

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN R.C. CHURCH



Welcome Parishioners!

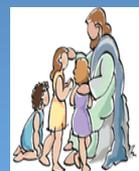


Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter, the first of 2014! Firstly, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Last year was a very exciting and busy one for the Parish and this year will be no less exciting, with many events, unfortunately including the retirement of our own Fr. Terry Boylan in September. We will miss him very much.

In this issue we have various articles, from our fabulous Rainbows to our Book Group, and we hope you enjoy this issue and it inspires you to get involved in some of the amazing opportunities the church provides.

CONTENTS



7th Heswall Rainbows	2
Coffee Mornings	2
Adoration - 'An Encounter'	3
SVP	4
Over 55's Afternoon Tea	4
Stitchcraft	4
Book Group	5
Churches Together Group	5
Cenacolo	6
Stations of the Cross	7
Children's Liturgy	7
Ladies Group	8
Border Wills	9
Little Actors Theatre Co.	10
About Your Newsletter	11
Meeting Room Timetable	11
Church Timetable	12



A Report from 7th Heswall Rainbows



The group is thriving with another fun filled term coming up. Lily, Poppy and Jasmine (aka Victoria, Hannah and Rebecca) will soon be celebrating the first anniversary of the group - how time flies when you're having fun!

Rainbows are the youngest section of the Guide movement and the 7th Heswall Group meet at Our Lady & St John on Mondays, 5.00 - 6.00pm. The majority of the girls are members of our parish. For those interested in enrolling, there are information cards at the back of church with full details.

Thursday Coffee Mornings



Our meeting room offers a friendly environment where you can just drop in any Thursday between 9.30 and 11.30am. Come along with a friend, or call in and meet up with other parishioners to enjoy tea or coffee with biscuits.





Adoration

'An Encounter'



I have become used to the variety of people who pop in to Our Lady's on a Wednesday when I am watching in front of Our Lord. There is not much peace and quiet in my life and I do appreciate the quiet time I spend with Him.

One Wednesday there was a bang of the doors and someone noisily walked up the aisle to Our Lady's statue. Click, click went the lighter as she lit a candle and I heard her talking out loud. Then she crossed right in front of the main altar without acknowledging Our Lord's presence and proceeded to light another candle in front of the Sacred Heart statue. Once again I could hear her talking. She then left the church as noisily as she had entered. This happened again on the following Wednesday and then a third time.

After I had completed my adoration I walked into Heswall and, on a narrow part of the pavement in the centre, I ran straight into my "noisy" lady. I recognised her immediately and I said, "Oh! You're the lady who was in church this afternoon." When I looked at her I realised that she was close to tears. She told me that her husband had had a heart attack and he was finding it very difficult to accept his ill health. She told me that she wasn't a Catholic but thought she would visit our church to pray. She hoped that this was alright? I said of course it was and told her I would keep her and her husband in my prayers and I would put their names in our Book of Petitions and as a consequence they would be prayed for all day each Wednesday. She was very grateful. Then, on impulse I said that on a Wednesday Our Lord, under the form of the Host, was taken from the tabernacle and exposed in the monstrance on the altar. He was really present as God and Man, so why didn't she talk to Him at the main altar instead of just talking to His image on the side altar? She looked a bit puzzled so I told her not to worry, if she preferred to talk to the statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady on the side altars as she had been doing, that was fine.

I didn't see her again for a few weeks and was worried that what I had said had frightened her away. Then on a Wednesday about 6 weeks later she appeared again. This time she walked down the aisle to the Sacred Heart, lit her candle and without speaking she moved to the main altar, stood in front of Our Lord in the monstrance, bowed her head low and I heard her say "Oh, thank you Lord, thank you very much." At that moment I was reminded of the 10 lepers and I made up my mind never to forget to say thank you to Our Lord for all that He had given me.

The SVP

The SVP still has meetings regularly. If you would like to join, please come along to the Meeting Room any Wednesday evening at 8.00pm. If you, or anyone you know, would like a friendly face to pop in and visit at home or offer any other assistance, please contact John Hoghton on 342 5986.



Over 55's Afternoon Tea



This friendly group goes from strength to strength, meeting on the last Tuesday afternoon of each month for traditional afternoon tea with homemade cakes and scones. We finished off 2013 with a thoroughly enjoyable festive get together with wonderful entertainment. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in the meeting room.

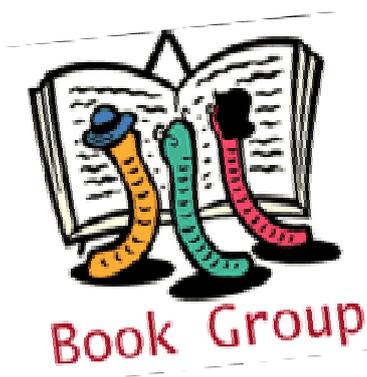
Do come and join us.

Stitchcraft

The Stitchcraft Group sale of Christmas novelties was a huge success. The monies raised amounted to £200 which has been donated to the meeting room fund. The group would like to thank all parishioners for their support.

