



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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17th November 2024 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 4. THE SPIRIT TEACHES THE BRIDE TO PRAY. THE PSALMS, SYMPHONY OF PRAYER IN THE BIBLE

In preparation for the next Jubilee, I invited the [faithful] to devote 2024 “to a great ‘symphony’ of prayer”. With today’s catechesis, I would like to recall that the Church already possesses a symphony of prayer, whose composer is the Holy Spirit, and it is the Book of Psalms. Like all symphonies, it has various “movements”, that is, various genres of prayer: praise, thanksgiving, supplication, lamentation, narration, sapiential reflection, and others, both in the personal form and in the choral form of the whole people. These are songs that the Spirit himself placed on the lips of the Bride, his Church. As I mentioned last time, all the Books of the Bible are inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the Book of Psalms is also so in the sense that it is full of poetic inspiration.

The Psalms have had a special place in the New Testament. Indeed, there were and still are editions that combine the New Testament and the Psalms together. On my desk, I have a Ukrainian copy of the New Testament with the Psalms that was sent to me. It belonged to a soldier who died in the war. He prayed with this book at the front. Not all Psalms – and not every part of every Psalm – can be repeated and assimilated by Christians, and even less by modern man. At times, they reflect a historical context and a religious mentality that are no longer ours. This does not mean that they were not inspired, but in some ways, they are linked to a [particular] time and a temporary stage of revelation, as is also the case with a large part of ancient legislation. What makes the Psalms worthy of our attention is that they were the prayer of Jesus, of Mary, of the Apostles and of all the Christian generations that came before us. When we recite them, God listens to them with that grandiose “orchestration” that is the communion of Saints. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus, enters the world with a verse from a Psalm in his heart: “Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God” (cf. *Heb* 10:7; *Ps* 40:9). And according to the Gospel of Luke, he leaves the world with another verse on his lips: “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit” (*Lk* 23:46; cf. *Ps* 31:6).

The use of Psalms in the New Testament is followed by that of the Fathers and the entire Church, which makes them a fixed element in the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. “All the Sacred Scripture breathes the goodness of God”, says Saint Ambrose, “but in particular the sweet book of the Psalms” [2] – the sweet book of the Psalms. I wonder, do you pray with the Psalms from time to time? Do you pick up the Bible and pray a Psalm? When you are a bit sad for having sinned, for example, do you pray Psalm 50? There are

many Psalms that help us keep going. Form the habit of praying with the Psalms. I assure you that you will be happy in the end.

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 | 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9:30am People of the Parish 11am Bosco Fernandes (Birthday) | SP OL |
| <i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i> | | | |
| Monday | Ferial | | |
| <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 Eileen & Kathy Boylan | OL |
| <i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i> | | | |
| Wednesday | Ferial | 9am Doreen Davies R.I.P. (Anniversary) | OL |
| Thursday | The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | | |
| Friday | St Cecilia | | |
| Saturday | Ferial | | |
| Sunday | CHRIST THE KING | 9:30am People of the Parish 11am John Ellis R.I.P. | SP OL |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Irene Fortune, Anna 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

Michael Christopher Coughlan & Mgr Peter Walton

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 John Pearson R.I.P. at Our Lady's and Michael Coughlan R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

ASSISTED DYING BILL - BISHOPS' STATEMENT: BE COMPASSIONATE

The legislation to legalise assisted suicide is to be voted on Friday 29th November. Included with this week's newsletter is the statement from the Bishops' of England & Wales: Be Compassionate. Please

do read this statement You may also 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. 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 the wrong time to introduce such a bill before reform and resources are addressed. **Please complete the postcard inside today's newsletter with your address details and send by affixing a postage stamp to our MP, Alison McGovern before the vote on 29th November.**

PARISH

CONFIRMATION Any young person who is in Year 8 or above at school and wishes to enrol in this year's Confirmation programme please get an information flyer from the back of church. The first session for this year's confirmation programme is this Thursday (21st Nov) at 7pm in Our Lady's.

NOVEMBER LISTS – envelopes are available at the back of each church for people to place the names of deceased family & friends & when completed place them in the baskets in front of the altars from now until the first Sunday of Advent. We will pray for them each day during November & Mass will be offered for all those on the lists each week.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER COUGHLAN R.I.P. – as many of you will be aware by now my father lost his battle with cancer & went to the House of the Father on Tuesday morning last week. Whilst as a family we were expecting this, it has nonetheless come as a shock & obviously we are deeply sad. When funeral arrangements have been made, I will publish them in the newsletter (hopefully next weekend). In the meantime, I am very grateful to all those who have been in contact with me to express their condolences to both me & my family. We are very grateful for all your messages, prayers & Masses which you have requested to be said. I am also very grateful to the many local priests who have helped out over the past couple of weeks & are continuing to support the parish in my absence. May God bless all of you & give you the reward of your kindness & generosity. Fr Michael

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONSIGNOR PETER WALTON – Fr Peter will be received into Saint Alban's, Wallasey tomorrow **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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS are now available at the Piety stall at each church. There are also copies of CAFOD's world gifts catalogue available as well for you to take home.

WEEKLY RAFFLES – have started again and tickets are available at the back of Our Lady's Church. Donations for prizes would be greatly appreciated e.g. Wine, Spirits, Chocolates and Biscuits. Please hand in to the helpers at the back of Our Lady's. Many thanks for all your support and funds raised will go towards the Christmas Raffle to be held in December.

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 18th November at 6pm in the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's.

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 encyclical can be accessed on the Vatican website

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2024/10/24/enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>

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.

HANDELS MESSIAH PERFORMANCE with Manchester Cathedral Choir will take place on Saturday 30th November at 7pm in Manchester Cathedral, to mark the start of Advent. It is a celebration of Christ, told through a series of wonderful arias and choral pieces culminating in the magnificent Hallelujah Chorus.

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 FINANCE – 10th November 2024

**Offertory £509.40 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders);
£12 (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 the winner in the draw held on 9th November 2024 with no.18. Payment of £5 is now due for draws from 30th November. If you would like to continue or to join, please give in £5 asap. A list of available numbers to buy are at the back of each church.

CHARITY

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. *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.

JOB VACANCIES

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS further details of which can be found at <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2130729>. If you would like further information or candidate pack and application form please contact Liam Dowds, Emmaus Advising Consultant, on 01737 652 043 or email at ldowds@emmausleadership.me. **Closing date Monday 2nd December 2024 at 5:00 pm.**

Two Administrator vacancies, (full time: 35 hours and part time: 25 hours) have arisen within our Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management Department, Details can be found at <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> completed application should be sent to Pauline McCulloch, recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date Friday 29th November.**