "For a better future". Resources & more information is available at <https://hmd.org.uk/>

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND – the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will take place at both Masses TODAY. With your help, we can build up the Fund to help meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: AN INTRODUCTION is an online course for all staff and volunteers in parishes provided by the Caritas Social Action Network. The programme will be spread over five Tuesdays – 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March & 1st April. The course will be delivered online via zoom and is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life. The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*. For more information or to register, please contact the course administrator, Bernadette, at bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE – An ecumenical service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in the Anglican Cathedral at 3pm TODAY Sunday, 26th January. Everyone is welcome!

WHOLEHEARTED MONTHLY is a new online mission series starting in March on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm. What is wholehearted monthly? Think community organising rally meets immersive spiritual laboratory. It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" – and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. Hosted by The Methodist Church in Britain and open to all. Please book in advance. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082366650789?aff=evangelism> Speakers will be:

- ❖ Tuesday 11th March – Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints.
- ❖ Tuesday 8th April – Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian.
- ❖ Tuesday 13 May – Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank.

FROM SHREWSBURY LOURDES HOSPITALITY: Father Pat Munroe will celebrate Holy Mass on Tuesday 11th February for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Hospitality members are invited to join him at 7.00pm at St Hugh and St John, West Timperley WA14 5NB. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

CARING CONNECTIONS – RAY TAYLOR IN CONCERT: Thursday 20th February 1-3 pm in A&K Hub formally Our Lady's Parish Centre, Park Road North. The event is free of charge & the bar will be open for the purchase of alcoholic drinks. Hot & cold drinks, & buffet food will be served. Caring Connections aims to reduce social isolation in the community.

JOB VACANCY AT SYMT - The Diocese of Shrewsbury is seeking to appoint a new Youth Mission Team Member to engage with young people in schools and parishes across the Diocese: 35 hours a week including some evening and weekend working. For more information and job description please see the Diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/>
New closing date: Friday 21st February. Please send your CV to Recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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 on Monday 3rd February at 6pm in Our Lady's.

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.

EASY FUNDRAISING - thanks to your generosity in using Easy Fundraising, our latest payout is £24.38. As you are shopping for your Christmas presents online, don't forget to use the Easy Fundraising donation reminder so that the parish can collect even more free donations as you shop!

PARISH FINANCES

19th January 2025

Apologies for the lack of finance figures this week, we will get them in next week's newsletter.

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- There was no winner in the draw held on 18th January with no. 46 the prize money will roll over to next week's draw. If you would like to join, please see a helper at the back of church.

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.

FLAME CHRISTIAN RADIO - Flame CCR, the Christian and Community Radio station for Wirral and beyond, broadcasts via the internet 24-hours a day, with a wide range of Christian and community programmes including music, interviews and Bible teaching. You can download the Flame Radio app to your mobile device. Search for Flame Radio on Play Store (for Android devices) or App Store (for Apple devices). Alternatively, there is a direct-link INSTALL button which appears when you access the website on a smartphone or tablet. And of course, you can still listen to Flame Radio via their website, www.flameradio.org where you can also post your prayer intentions in the resources section.

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 - 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 available at each church.

TABLET BLISTER PACKS - used ones can be donated at each church to support the Marie Curie charity.