

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

Today is Gaudete 'Rejoice' Sunday, expressing joy over the approaching messianic age, crystallised by Paul's advice to the Thessalonians: "Be happy at all times, pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God." In the first reading from Isaiah a messianic (anointed) figure announces glad tidings that touch all aspects of life: good news to the poor, healing and liberation, a year of favour and a harvest of integrity and praise. The responsorial psalm is from Mary's Magnificat, with its refrain of joy over the marvellous things God has done for and through her.



The gospel again brings John the Baptist to the forefront, but now heavily influenced by the theology of the Fourth Gospel, which considerably changes his role. He is not the Christ, nor Elijah preceding the Messiah, nor even the Prophet. His baptism is not for repentance, but simply water baptism. In John's theology, John the Baptist is primarily a witness to speak for the light. Since Jesus' whole life, in the Gospel of John, is a trial by his own people who did not accept him and by a hostile world, *witness* takes on the legal nuance of truthful and courageous testimony about Jesus. Other witnesses are Jesus himself, the works of Jesus and the Father, the woman at the well, the Advocate or Paraclete and the disciples.

An Advent theme first sounded last week in the responsorial psalm, "justice and peace have embraced' and reverberating throughout the Third Sunday is God's justice which is expressed in concern for the poor and oppressed. Isaiah announces a year of favour. Mary speaks as a prophet of justice taking the side of the suffering people and threatening the rich. "Biblical justice" is different to contemporary legal understandings of justice. It conveys a sense of things being "right." Biblical justice is to be enacted by the king, safeguarded by the prophet and lived by God's people.

Biblical justice is faithfulness to the demands of a relationship and involves a call to be in a right relationship with God and neighbour. Nor is it totally neutral; it is partial to those most in need. The symbol of biblical justice is not a blindfolded woman with a set of scales in her hand but another woman, Mary of Nazareth, proclaiming a God who routs the proud of heart, pulls down princes from their thrones and exalts the lowly, fills the starving with good things and sends the rich away empty. What kind of witness is most needed by the Church today and how can we witness to the presence of Christ?

Christmas Mass Times 2017**Saturday 23rd December**6:00pm 4th Sunday of Advent - **Our Lady & St. John****Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve**9:30am 4th Sunday of Advent - **Holy Family**11:15am 4th Sunday of Advent - **Our Lady & St. John**No 5pm Mass at **Holy Family**6pm Christmas Vigil Mass - **Our Lady & St. John**11:30pm Carols - **Our Lady & St. John**Midnight Mass - **Our Lady & St. John****Monday 25th December – Christmas Day**9:30am The Nativity of the Lord - **Holy Family**11:15am The Nativity of the Lord - **Our Lady & St. John****Tuesday 26th December**10:00am The Nativity of the Lord - **Our Lady & St. John****Wednesday 27th December**10:00am The Nativity of the Lord - **Our Lady & St. John**

Please do check the Mass times at the back of the newsletter for changes to the regular Mass times over the Christmas period, as there are a number of changes.

**Carols by Candlelight** at

6pm on Sunday 17th December at Our Lady & St John. A traditional service of readings, poems and carols followed by seasonal refreshments. All welcome.

Children's Nativity: Note that there will be NO Children's Nativity at Mass this Christmas, however, all children are welcome to come to the 'Carols by Candlelight' service at OLSJ on **Sunday 17th December**, to take part in a nativity scene with a reading and a children's carol. Please let the children's liturgy team at OLSJ know, if your child would like to take part.

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 24.44 kgs and OLSJ 35.08 kgs.

The Stitch Craft Group at OLSJ, will recommence on **Tuesday 9th January 2018**.



Churches Together in Heswall invite you to come **Carol Singing** on **Saturday 16th December** at **10:30am** outside Lingham's, Telegraph Road, Heswall with the Port Sunlight Lyceum Band.



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

The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic Worship. Jesus awaits us in this Sacrament of Love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet Him in Adoration, in contemplation full of faith and open to making amends for the serious offences and crimes of the world.
(Saint Pope John Paul II)

CARITAS OLSJ: The Autumn collection from the Little House Boxes amounted to £152.68. A belated thank you to all who contributed.

