

ELLESMERE PORT PARISH

Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux | Saint Saviour

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



This Sunday we celebrate the Assumption of Mary and in our Gospel today we hear of Mary's visit to see her cousin Elizabeth, what a wonderful Gospel this is; Elizabeth being filled with the Holy Spirit, the child in her womb jumping for joy. Her supportive affirming words to Mary "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Just as Jesus after his ascension sent down the Holy Spirit to sustain His Church, so Mary, in the Assumption, is not separated from us, but shows us a sign of sure hope that each and every one of us is called to share.

And Mary should inspire each and every one of us to live our lives as God wishes us to, she beckons us forward to the fullness of life, towards eventually our eternal salvation.

Fr Godlove, many parishioners and I have recently returned from pilgrimage in Lourdes and it was at the blessed grotto by the River Gave in that small town at the foot of the Pyrenees that Mary, Mother of God, revealed her name to St Bernadette, she said; "I am the Immaculate Conception", Mary filled with God's grace from the beginning of her life. In the Holy Land, as in the blessed Grotto in Lourdes, God choose simplicity, silence and humility which to reveal himself. God's grace is not forced upon anyone; it's always waiting for a response. St Bernadette responded with humble, faithful trust in Lourdes, and we are invited to respond in the same way, recognising God's presence all around us, daring to say YES and opening our hearts to hope.

In this newsletter there are some photographs and reflections from a number of our parishioners who travelled to Lourdes, and please be assured that your prayers and petitions were left with Our Lady at the Blessed Grotto, and you all were very much in our thoughts and prayers during our time on pilgrimage. Maybe next year you may wish to join us as a pilgrim in Lourdes, certainly it is a humbling and fruitful experience in that Holy place, where heaven touched earth.

Let us strive to be open to God's will, responding as Mary and Bernadette did, and let us pray that we will be filled with many graces and blessings, refreshed in faith, love and hope.

Mary Mother of God, Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us, St Bernadette pray for us.

Deacon Tony

The Pope's Intention for August

For respect for evangelization in the city:

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Church facts & Trivia:

The word "cathedral" doesn't mean a particularly large church. It simply means the church that contains the bishop's cathedra (chair). A cathedral can actually be smaller than many parish churches.

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The word "parish" comes from Greek word meaning "those living as neighbours" or "sojourners". Church has always been about people before buildings.

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Sacrament of Reconciliation



Confession Times:

30 mins before weekday Masses

- Saturday
 - 11am-12pm
 - 4pm-4.50pm
- Sunday
 - 10am-10.45am
- By requesting a different day/time:
 - In person
 - Via email to parish office
 - Via WhatsApp on 01513555877

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction



Come spend some time with Jesus!

- Mon & Tue
 - 30 minutes before Mass
- Thursday
 - 6pm-7pm
- Friday
 - 11am-12pm



FIRST FORGIVENESS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Congratulations to Krystian Norek who made his First Holy Communion last Sunday. We pray for Sarah Hande, Lucas Bento, Zoe Okodugha, George and Geoffery Ugo-Onyeka who will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11am Mass on 30th August. We pray for all the other children from non-Catholic schools being prepared here in the parish who will be making their First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion in the weeks and months ahead. We continue encouraging them to start/continue being active members of our parish community alongside their families, in addition to attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation which is a 'basic minimum' for us as Catholics.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – UPDATE

We welcome babies Daisy Peach and Jace Chua who were Baptised last Sunday and we pray for Amalie Rose Burgos who will be Baptised this Sunday. We keep praying for all the other children, parents and sponsors preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism in the weeks and months ahead.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

As we are now in holiday season there will be **NO** children's Liturgy during August. The Children's Choir at 11am Mass on Sunday 30th August will take place as normal, followed by a BBQ and games in the Parish centre. Everybody is welcome to join in this Parish social time.

FIRST SACRAMENTS PROGRAMME

A meeting will be held on Sunday 13th September following the 11am Mass in Church for all candidates (those in Catholic schools and non-Catholic schools) and their parents/guardians. Father Godlove will set out the expectations in order for the children to be able to make their First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion in 2027.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Our Confirmation Programme for any of our young Parishioners (aged 14-17) who would like to be confirmed in 2027 will commence in September 2026. There will be a meeting following the 11am Mass on Sunday 13th September in Church in which Father Godlove will explain the basis of the Sacramental

preparation. Please email the parish office if you would like to attend this meeting.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) PROGRAMME

For all those interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a Catholic you are warmly invited to an initial meeting where you can find out more on Saturday 5th September at 6.15pm in Church. Please email the parish office if you would like to attend this meeting. parishoffice@ourladystar.co.uk If you are interested or want more information please speak to Father Godlove or Deacon Tony after Mass.

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you visit your local Catholic school to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. For further information please contact Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email aletizia@cafod.org.uk

EPCHS

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is currently seeking new Foundation Governors to join its governing body. This is a rewarding opportunity to serve the school community, support its Catholic mission, and help shape the future education and wellbeing of our young people.

