

News from the Parishes of Holy Family, Pensby and Our Lady & St. John, Heswall



The vine is one of the most powerful images in the bible for God's relationship with his people. Israel is the vine brought out of Egypt and a choice vine planted by God.

She is also a vineyard planted and tended by God. Jesus builds on this image by calling himself the 'true' vine and his Father the vinedresser. This image is profound, since the vine and the branches unlike a tree trunk and its limbs are often virtually indistinguishable, and since there is a mutual interchange of life between them.

The vine must be both nurtured and pruned, symbolising the inevitable suffering of the disciples in imitation of Jesus. The vines must bear fruit that will lead the full discipleship, and unfruitful vines wither and are used only for firewood. This reflects the double image of vine/vineyard in the Old Testament. Despite the tender care the vineyard owner (God) lavished on the vineyard in Isaiah, sadly it yields the wild grapes of bloodshed rather than justice, and outcries rather than righteousness. Jesus abiding presence is not static but must be nurtured and it can wither. Not even John's great vision of the union of God and humanity takes away the mystery of human freedom and the need to grow in responsive love.

**Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm at OLSJ
&
Saturday after 12 noon Mass at Holy Family**



ADORATION - Change of Location 9th May

On **Wednesday 9th May**, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be **transferred to Holy Family** for ONE WEEK only because of work to be carried out on the organ at Our Lady and St. John.

In preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, Holy Apostles' and Martyrs', Wallasey will be hosting a series of talks entitled "The Eucharist and...". The talks are not intended to be catechesis so much as an attempt to enrich our appreciation of the connection between the Eucharist and our world and our lives outside the doors of the Church. The next talk will take place on **Sunday 29th April 6-8pm "The Eucharist and charity"** by Dr Catherine Hollum. Just turn up, no booking required. Everyone welcome.

Urgent Readers Needed at OLSJ

We need more volunteers to read on Saturday Evenings. Please consider making this small but important contribution to our vigil masses. You can contact me on 342 3338 or speak to me in person on a Saturday evening. Thank you. Jill McKenzie.

Help Required! The Children's Liturgy Team at Our Lady and St John are looking for new volunteers to help out at Children's Liturgy at 11:15am Mass on Sundays. No experience necessary, training and resources will be provided. Please contact Monica Campbell if you are able to join the team.

Uganda Charity Golf Day on **Wednesday 2nd May** to be held at Heswall Golf Club. Men, Ladies and mixed competitions. Tees from 9am until 12 noon. Entrance £40 / player to include refreshments. Sponsor Under Armour all for the **Rock of Joy Trust**. Interested? Contact Eddie Byrnes 342 5872

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Veronica McNutt** and **John Marmion** who have died recently.

- **Veronica McNutt's** Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 8th May at 12:15 pm** at Our Lady and St John.
- **John Marmion's** Funeral Mass takes place on **Tuesday 8th May at 2:15 pm** at Our Lady and St John.

May their souls Rest in Peace. Please remember to pray for their families at this difficult time.

S.P.U.C. – No to Decriminalising Abortion

Decriminalising abortion will strip the unborn children of any remaining effective legal protection from abortion. Please sign the petition in the church porch to stop this happening. Thank you.



Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May

Suzy Smallwood is looking for additional people to help with the house to house collections

during Christian Aid Week. We coordinate the streets we cover with other members of Churches Together (Heswall). You can contact Suzy by phone (342 1137) or text (07875 404128) for more details. She will ring you back and is more than happy to give advice and support.

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last 3 weeks. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 56.52 kgs and OLSJ 65.47 kgs. Many thanks for your continued generous support.



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place on **Saturday 12th May @ 8:30am**

OLSJ will be hosting the Prayer Breakfast this month. It is a friendly gathering where we hold a reflective service from 8.30am - 9am, followed by a friendly simple breakfast, and this month our service will be led by Father Stephen. All are most welcome.

No need to book, just come along.

Ladymount PTA

Summer Fair 11am - 2pm on **Saturday 19th May**, themed around the Royal Wedding.