Events after 11:15am Mass in the Meeting Room this Sunday (17th) at Our Lady & St. John

- ❖ **Sale of Christmas Handicrafts** with all proceeds to go to the Cenacolo Community in Kendal.
- ❖ **Sale of Christmas Craft Activities** for children on sale after 11:15 mass. Children can join in after Mass, or packs can be taken to do at home or bought as a stocking filler. The funds raised will go towards improving the children's area at the back of church.

Christmas Flower Collection at Holy Family

Our team of flower arrangers keep the church beautifully decorated throughout the year and to make it even more special for Christmas, there will be another collection this Sundays (17th December). Please help to make the Church festive.

Holy Family 200 Club**Week 11**

1 st Prize	£25	No. 49	L. Skinner
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 119	B. Sharp
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 93	P. Thompson

Lately Dead of the Parish

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Roger McGoldrick (OLSJ), Josephine Burbridge (OLSJ), Edna Shaw (Holy Family) and Helen Loxham (Holy Family)** who have died recently.

- **Helen's** Funeral Service takes place at Landican Centre Chapel on **Thursday 21st December at 12 noon.**
- **Roger's** Funeral Mass takes place at OLSJ on **Wednesday 3rd January at 12:15pm.**
- **Josephine's** Funeral Mass takes place at OLSJ on **Friday 5th January at 10:00am.**
- **Edna's** Funeral Mass takes place at Holy Family on **Friday 5th January at 12 noon.**

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

OLSJ Flower Group: We will be doing the Christmas arrangements at **3pm Friday 22nd December.** Please bring any suitable greenery. Newcomers welcome.



Parishioners of Our Lady and St John: Please don't forget to check the porch at the back of Church on your way out, for Christmas cards that may have been left for you.

Holy Family Notice: Due to unforeseen circumstances we are no longer able to distribute the **Living Faith** books in Holy Family parish. If anyone has a Kindle copies can be downloaded using Amazon. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. M. and J. Wrigley.



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

An Important Message from the Bishop of Shrewsbury

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?

Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. With thanks for your help and co-operation in this matter and with every good wish,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Mark Davies
Bishop of Shrewsbury

Ladymount Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint a part time Cleaner and Assistant Caretaker:

- **Assistant Caretaker** - Monday to Friday (4pm–6pm)
- **Cleaner** - Monday to Friday (4.30pm to 6pm)

Please see the poster at the back of Church for further information.

Connor Johnston would like to thank everyone for their kind sponsorship for the 10K Santa Dash that he completed on Sunday 3rd December to raise money for Claire House and the World Wildlife Fund. He will be in the church hall at Our Lady & St. John, after 11:15 mass today to collect any other sponsor money - Thank You.

Please be aware, that if attending Mass at **Holy Family, 24th (Christmas Eve) and 25th December (Christmas Day)**, we have been notified that ROADWORKS are taking place in the PENSBY ROAD area and that Diversions will be operating. Thank You

Sat 16 th Dec	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Luigi Gramegna R.I.P.	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 17 th Dec	Third Sunday in Advent Gaudete Sunday	11:15 am	Mass – Peter Hartley R.I.P.	
		6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight	
Mon 18 th Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Stephen Carberry R.I.P.	
Tues 19 th Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Peggy Walker R.I.P.	
Wed 20 th Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Celebration of Word and Communion	
		9:30 am to 8:30 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 21 st Dec	Ferial	7:00 pm	Mass – Maureen Mutch R.I.P.	
Fri 22 nd Dec	Ferial		No Mass	
Sat 23 rd Dec	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Tim Dwyer R.I.P.	
Sun 24 th Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	11:15 am	Mass – John O’Hanlon R.I.P.	
	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm	Evening Mass of the Vigil	
	Christmas Eve	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 16 th Dec	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – June Thomas R.I.P.
	Sun 17 th Dec	Third Sunday in Advent Gaudete Sunday	9:30 am	Mass – Sister Maureen Quinn Intentions
			5:00 pm	Mass – Helen Ryan R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Mon 18 th Dec	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 19 th Dec	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Wed 20 th Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Alan Roberts R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Thurs 21 st Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 22 nd Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Holy Souls
	Sat 23 rd Dec	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Maud Skean R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Sun 24 th Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9:30 am	Mass – Tom Coyle R.I.P.
			No 5pm Mass Today	

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

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, Mary Latimer, Father Peter Kelly, Michael Murphy and Frances Firth. *Please get in touch if there are any alterations.*