You do not need to be an education expert—just someone with a commitment to the values of Catholic education, a willingness to contribute their skills and experience, and a desire to make a positive difference.

As a Foundation Governor, you will play an important role in supporting the leadership of the school, ensuring it continues to flourish and provide the very best opportunities for our pupils.

If you would like to find out more about this fulfilling role, please visit: <https://www.olhoc.org.uk/become-a-governor>

LOURDES PILGRAMMAGE

Angela, EPCHS Chaplain writes:

"Last week I travelled to Lourdes with 10 young people and 2 volunteers from Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

During the year the young people responded to their call from Our Lady to serve in Lourdes by saying 'Yes'. Throughout the year we prayed together, fundraised together and embarked on a 28 hour coach journey together. Some of these children had never been away from their families before.

It was lovely to be on the coach with Pat and the other Parishioners, who they knew from Mass, and on arrival we were met by Deacon Tony and Sandra. The children soon realised that they were part of something much bigger. We joined up with other young people and soon became a 'Lourdes family.'

Liam, who serves each week at Our Lady's, said that his favourite part was serving at the Masses in Lourdes, especially at the Grotto Mass and joining in the torchlight and Blessed Sacrament processions.

As well as Mass and the processions, the young people participated in all aspects of the pilgrimage



including the water gesture and Stations of the Cross.

They waved flags to welcome pilgrims to Mass and shadowed the Youth who were looking after the assisted pilgrims. For many of the

juniors, shadowing the youth and talking to the Assisted pilgrims was the highlight of their week.



Maja, who had returned to Lourdes for the second year said, 'I have enjoyed the whole experience and getting to know everyone. I loved that in Lourdes we were all one big family and that everyone always put a smile on my face. Lourdes has helped me to develop a deeper connection with God and it has helped me to realise that I should never lose hope and you should always try your best to serve others.'



Hannah, who travelled for the first time said, 'I have enjoyed being with everyone and getting to know them all. I have enjoyed learning more about myself and others.'

Maja and Hannah are amongst 5 of the group who will be 16 next year and able to volunteer with the youth pilgrimage. They are excited and enthusiastic to serve again.



It was an absolute privilege for me to spend time with these young people in Lourdes and to see them develop their faith and become closer to God.

Thank you to everyone from the parish that we met in Lourdes who made us feel so welcome. Thank you to everyone of you who helped with fundraising by buying a cake or coming to our Irish night. We are so grateful."



Craig one of our Parishioners writes:

“Well, well, well... where to start with Lourdes?

I'm very unwell with a long-term chronic illness called ME. My condition continually leaves me feeling completely exhausted and wiped out. I also experience a lot of pain and flu-like symptoms and for the most part I'm housebound. In fact, from the start of February until May of this year I was totally bedridden, such is the fluctuating and debilitating nature of the illness. When I'm at my worst, my poor wife does everything for me, which is no easy task with three kids and her also working 12-hour night shifts as a senior nurse. It isn't easy. When the SVP confirmed they were going to sponsor me to go to Lourdes, you can only imagine my excitement and delight, but also my apprehension too. Yes, it was a fabulous opportunity to spend some intimate time with our Blessed Mother in a beautiful setting, but with me not being in good health it was also somewhat daunting. I needn't have worried.

The SVP also arranged for my 15 year old son Ronan to come with me for support. An incredibly generous gesture on their part for which I am so grateful. It was also arranged that we would stay in the Accueil, a hospital which caters for the sickest of pilgrims. The building itself is modern and the facilities excellent and then there were the wonderful nurses and assistants. These beautiful souls were working voluntary and with no pay! I was so touched by their incredible kindness, attentiveness and compassion. We didn't have to worry about a thing as we were so well looked after. We had the fabulous youth volunteers who would take me from A to B around Lourdes in my wheelchair. It was a pleasure getting to know them all, they were all so engaging in our conversations and mature beyond their years. I was also surprised at the strength of their faith. They're a credit to the Diocese of Shrewsbury. Put it this way... the future of the Church is looking bright!

The village of Lourdes itself is absolutely stunning. The foothills of the Pyreénées provide the backdrop to this very blessed and historic village of immense architectural beauty. To experience Mass in the three main basilicas is something to behold. The grotto

where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette, words cannot do justice to the special feeling of peace that penetrates the soul when you pray there. It is an experience I will hold on to for the rest of my life. When you observe all the sick people who've made the effort, despite their infirmities, to come to Lourdes and spend time with the Mother of God it's incredibly moving to witness.

Ronan and I also experienced the baths with the healing waters from the holy spring. Once submerged within the holy water, a peace permeated throughout my whole being. A powerfully moving encounter with Our Blessed Mother, I felt so privileged to be there in that moment with her.

Unfortunately, I didn't get any physical healing from my trip to Lourdes, but what I did gain was a grace as equally, if not even more valuable, and that was spiritual rejuvenation. My trip to Lourdes gave me the capacity to finally accept God's will for my life. As difficult as suffering is, it is also a gift which draws us closer to God. Lourdes gave me the inner strength and a steadfast determination to "keep calm and carry on" so to speak. I'm not overwhelmed by my illness anymore and I rejoice in the acceptance of my pain suffering which you can't put a price on! God's will is God's will.

