



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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1st December 2024 – First Sunday of Advent

CATECHESIS. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES THE PEOPLE OF GOD TOWARDS JESUS OUR HOPE. 5. INCARNATE BY THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, FROM THE VIRGIN MARY. HOW TO CONCEIVE AND BEAR JESUS

With today's catechesis, we enter into the second phase of salvation history. After contemplating the Holy Spirit in the work of Creation, we will contemplate it for a few weeks in the work of Redemption, namely of Jesus Christ. So, let us move on to the New Testament, and see the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Today's theme is the Holy Spirit in the Incarnation of the Word. In the Gospel of Luke, we read: "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you*" – to Mary – "*and the power of the Most High will overshadow you*" (1:35). The evangelist Matthew confirms this fundamental fact that regards Mary and the Holy Spirit, saying that Mary "*was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit*" (1:18).

The Church took up this revealed fact and very soon positioned it at the heart of her Symbol of faith. In the Ecumenical Council of Constantinople, in 381 – which defined the divinity of the Holy Spirit – this article enters into the formula of the "Creed", the Nicene-Constantinople Creed, which we recite in every Mass. It states that the Son of God "by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man". It is therefore an *ecumenical* fact of faith, because all Christians profess together that same Symbol of faith. Catholic piety, since time immemorial, has drawn from it one of its daily prayers, the Angelus.

This article of faith is the foundation that enables us to speak of Mary as the quintessential *Bride*, who is a *figure of the Church*. Indeed, Jesus, as Saint Leo the Great writes, "born of a virgin mother by the action of the Holy Spirit, Christ keeps his Church spotless and makes her fruitful by the inspiration of the same Spirit" (12th Sermon on the Passion, 3, 6: PL 54, 356). This parallelism is taken up in the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* of Vatican II, which says: "By her belief and obedience, [Mary] brought forth on earth the very Son of the Father, showing an undefiled faith, not in the word of the ancient serpent, but in that of God's messenger... The Church indeed, contemplating her hidden sanctity, imitating her charity and faithfully fulfilling the Father's will, by receiving the Word of God in faith becomes

herself a mother. By her preaching she brings forth to a new and immortal life the sons who are born to her in baptism, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of God" (no. 63-64).

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	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Billy Boylan R.I.P.	SP OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served after both Sunday Masses</i>			
Monday	Ferial	9am Margaret & Ian O'Sullivan	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>			
Tuesday	Saint Francis Xavier	9:30am Margaret Murray R.I.P.	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee are served in the Saint Joseph chapel after Mass on Tuesday mornings. Everyone welcome!</i>			
Wednesday	Ferial	9am Cath & Harry Miller	OL
Thursday	Ferial		
Friday	Ferial	9:30am Members of Shrewsbury Secular Clergy Fund	HC
Saturday	Saint Ambrose		
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9:30am People of the Parish 11am Solano Fernandes 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, Philip Smith, Clare McElroy & Teresa Denye

Those who have died

Michael Christopher Coughlan & Terence Hughes

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024: *FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE* - Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthens us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP the lamp burns for Noreen Burke at Our Lady's and Chris Fenna at Saint Paul's. Envelopes for intentions are at the back of each church. A £5 donation is requested.

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 sessions for this year's confirmation programme continues this Thursday (5th December) at 7pm in Our Lady's.

If you know someone who would like to be confirmed but hasn't yet joined tell them to come & bring a friend or three!

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER COUGHLAN - he will be received into Holy Family church in Sale Moor (M33 2GB), Tuesday 3rd December at 7pm. His Requiem Mass will be the following day, Wednesday 4th December at 11:30am. Any parishioners who would like to attend are very welcome. If you are travelling by car please enter your registration into the system on entering the church in order to avoid being fined. 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

FATHER SAMUEL THOTAMALA - During this coming week Bishop Mark has asked Father Samuel (Sam) Thotamala to move from Saint Philip Neri parish to take care of Holy Apostles & Martyrs' Parish in Wallasey whilst Canon Phil Moor continues his convalescence. Our thanks, appreciation and prayers go with Father Sam as he moves on to this new role.

WELCOME TO FATHER SLEEVAPPA MEDIKONDA & FATHER MALACHY OGBEDE - Bishop Mark has asked Father Sleevappa Medikonda and Father Malachy Ogbede to come and reside at Saint Joseph's Presbytery to assist in Saint Philip Neri parish and to help in the wider area mission. Father Sleevappa is from the Diocese of Khammam in India, where Father Sam is from, and is also a relative of Father Sam! Father Sleevappa has been with Canon Chris in our Cathedral in Shrewsbury. Father Malachy is newly arrived from the Diocese of Ahiara in Nigeria, the same Diocese where Father Humphrey Agbim is from. Both will join us in the coming week.

We are sorry we were not able to give you more advanced notice of these changes! We were aware that some possible changes were 'down the line' so to speak, but none of us expected it would all take place within a week! Things happen that way sometime. Do please keep all involved in your prayers. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS - Thank you to Fr Tom Cunnah for celebrating our Mass on Wednesday morning last week, he will now be a regular fixture on Wednesdays at 9am in Our Lady's.

LAUNCH OF OUR 2025 JUBILEE YEAR DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2024 - You are invited to join Canon Christopher Matthews, our Pilgrimage Director & the pilgrimage management team for Mass at 12:15pm in the Cathedral which will be followed by coffee & cake in the Cathedral Parish room and an opportunity to find out more about our 2025 Jubilee Year pilgrimage, including how you can get involved.

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 2nd December) at 6pm in the Saint Joseph chapel at Our Lady's.

GOODBYE TO OUR ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER AT OUR LADY & SAINT EDWARDS - Miss Flynn joined Our Lady & Saint Edward's in 2012 and has been a cherished member of our teaching staff, particularly as a Year 6 teacher, leaving a lasting impression on many children and families. Miss Flynn became Assistant Head in 2022 and has been a valued member of our Senior Leadership Team, contributing to all aspects of school life. Miss Flynn leaves us to take up Headship at Saint Werburgh's

Catholic Primary School (down the road). On behalf of all the Governors, staff, children and parents of Our Lady & Saint Edward's, we wish her all the very best in her new role. Our loss is their gain.

NEW LECTIONARIES – The lectionary is the book which contains the scripture readings we use for each Mass. From today the Bishops of England & Wales have launched a new English translation (easier than using Hebrew & Greek!). You will notice subtle differences in the language used. We will bless the new lectionaries at each Mass today. There are some resources to help readers become familiar with the new translation <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary-video-resources/>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES – Cards with the Mass times on for Christmas are available for you to take home this weekend. Take an extra one, give it to a friend & invite them to join us for Christmas.

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 RAFFLE – Congratulations to last week's winner with ticket no. 438. 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.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUN, WALK OR WHEEL will take place on Friday 27th December at Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool L15 4LE, 10 am registration, 11am start line. Further details on cafod.org.uk/news/events/liverpool-fun-run.

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 – 24th November 2024

**Offertory £353.25 (cash); £17.50 (Standing Orders);
£40 (card/contactless); Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £23**

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 23rd November, the prize money rolls over to next week's draw.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK ADVENT CALENDAR – 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 at the back of each church.

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