The group recommenced on 14th January with some members participating in a project of making patchwork sampler quilts, while other members continue their knitting and crochet. If you would like to share or learn new skills please come and join us on Tuesday mornings 10am in the meeting room.





Book Group

The book group continues to meet at our homes rather than in the meeting room as we are such a small number. We very much enjoyed Major Pettigrew's Last Stand (by Helen Simonson) in January and we are reading Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn for February. If you are interested in joining us please contact Lesley Malkin on 678 0522 or email lesley.malkin@hotmail.com

Churches Together Group

Many of you may not know that Our Lady & St John is a member of "Churches Together", which is an ecumenical group of churches in Heswall. It is one of six Christian Churches having a committee to arrange joint events through the year and address items of concern to Christians in the area.

During the past year, events have been quite varied and include:

- Lay pulpit exchange, one Sunday in January,
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, with a speaker at the joint service on the last Sunday, during January,
- Lenten Lunches every Friday during Lent,
- Walk of Witness on Good Friday, with joint prayers and an ecumenical service at the end of the walk,
- Christian Aid Week in May each year,
- "Hot Potatoes", a series of discussions, at The Beacon Cafe, during the Heswall Festival week,
- One World Coffee Tasting was held in November, in support of Christian Aid.
- Christmas carols outside Lingham's one Saturday before Christmas, were arranged by the Churches Together group.
- The Churches Together Group is also involved in the proposed "Community Forum" which is to be set up for the local area.



On a less local level, Asylum Link Merseyside has been supported by the group during the last year – as it is

Cenacolo

'Cenacolo' is the Italian for cenacle - the upper room where Our Lord washed the feet of the disciples and told us to love one another. It was founded on July 16th 1983 by Sister Elvira Petrozzi who was given permission from her order to minister to young people who had lost their way in life and were suffering from addiction to drugs and alcohol. She calls the Cenacolo Community a "school of life".



The first house in Saluzzo in Northern Italy was leased to Elvira by the Mayor of the town. It had been derelict for 15 years and was without roof or windows. She began there with another nun and a retired school teacher and four lads who had been living on the streets. Today there are over 60 houses throughout the world with about 2,500 young people finding their way in life again, learning new skills such as plumbing, joinery, metal work etc. and also a new language - Italian. (Sister Elvira said she couldn't learn 16 languages so everyone had to learn hers!) Italian is the common language throughout the communities, together with the language of the country where the house is based.

The houses are in Italy, Bosnia, Croatia, France, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Poland, England (Kendal), Ireland (Knock), Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Argentina (Pope Francis is a great supporter of the Cenacolo), America and Liberia in Africa.

The English house at the moment has 12 young men in residence - Italian, Scottish, English, Polish, German and Croatian. They live a disciplined life in community (their lives previously having been chaotic) and aim to be as self sufficient as possible. They grow their own vegetables, keep chickens, rear pigs. They rely on God's Providence for all their needs. For example, when the house opened in Kendal, a local farmer gave them 3 piglets, a parish in Derbyshire supplied all their gardening needs with wheel barrows, hoes, spades, seeds etc.

There are separate houses for young men and young women with some family houses for those with young children. There are no doctors, psychiatrists or counsellors in Cenacolo. The recovered addicts say that only other addicts can know and understand how they feel. There is a wonderful spirit of love, friendship and joy in the Cenacolo and a high success rate of their recovery.

Contact:

www.cenacolouk.org
www.comunitacenacolo.it



Stations of the Cross

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place after morning Mass on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 4.30pm on Sunday. If you are unable to come to Church, and would like to pray the Stations, you can do so by accessing the Parish website, clicking on the Prayers tab and following the link.

From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. When pilgrims came to see Jerusalem, they were anxious to see the sites where Jesus was. These sites become important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord, along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit. The stations, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites. In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating "replicas" of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became the set of 14 stations we now know and were placed in almost every Catholic Church in the world.

Also called *The Way of the Cross*, *Via Crucis*, and *Via Dolorosa*, these names are used to signify either a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident, or the special form of devotion connected with such representations.

The object of the Stations is to help the faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It has become one of the most popular of Catholic devotions. It is carried out by passing from Station to Station, with certain prayers at each and devout meditation on the various incidents in turn. It is very usual, when the devotion is performed publicly, to sing a stanza of the "Stabat Mater" while passing from one Station to the next.

Children's Liturgy

Children's liturgy has been a fundamental part of parish life here at St. John for over 20 years and one of which we can be very proud. The large number of children within our family enriches our parish life; they are our future community and as such we are wise to invest our time in them. We meet in our meeting room at 11.15 Mass during term time after collecting

under our banner at the beginning of Mass. We then divide into two groups, under 8 years and over 8 years. The liturgists are parishioners with an interest in this age group either through their teaching qualifications or simply as parents. We ask for no special knowledge or skill as the resources we use guide the issues and discussions we have. We love to encourage the children to tell the congregation themselves what we have covered each week and find that they really enjoy doing that. The highlight of each year is the rather special Christmas Nativity celebration on Christmas Eve that, despite little preparation time, always



"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."