My son Ronan was so inspired by our trip to Lourdes that he hopes to return again next year as a youth volunteer. Once Our Lady calls you, it's hard to say no. I will undoubtedly be back one day to this very blessed and Holy place of God... I cannot wait! Thank you, Mother Mary and Lord Jesus, for making our pilgrimage an unforgettable one! Avé Maria!"





THANK YOU

A big **THANK YOU** to all the Parishioners who so generously donated, via the sale of teas and cakes after 5pm Mass on Saturday, which will support Father Julius' educational programme in Cameroon.

HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHS

Following Father Godlove's reflection where he suggested a visit to a nearby Church as part of your holiday plans, why not send a photograph of you/your family inside a Church you visit so we can share in the newsletter? Email your photograph to the parish office and include your name, the Church and location.
parishoffice@ourladystar.co.uk



Pat and Barry
Pendergast visiting St
Mary's Roman Catholic
Church, Navan, County
Meath.

**QUIET RETREATS FOR ADULTS THIS OCTOBER**

During October half term, Castlerigg Manor is running a quiet retreat for individual adults who want to spend a few days of peace, relaxation and prayer in the Lake District. Each day there will be a talk, Mass, evening prayer, and then a lot of time to explore the area, pray, or just simply relax. Book at castleriggmanor.com/events or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th August - Children's Choir Mass at 11am followed by BBQ and games in Parish Centre

27th September - Children's Choir Mass at 11am followed by BBQ and games in Parish Centre

3rd October 2026 – TV & Film Quiz Night 7pm in Parish Centre

25th October 2026 - Children's Choir Mass at 11am followed by games in Parish Centre

7th November 2026 – Decades Quiz Night 7pm in Parish Centre

22nd November 2026 – Christ the King International Mass at 11am followed by food and refreshments in the Parish Centre

29th November 2026 - Children's Choir Mass at 11am

5th December 2026 – Christmas Quiz Night 7pm in Parish Centre

Online Donations to the Parish

To make giving easier, please consider donating online via the Parish Website www.ourladystar.co.uk or via the QR code printed here. Thank you for your generosity.



Of your charity, please keep the following recently deceased parishioners in your prayers:

- **Michael Anthony Foley RIP** – Funeral SERVICE on Wednesday 19th August 3.20 pm at Chester Crematorium

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Paul Smith, Dot MacDonald, Antoinette Denney, Carol Elliott, Shirley Stephen, Mark, Eliyamma Thomas, Angela Bedward, Marcus Vernon, Tom Berry, Wayne Statham, Maureen Wildman, Arthur Harrington and Oliwia Dorocki.

Written requests for prayers to be included in the newsletter can be sent to the parish office, given to the clergy, or handed into the sacristy. Please include on the written request; your name, the person you are requesting prayers for, and state that the person is happy for their name to be included in the newsletter. May the Lord watch over, guide and

PARISH HOLY MASS & LITURGY

Monthly devotion | August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sunday Missal Page: 1054

Sunday 16th August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11.00am 4.00pm 4.30pm 5.00pm 9.00am 10.00am 11.00am 12.30pm	Confessions available until 12pm Confessions available until 4.50pm Rosary The People of the Parish Katrina Lindop (RIP) Confessions available until 10.45am Susan Gray (Sick) Baptism Amalie Rose Burgos
Monday 17th August Ferial	11.30am 12.15pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction Abraham Veligathy (RIP 1st Anniversary)
Tuesday 18th August Ferial	9.00am 9.30am	Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction No Mass
Wednesday 19th August Ferial	9am – 11am 3.20pm 6.15pm	Church cleaning Funeral Service for Michael Foley RIP at Chester Crematorium Rosary & Novena
Thursday 20th August St Bernard	6.00pm 7.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction Yarnell Family (RIP)
Friday 21st August St Pius	11.00am 12.15pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction Michael Foley (RIP)
Saturday 22nd August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	11.00am 4.00pm 4.30pm 5.00pm	Confessions available until 12pm Confessions available until 4.50pm Rosary Len Rand (RIP 2nd Anniversary)
Sunday 23rd August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Kevin Maughan & Family (Healing) Confessions available until 10.45am The People of the Parish

Parochial Administrator:
 Parish Deacon:
 Parish Deacon Emeritus:
 Parish Secretary:
 Telephone:
 WhatsApp:
 Website:
 Parish Email:
 Parish Office Hours:
 Parish Office Address:
 Safeguarding:

Fr Godlove Amungwa
 Rev Tony Nuttall
 Rev Paul Sutton
 Sarah Hardick
 0151 355 5877
 0151 355 5877
 ourladystar.co.uk
 parishoffice@ourladystar.co.uk
 9.00am – 1.00pm (Mon, Wed & Thur)
 2a Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8BY
 Mrs Bernie LeTissier 07885 736149
 Mrs Michele Mulville 07745 481122

frgodlove.amungwa@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

(Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Bernard)
 (St Saviour)