We are appealing to any family or friends who may be in a position to donate a gift as a raffle or auction prize. This could be a haircut if you are a hairdresser, a facial if you are a beauty therapist, an hour of accountancy, if an accountant, a room painted if you are a decorator...and maybe in the process you could gain a new client. Any other prizes/gifts are most welcome.

The AGM of the PTA is on the **9th May**, at the Anchor Inn from 7.30pm. All parents from Ladymount are invited and we would love all parents to help fulfil this vital work in fundraising for the school and our children. More hands make less work for all.

Please contact the PTA via ladyountpta@gmail.com or phone Lisa on 07886620462.

Collection Amounts

HF	15.04.2018	£539.79
	22.04.2018	£529.60
HF Spiritans Collection		£449.26
OLSJ	22.04.2018	£471.08
OLSJ Spiritans Collection		£857.01



Reminder – the next **Assam collection** will take place at all Masses at Holy Family on **Sunday 6th May**.

Red Mission Boxes: The recent collection in Holy Family Parish Church raised an amount of £160. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Chernobyl Children Lifeline: The annual visit of these poor children to Wirral takes place again in June. It is not too late to ask about hosting but there is also a need for supporters (or Buddies) to help the host families look after the children, when needed. There may be times when family matters take precedence over activities and it might be that a "sitter" is required. These support families provide an integral part of the hosting activity. As last year there is a need for donations of gifts for the children to take home Suggested items are:

- Socks and underpants for ages 8 to 11
- Calpol or any other child paracetamol in sachets,
- Vegetable seeds.

There will be a collection box at the back of church.

Spanish Evening at OLSJ: There will be a Spanish Evening on **Friday 18th May** consisting of a two-course meal and a quiz. The cost will be £12 and tickets will be available soon. This event is to raise funds for **Change a Child's Life**. For further details or to book a place contact either Veronica on 342 5641 or Christine on 07426 166 814.

A date for your diary: Sunday May 13th sees the return of our Senior Citizens afternoon tea, 2-4 pm at Holy Family. This is a popular event and always great fun so put your name down at the Box Office or phone Jean 07966295388 and come along to meet friends old and new.

National Rosary on the Coast – Sunday 29th April

There is also a special day of Pilgrimage and Prayer with a National Rosary on the Coast which takes place on **Sunday 29th April at 3pm**. there are two local locations, near Morrisons in New Brighton (which will be attended by Bishop Mark) and Eastham Ferry. All are invited to these events. For more info see notices or phone Margaret on 336 2050 or Rowena on 336 2484.



A prayer petition box will be placed at the back of the church of both parish. The petitions will be taken to Medjugorje by the Parishioner's going in May.

The OLSJ Parish Support Group will be next meeting on **Wednesday 2nd May**. The wooden suggestion box at the back of the church is available for putting forward suggestions or issues for consideration at the meeting. Thank you.

THANK YOU! Frances Firth would like to say a huge thank you for all the prayers and kindness from parishioners over the last few months. She is fully recovered now and doing well.

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 3 – 22nd April

1 st Prize	£25	No. 28	M. Turner
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 35	M. Gillham
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 192	N. Disdain

Caritas (formerly Catholic Children Society): Would all box holders in Holy Family Parish Church bring them to church for emptying/counting? Boxes can be handed to Mary/John Wrigley or left in the sacristy. Donations also gratefully accepted.

Ian Butler will be taking part in the **Wirral Coastal Sponsored Walk on 24th June** on behalf of the CAFOD Syria, Yemen and Rohingya Appeals. Sponsor forms cans be found at the back of Church. Thank you.

Sister Mary Joan - Golden Jubilee

An invitation to all parishioners to join in the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Wirral born, Sister Mary Joan, from the Little Sisters of the Poor, on **Monday 7th May** at Our Lady and St John's Church. Canon Coonan will be celebrating Mass at **11am**. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Meeting Room. Everyone welcome. Sister Mary Joan is the sister-in-law of parishioner Phyllis Driscoll.

Fruitful discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus in the Church and the World

A chance to hear Mrs Sherry Weddell, international author, on **Saturday 12th May 2018**, St Ambrose College, Hale Barns WA15 0HE (09:30/10:00-15:30, please bring lunch). Sherry has a wealth of experience helping people deepen their personal relationship with God and live out its implications; she will both inspire and encourage. Everyone welcome.

Enquiries: Barbara Davies 07730 526 821;

Details and Registration:

www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/catholic-faith/the-new-evangelisation/registration or Helen Jones 0151 652 9855.

A Day on Discipleship

with Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. & David Wells

Where: St Anselm's College, Manor Hill, Birkenhead

Date: Saturday 5th May 2018

Time: 11.00am - 2.30pm

Fr Denis will be speaking on Jonah, the Awkward Disciple. He is offered to us as an unusual teacher – awkward, reluctant, disobedient, opinionated, fearful, flighty: the prophet who remains stubborn to the end. But his story celebrates the beauty of the indiscriminate mercy of God. He is stunningly modern, a challenge for our time.

David Wells will be talking about modern-day discipleship and through story-telling he invites us to open our eyes and hearts to God and enjoy our own moments of grace amid the hustle and bustle of daily life. Following on from his highly popular first book, *The Reluctant Disciple*, David offers more insights into scripture, based on his own experience.

Attendance to A Day on Discipleship is **free**. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch for the break. Please RSVP to Chris Malone at: malone481@yahoo.co.uk

Sat 28 th April	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Maureen Birch & Ray Coonan	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 29 th April	5th Sunday of Easter	11:15 am	Mass – Intentions of Tom & Mary Brownrigg	
Mon 30 th April	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Aileen Pocock Anniversary	
Tues 1 st May	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – David Birch Anniversary	
Wed 2 nd May	St Athanasius	9:00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
		9:00 am to 8:30 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 3 rd May	Ss Philip & James	7:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Una Reihill	
Fri 4 th May	The English Martyrs		No Mass (Mass at Holy Family at 9am)	
Sat 5 th May	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Stefan Plotnicki R.I.P.	
Sun 6 th May	6th Sunday of Easter	11:15 am	Mass – Andrew & Josephine Deacon Golden Wedding	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 28 th April	Ferial	12 noon	Mass - Carol Cooper R.I.P.
	Sun 29 th April	5th Sunday of Easter	9:30 am	Mass - Special Intention
			12 noon	Baptism of Clark Tranfield
			5:00 pm	Mass - Sarah Heery R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Mon 30 th April	St George		No Mass (Mass at Our Lady & St John at 9am)
	Tues 1 st May	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at Our Lady & St John at 9am)
	Wed 2 nd May	St Athanasius	9:00 am	Mass - Mr & Mrs Heneghan
	Thurs 3 rd May	Ss Philip & James	9:00 am	Service of Word & Sacrament
	Fri 4 th May	The English Martyrs	9:00 am	Mass – Margaret Robson Intentions
Sat 5 th May	Ferial	12 noon	Mass - Ken & Sarah Bull Thanksgiving	
Sun 6 th May	6th Sunday of Easter	9:30 am	Mass - Colette Thurston Intentions	
		5:00 pm	Mass - David Noonan R.I.P (Anniversary)	

Confessions – Saturdays 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm at OLSJ Saturdays 11:30 am -11:50 am at Holy Family

Legion of Mary Meetings: Every Monday morning at 10:45 am in the meeting room at OLSJ.

Mother's Prayers: Every Monday morning at 9:30 am in the meeting room at OLSJ.

Adoration: Holy Family: Every Saturday after 12 noon Mass. On 1st Saturday of the Month, Divine Mercy devotions, prayers are included. All are welcome. **Our Lady and St John:** Every Wednesday 9:30am until 8pm after morning Mass. All are welcome.

Sick: Please remember in your prayers all those in both parishes who are sick at home or in hospital, including Catherine Maschke, Peter Curtis, Carol Saunders, Gerry Smith, Joe Lucas, Leonora Reilly, John Marmion, Iris Christian, John Moroney, Father Peter Kelly, Ken Davies and Mary Brownrigg.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.