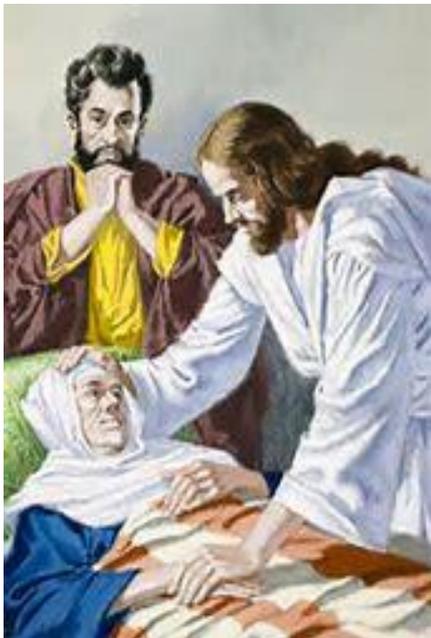

News from the Parishes of Holy Family, Pensby and Our Lady & St. John, Heswall

Very few topics occupy our consciousness as much as health care and the onset of debilitating illness, a concern of the readings for this Sunday. The tone is set by Job's lament of endless suffering and sleepless nights. The Gospels portray a Jesus who enters the world of the sick and the suffering with healing touches and healing words. Even though Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, it contains the highest proportion of miracle stories, told often in vivid detail, that alert the hearer to the extraordinary power of God manifest in Jesus.



The gospel narrates in compact form the healing of Simon's mother-in-law. Jesus is told of her illness and without speaking a word, he goes to her, takes her by the hand and helps her up. The fever leaves her and immediately she begins to serve them. Given Mark's tendency to communicate different meanings hidden from outsiders, Mark's hearers may see the house as an anticipation of their evening gatherings in house churches and the service of the woman as an anticipation of the diaconal service of woman in the community. The narrative also reminds us that the healing power of Jesus can be a liberation leading to greater service of others.

The following verses provide a scenic conclusion to the opening day of Jesus' proclamation of God's reign. Crowds of sick and possessed people (who are often equated in that culture) mass at the door and Jesus cures many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another and casts out many devils, but he will not allow them to speak because they know who he is. He then gets up and leaves the house in the morning long before dawn (the subsequent hour of his death sentence and of the discovery of the empty tomb) and goes off to a lonely place and prays there. The scene of his testing in the desert of wilderness is now where he communes with God his Father in prayer. The disciples find him, tell him that everyone is looking for him, and he responds with a renewed commitment to his mission of proclamation and confronting the power of evil.



Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm at OLSJ

&

Saturday after 12 noon Mass at Holy Family

As we start a New Year it is the time for new resolutions and these usually have something to do with our physical health. Shouldn't we also think carefully about our spiritual health?

When we do so perhaps we make a resolution to improve our prayer life, to come to Mass on weekdays but what about ADORATION? This is the continuation of the Mass when we adore, thank and praise God really present in front of us.

PLEASE COME.

Annual Diocesan Mass for the Celebration of Marriage

If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary during the course of 2018 and who would like to receive an invitation from the Bishop to participate in the Annual Diocesan Mass for the Celebration of Marriage at Our Lady & St Christopher's, Romiley on **Saturday 10th February at 12 noon**, would you please advise Father Stephen. All married couples are welcome to this Mass, but invitations from the Bishop will only be sent to those celebrating significant anniversaries this year.



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place on

Saturday 10th February @ 8:30am

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. No need to book, just turn up. Everyone welcome.

REMINDER! Holy Family Assam Collection will take place after all Masses **THIS Sunday, 4th February.**

Chernobyl Children's Visit

This is a reminder that the visit this year will be for the 4 weeks **2nd June to 30th June 2018**. The local branch of The Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, which we have supported for many years, are again looking for host families. They ask:

Could you share your home with a Chernobyl child for 2 - 4 weeks?

Hosts welcome children into their homes as part of their own family. Over the years many hosts have acquired "extended families" as contact is maintained over the years with children that have stayed with them. Host families are all volunteers - the reward comes in seeing children blossom during their time in the UK.

We can arrange for two families to share a four-week period and ensure a smooth transition from one family to the other. We recommend that children are hosted in pairs so that they can relax together. We also have supporters (or Buddies) to help our 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. If you would like to know more or ask any questions then please contact Gareth Goddard at 0151-339-5249.

Pensioners Lunch - the next lunch will be held on **Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 1pm in the Meeting Room. The cost of the lunch will be £4. If you would like to come please call Helen on 342 7824 on or before Monday 5th February 2018.**

The monthly lunch began in 2017 and during the year the number of parishioners attending did not increase greatly and so it had been decided not to continue with lunch on a monthly basis.