Mark 10:16

seems to come alive with the true joy of the holy birth. New volunteers

Ladies Group



A fantastic Burns Night Celebration was held on Thursday 30th January with ladies from our Parish and a group of ladies from the Methodist Church in Heswall (the Beacon Lights). Our own Michelle Cassidy gave a wonderful Address to the Haggis before we tucked in to a traditional supper of Haggis, neeps and tatties with delicious homemade fruitcake and shortbread afterwards. The entertainment of quizzes, games and traditional music was great.

The next get together will be a Dessert and Coffee Evening. Ladies please come along and sample a delicious homemade dessert (or two!) together with a cup of coffee/tea and a chat AND...the recipes will be available on the night to take home! Thursday 27th February 8pm in the meeting room.

ALL VERY WELCOME.





Have you made your Will yet? Or are you putting it off to a more suitable time? Did you know that about 60% of the adult population have yet to make their Will?

Why is this important?

Firstly, because you can look after your dependants; your wife, children and grandchildren. Secondly, because you decide who benefits from your estate after you die, not the state.

Decide now who would look after your children if something happened to both of you.

If you are not married your partner will not automatically inherit anything from your estate when you die. Plan your estate to minimise or reduce any inheritance tax and protect your legacy for future generations. Finally achieve peace of mind knowing that you have put into place all of these arrangements.

Do you wish to stay one of the 60%? Now is a suitable time to make your Will, or review an existing one. Don't leave it till it's too late.

Contact Border Wills, your local Will Writer for a professional, friendly and bespoke service.

Phone 0151 559 0695, email roger@borderwills.co.uk or visit www.borderwills.co.uk

ADVERTISING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN OUR NEXT TERMLY NEWSLETTER OR AT THE PARISH?

Would you like to place an advertisement in one of our newsletters or on the notice board in Church?

Whether it is an event, charity or otherwise, new service, business, magazine, book or product, you can advertise for whatever you would like.

The notice board and newsletters are read by many people and you will get a good response from the Parish, so why not go for it?

All we ask is that you make a small donation if you do advertise.

To get in touch, contact the website team at contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk.

Many thanks.



Little Actors Theatre Company



Entrepreneur Samantha Stevens (of Siam) is now running a local Registered Charity! Little Actors Theatre Company offers performing arts classes for children and adults in the Northwest and London. Locally we are based in Neston (and Liverpool). Our main aim is to offer access to the arts for all regardless of ability or background/means. Charitable Status will mean we can gain more funding to support children and give them a positive experience participating in the arts, which will help improve health and well being, as well as developing their talents. Samantha and LATC would welcome new members at Neston Theatre School aged 2 ½ - 11. We would also welcome volunteers who may be able to bring their skills and enthusiasm to develop our arts work with local children.

You can contact Samantha on 0151 336 4302, mail@littleactorstheatre.com or www.littleactorstheatre.com



About Your Termly Newsletter

Our newsletter is published once a term and is filled with articles and advertisements that we believe are appropriate to our Parishioners.

However, this is your newsletter!

If you would like to see something in this newsletter, then don't hesitate to get in contact with us at our email contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

This term the publication of the newsletter has been done by one of the Altar Servers, Matthew Jones. Matthew serves on the Altar at 7pm Mass on a Saturday night and is doing the Newsletter for his Skills Section of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He would greatly appreciate feedback to help develop his skills, and if you would like to comment please send him your thoughts to his email mattjonescalday@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Meeting Room Timetable

Monday	5pm - 6pm 7.15pm - 8.45pm	7 th Heswall Rainbows Yoga for All
Tuesday	10am - 12.30pm 2pm - 4pm	Stitch Craft Group Afternoon Tea - last Tuesday of the month
Wednesday	8pm - 9pm	SVP
Thursday	10am - 12pm 8pm - 10pm	Coffee Morning UCM - 3 rd Thursday of the month
Friday	10.30am - 1pm	Songbirds

If you are interested in joining any of the groups/activities or you would like to start a new group, please drop us a line at contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk or phone 07563 378727 for more details.

Church Timetable

Monday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Terry</i>
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Mass
Wednesday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Terry</i>
	9.30am - 8.30pm	Perpetual Adoration
	8.00 - 9.00 pm	S.V.P
Thursday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Terry</i>
Friday	8.45 am	Morning Prayers
	9.00 am	Mass
	9.20 am	Rosary
	9.20 am	<i>Confessions - see Fr Terry</i>
Saturday	10.00 am	Mass
	11.30 am - 12 noon	Confessions
	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	First Holy Communion preparation
	7.00 pm	First Mass of Sunday
Sunday	8.30 am	Mass
	11.15 am	Mass with Choir and Children's Liturgy

Please observe the parking restrictions in Boundary Lane. Even if you are permitted to park there, please do not park opposite our neighbours' driveways.

1 Boundary Lane, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 5RP 0151 342 6581

Email:- contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk