



ST FAITH'S
GREAT CROSBY



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10th May 2026

Hymns

156 Come down, O love divine
336 All my hope on God is founded
157 Breathe on me, breath of God
131 Love divine, all loves excelling

Notices

The Blessed Sacrament lamp burns this week in loving memory of James Walthew Waugh, one of St Faith's first organists, and Judy's Great-Grandfather. We recently discovered historic items in the vestry safe, given in his memory. As an FRCO, he set the high standard of music for which St Faith's has always been known. He died, walking to play for Evensong one Sunday in 1924. There is a window in his memory in the North aisle. **R.I.P.**

Blessed Sacrament lamp dedications: URGENT FOR MAY & JUNE. Judy has been doing her best to keep this opportunity for remembrance available while she has been ill. She hopes to be back in church very soon. Please give any names to be remembered to **Ann Hartley** or contact Judy directly on 07867 526 962 or judyriley@hotmail.co.uk.

St Faith's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will follow after today's service - all are welcome to stay for this, but only people on the electoral roll can speak and vote at the meeting - if you are not on the electoral roll, but are interested in joining, please speak to our electoral roll officer, Corinne Hedgecock.

100 Club: The April draw for the 100 Club will be made after the morning service (and before the APCM). Membership is still open! For details – and your chance to win prizes – please ask David Jones for details or email him at david.jones@stfaithsgc.org.uk.

Card sales: £32.55 was recently generated from card sales towards church funds. Please consider buying a card from us or donating new cards for resale.

Table Sale at St Mary's: Barbara Gleeson has hired a table at St Mary's table sale on Saturday 16th May, to do a pre-loved Teddy Tombola in aid of St Faith's chosen charities for 2026 - The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, Sefton Community Pantry, The Marine Conservation Society and The Liverpool Seafarers Centre. Please come along and support this event if you can. Thank you!

We are currently looking to rent somewhere for our incoming curate, Iona Morphet, to live whilst she undertakes her curacy with us in the benefice, ideally a two-bedroom flat, or house, or something equivalent. If you know of anywhere suitable, own property yourself that you can rent out, or have any thoughts or ideas about this, please do email, text, or speak to Louis.

Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage takes place in early August: a week of lively worship, teaching, fellowship and fun for 11- to 18-year-olds. This year's theme is **GAUDETE - Leaping for Joy!** Any money we raise helps support youngsters from poorer homes to make this wonderful faith journey. The colourful tin is on the coffee table from now until Pentecost – ***please give generously*** - thank you!

Eco-Friendly Living Tip for May: World Bee Day 2026 is celebrated on **Wednesday 20th May**, raising global awareness for the crucial role bees and pollinators play in ecosystem health and food security. How to Celebrate and Help in 2026:-

- **Plant Pollinators:** Plant bee-friendly, nectar-rich flowers like lavender, sunflowers, and coneflowers.
- **Support "No Mow May":** Leave lawns unmowed to allow wild flowers to bloom and provide food for bees.
- **Avoid Pesticides:** Use organic, bee-friendly alternatives in gardens to protect pollinators.
- **Support Beekeepers:** Purchase local honey and beeswax products. Build a Bee House: Provide safe habitats for solitary bees.

Why Bees Matter:

- **Food Security:** Nearly 75% of food crops rely on pollination.
- **Biodiversity:** Bees are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems

Events

Saturday 16th May, 10am to 2:00pm: Table Sale at St Mary's with all profits going to church funds.

Saturday 30th May at 1:00pm: Back by popular demand! Beetle Drive at St Faith's Church Hall. Tickets £5 from Corinne Hedgecock to include cream scone and coffee/tea. New revised rules! Please give this your support, as it's in aid of church funds. Please contact 07510 219 705 or email hall@stfaithsgc.org for further info or to purchase tickets.

This Week's Services

This Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist The Sixth Sunday of Easter	Fr. Louis Johnson
Monday 11th May, 9:30am Morning Prayer	Fr. Louis Johnson
Wednesday 13th May, 10:30am Eucharist at St Mary's	Fr. Peter Walker
Thursday 14th May, 7:00pm Ascension Day	Fr. Louis Johnson
Next Sunday, 11:00am, Eucharist The Seventh Sunday of Easter	Rev. Denise McDougall Paula Lampard

Contacts

Vicar: Fr. Louis Johnson 07947 752 399 / louis.johnson@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Assistant Clergy: Fr. Dennis Smith 0151 928 5065; Fr. Bill Matthews 0151 281 4879;
Fr. Peter Cowley CA Tel. 0151 426 5441, Fr. Steve Hall steve.hall@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Reader: Mrs Paula Lampard

Church Wardens: Mr Rick Walker 0151 924 6267 / 07710 226 300; Mrs Maureen Madden 0151 924 2154 / 07704 004 670

Administrator: Mrs Carolanne Leary 07913 873 697 / carolanne.leary@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mari Griffiths 07811591922 / mari.griffiths@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Please keep in your prayers

The Diocese: Prisons: Risley, Langley House, Adelaide House, Universities: Liverpool & LJMU, Hope, Edge Hill, Universities: St Helen's, Chester (Warrington Campus), Wigan and Leigh, Schools: Archbishop Blanch, Byrchall High, Deanery High, Hope Academy, Schools: Hindley High, St Francis of Assisi, St Hilda's, St Nicholas Academy, Schools: St Thomas Botelier, Liverpool College.

Parish: Galloway Road, Molyneux Road, Milton Road, Stuart Road.

The World: For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods, famines and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources. For all victims of cruelty, injustice and exploitation. And, at this time of heightened tension, we pray for Jewish communities around the UK, particularly our friends and neighbours in the Southport Hebrew Congregation and Southport Reform Synagogue, and for peaceful, respectful, positive relationships between communities and individuals of all faiths and none.

The Church: The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Ruth, Ven Pete Spiers, our Archdeacon, Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

Those who are sick: Joan McKortel, Alistair Byron, Angie Price, Susie Greenwood, Jill Deepprose, Martin Goodwin, Jan Huyton, Di Jackson, Audrey Dawson, Gill Welsby.

The recently departed: Bishop Richard Harries.

Those who are to be remembered at this time: John Henry Goodwin, Elizabeth Quiggin, Sister Francis Amy, Jessie Gale, Beatrice Eveline Milward, Kay Stock, Dorothy Roberts, Peter Gwilym Roberts (Priest), Frances Briscoe (Priest), Vic Winsor, Arnold Foster Pickup, Richard Shaw, Jean Pitt, Joseph Brinton, Rhoda Patterson, John Hammond Hall, John Hilton.

The Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading, Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Psalm 66.7-end

Response (congregation):-

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip.

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats.

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
I called out to him with my mouth and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me.

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

O be joyful in God, all the earth, sing the glory of his name.

Second Reading, 1 Peter 3.13-end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel, John 14.15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

To all the churches Acting-as-if we're a Larger Single Parish in Sefton:

Dear Church Members,

Last Sunday evening, 26th April, we had a combined service for all those in the LSP-to-be. This saw 71 people gathered from 8 churches joining in Evening Prayer, using liturgy taken from the Northumbria Community (and not used in any of our 9 churches).

As part of this Amanda Bruce (vicar at St Luke's), our change lead, spoke about the context, scriptures and vision we have gathered through prayer and reflection over the last 3 months. We then spent some time talking over a cuppa and were invited to share our ideas and thoughts, scriptures and prayers with the Navigation team that evening via our postbox. But we are more than just that 71 people and so we want to invite all in our 8 churches to share their thoughts and ideas about our context, culture, churches, scriptures, prayers and vision.

Attached is a summary of what Amanda shared and if you would like to consider the questions she asked and respond, by 31st May, then please email laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org. In June the CLT and Nav Team will shortlist ideas for a name and then send the shortlist out to all the churches for discussion and feedback. We will hope to announce our name by mid/end-July.

We would love to know your thoughts, vision and suggestions of a name for our new parish to be.

If you wish to see our current webpage, a holding page prior to us agreeing our new Parish name, then please visit: <https://liverpoolcofe.org/sefton-north-south/>

The Nav Team

- Laura Heywood – St Oswald's Netherton
- Jim Stewart – St Luke's Great Crosby
- Sue Green – St John & St James Orrell Hay
- Karen Stark - St Mary's Waterloo
- Paul Beardwood – St Luke's Great Crosby
- Helen Hunter – St Michael's Blundellsands
- Louis Johnson – St Faith's Great Crosby (Vicar)
- Amanda Bruce – Change Lead/St Luke's Great Crosby (Vicar)
- Laura Pilgrim – Change Facilitator, Diocese of Liverpool

Reflection from Evening Prayer on 26th April 2026

Where are we?

Timeline of what's happened –

- Pre-Jan clergy chapter meetings, leading to the formation of the Clergy Leadership Team from Jan 2026.
- People across the 9 parishes were invited to apply for the NavTm which formed from early February. Meeting to discuss buildings and the new Buildings Team.
- Church Officers have started to meet in their specific groups.
- Meeting on 9th May to discuss comms and start the process of forming a Communications team.

Our context geographically has led to a water theme, and the following Scriptural passages: “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light” Psalm 36.9.

For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ Revelation 7.17.

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.’ Ezekiel 47.12.

Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’ John 4.13-15.

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples” John 15.8.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43.19.

What are we?

We are all God’s church, no one role or position or training is more important than another, we are all appointed by God to be his people and to live for him. Clergy are

appointed and trained for a specific role, but they are no more important than Lay people – together we are all God's church and we all have a part to play.

As we remember this we also need to know what we are not: we are not spectators who get to sit back and watch others be the church, we are not simply consumers of a certain kind of religious experience, we are not passive members of an institution who have to be cared for. Jesus calls us all to be involved and active members of his church.

Who are we?

We are ourselves, we are not all the same and we don't need to be.

We all bring our unique gifts, individually and as churches, our ways of worship and the needs of our local communities.

We are the Children of God, called to glorify God and enjoy him forever,

We are the Royal Priesthood, or Bridge Builders into our community – maybe our patron saint should be St Benezet of Avignon.

We are those sent by Jesus to make him known and to make disciples.

Who will we become?

Well, that's a big question, and none of us have an answer for that, only God knows what we will become. But we can prayerfully hope and look forward. My hopes for this gathering and coming together of us as a larger single parish of 9 churches is that...

1. We will learn to be better together than we are apart, that we will grow in grace as we encounter our differences and that we will learn to value each other and our differences even when we don't understand or approve of each other.
2. I hope we can support each other in the greatest and most important job in the world, that of making Jesus known as we give away his love to those who don't yet know him.
3. Admin and bureaucracy, legalities and governance, buildings and finances take up a lot of time and energy from the leadership of every church. If we can only do that once for us all, then it releases that energy so we can care more and witness more in our own local communities.

I wonder what you know of our context, what scripture God has shared with you, what or who you think we are, what you hope we will become together and I wonder most of all, what name God might give us. We want your thoughts, we want you to name this new parish and so we need you to talk to us, in writing or in person through your vicar or via email: laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org.

Please pray, talk and reflect together, then be in touch via your vicar or email Laura.