The people who did come for lunch enjoyed the 'home cooked' meal and chat. During 2018 there will be 'pop up' lunch dates announced. Please watch the newsletter and do come along. **NEXT DATE Tuesday 6th February.**

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 23.44 kgs and OLSJ 6.77 kgs.

The contributions from our Parishes for 2017 where:

- **Our Lady & St John's: 765.95 kgs**
- **Holy Family: 1067.25 kgs**
-

Please see the letter on the notice board at the back of church.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Joyce Stuart, Catherine Garry and Valerie Kelly** who have died recently.

- Joyce Stuart's funeral service takes place at Landican Centre Chapel on **Thursday 8th February at 10am.**
- Catherine Garry's Requiem Mass takes place at OLSJ on **Monday 12th February at 2pm.**

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

Trip to Lourdes – Fundraising Events

Beth Whitehead and **Emilia Belderbos** will be having a **CAKE SALE** after all Masses **this weekend** at OLSJ, to help raise money for their trip to Lourdes at Easter with the HCPT.

The two girls will also be holding a **Pancake Day Fundraiser** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ on **Tuesday 13th February**. They will be selling tickets after the 6pm and 11.15am Masses on 3rd/4th February as well as the following week. Ticket prices are £3 per person or £10 for a family of 4.

Lucy Hamilton one our young parishioners at Holy Family is going to Lourdes in the summer to help with the sick pilgrims. As a parish we are supporting Lucy in her fundraising. **Today** we will be holding a **CAKE SALE** after 9.30am Mass. We hope you will support this excellent cause and treat your taste buds to some delicious treats.

CATENIAN NEWS

"Strengthening family Life through friendship and faith "

www.thecatenians.com

- The School's Public Speaking Competition was won by Hilary Jones of Upton Hall (Year 11) student. All contestants were exceptional and the event was considered a great success. Sixth form Pupils are encouraged to apply to the Bursary Fund to support their future third world experiences.
- **LADIES NIGHT - 17th February 2018** at Prenton Golf Club at 7:30pm. This is a social evening with dinner and entertainment and open to all couples of the parish.

Contact: Eddie Byrnes 07970 842529



Bingo at Holy Family: Bingo tea and scones this **Tuesday 6th February from 2pm-4pm** in church £2 Bring your friends and have some fun. Leave name at box office, phone Jean 648 0988 or just come along.



Into the Deep - Parish Youth Leaders Training and Retreat Day - March 17th 2018

At Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port, 10am – 3pm

One of our main goals as SYMT (Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team) is to support the wonderful work that already happens in Parishes and also provide a helping hand to any Parishes or groups that wish to start up new initiatives with young people. As part of our mission as SYMT want to provide regular opportunities for training (and retreat time) for those who work with young people. We are also very aware that starting up a youth group can be very daunting so we want to give you a hand with all the initial logistics, it's also important to know you are not alone and the day is looking to be a good space to share new ideas and to meet some other youth leaders. This day is aimed at those in charge of your Sacramental programmes or have any contact with the youth of the Parish. There is no charge for the day, you just need to bring a packed lunch.

To secure your place on the 17th March 2018 please email us at: youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

St. Anselms College presents....

Kentucky Derby Race Night

on **Saturday 3rd March 2018**. A fantastic evening to raise money for the upcoming senior boys' rugby tour, including 6 boys from our parish. Race night with hot buffet, fantastic raffle and auction. Plus, a Prosecco Reception, Gin Bar and a live band. Tickets £20 pp
Contact Monica Campbell 07814337674

Sat 3 rd February	St. Werburgh	6:00 pm	Mass – Maureen Birch & Ray Coonan	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 4 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.	
Mon 5 th February	St Agatha	9:00 am	Mass – Fiona McDonagh R.I.P.	
Tues 6 th February	Ss Paul Miki & Companions	9:00 am	Mass – Carmel & Michael Delamere Intention	
Wed 7 th February	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 8 th February	Ferial	7:00 pm	Mass – Relatives & Friends of the Fagan Family	
Fri 9 th February	Ferial		Mass at Holy Family at 9am	
Sat 10 th February	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Vin & Mary Williams Margaret & Joseph Hall	
Sun 11 th Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Roger McGoldrick R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 3 rd February	St. Werburgh	12 noon	Mass – Ann Flanagan
	Sun 4 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Intentions of Ann-Marie Bruder
			5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Eileen Byrne
	Mon 5 th February	St Agatha		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Tues 6 th February	Ss Paul Miki & Companions		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 7 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of David Johnston
	Thurs 8 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 9 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Jo Burbridge R.I.P.
	Sat 10 th February	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Nichola & Ruby Moroney R.I.P. (Anniversary)
Sun 11 th Feb	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Mary McKay R.I.P. (Lately Dead)	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Lorna Barry	

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, Mary Latimer, Father Peter Kelly, Frances Firth and Ken Davies.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.