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

A new day begins with the healing of a leper. Leprosy was not the modern Hansen's disease but designated a large number of scaly skin diseases. Still, these caused terror, and the First Reading from Leviticus describes the social stigma attached to lepers as "unclean," forcing them to live at the margin of society. For people today, ancient Jewish purity laws are both confusing and often the source of anti-Semitism. Purity is not primarily a moral category but a religious one. It is synonymous often with holiness, which is not, as in our thought, simply a moral category but more a zone of power that evokes awe and mystery.

The opposite of purity is uncleanness, which is not always sin. The leper for example is unclean but not called a sinner. God is primarily the source of life and the all-holy One. What affronts God and creation is unclean. In early rabbinic texts corpse impurity is "the father of the father of all uncleanness" to the living God. Purity laws surround symbols and carriers of life, and the "leper's" impurity arises because of the debilitation and white skin pallor, an intimation of death. Since impurity could be contagious, leprosy was an especially tragic condition that isolate people from loved ones and society.

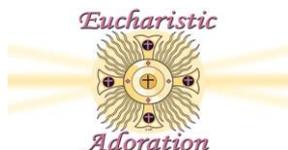
Despite his social isolation, the leper approaches Jesus, kneels and utters words of courage and faith: "If you want to, you can cure me (literally "make me clean.")" Jesus then reacts, feeling sorry for him. Compassion is the ability to identify with a suffering person and to enter that person's world with care and love. This is reflected in Jesus' first action of stretching out his hand, bridging the gap between the holy and the unclean by actually touching the man. Only then does he pronounce the healing words. The leprosy leaves, but Jesus sternly orders him to say nothing and go and see the priest to have the cure verified and make the offering prescribed by Moses for his healing. The man's paradoxical violation of Jesus' command and public proclamation continues the theme that the power of God present in Jesus is both explosive and contagious.

Today's readings pose special challenges today, especially in a health obsessed culture in which the ancient attribution of illness to sin is now modernised by attributing it to a faulty lifestyle. Also, today people approach Jesus in courage and prayer like the leper but still remain sick. Yet these readings provide hope. The story of Job, a righteous sufferer, breaks the link between suffering and guilt and gives people permission to lament before their God.

Jesus enacting God's reign among the broken and marginal people of his time continues to challenge us today. Jesus stretches out his hand and touches someone suffering social and religious isolation. Miracles of healing today are often a compassionate word or touch and the gift of continued presence and welcome to suffers by the community of family and Church.

+ Stations of the Cross at Holy Family +

Stations of the Cross will be said every Friday during Lent after Morning Mass. If anyone would like to lead the Stations on Friday please sign the sheet in the sacristy corridor. Thank you.



**Wednesday 9:30am-7:00pm* 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

*This week only as there is Mass at 7:00 pm for Ash Wednesday.



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place on

Saturday 10th March @ 8:30am

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Refreshments will be provided by the Quakers.

No need to book, just turn up. Everyone welcome.

Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday was on 28th January 2018. However, The Holy Family bidding prayers for this Sunday 11th February, are based on this year's theme for Racial Justice, as recommended by the Bishops Conference. The theme this year is "Belonging", emphasising that we are called not only to ensure our parishes welcome newcomers, strangers, and those from different backgrounds, but also that all people will know they will find a welcome in our parishes.

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?

If you would like to know more or ask any questions then please contact Gareth Goddard at 339-5249.

S.O.S. Help with Lenten Lunches

I got involved in the "Churches Together" Lenten Lunches last year and had a great time. This year's Lenten Lunches will be on March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd - I intend to be at all four!

Could you help on the day?

The venue is the United Reformed Church (next to Tescos). Time: 11:45am to 1:30pm. Either simply turn up on March 2nd at 11:30am OR let me (Suzy Smallwood) know via email (suzy.smallwood1963@gmail.com) or by text/voicemail 07875 404128). All help welcome. I hope that you will be able to support CAFOD and Christian Aid by attending this year's Lenten Lunches.

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

At Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port, 10am–3pm. To secure your place on the 17th March 2018 please email us at: youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 24.93 kgs and OLSJ 13.21 kgs. Please see the notice board at the back of church for the AdLent Calendar.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

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

- 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** would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who bought cakes at their cake sales last weekend. They raised £350.10! They are overwhelmed by the generosity of the parish and can't thank everyone enough.

The two girls will also be holding a **Pancake Day Fundraiser** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ on **Tuesday 13th February from 5:30pm – 7:00pm.** They will be selling tickets after the 6pm and 11.15am Masses on this weekend. Ticket prices are £3 per person or £10 for a family of 4.

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

Collection Amounts for Holy Family

17.12.17	£560.87
24.12.17	£425.99
Christmas Offering	£669.61
31.12.17	£495.16
07.01.18	£513.03
Assam – Jan. 2018	£217.35
14.01.18	£516.04
21.01.18	£579.50
28.01.18	£549.40
Retired Priests' Fund	£251.30
04.02.18	£538.03
Assam Feb. 2018	£251.87

OLSJ collection amounts will be printed next week.



Family Fast Day – Friday 23rd February 2018

Feed the Hungry: This year Cafod are suggesting we might '**Miss a Meal**' for Family Fast Day (Friday 23rd February) and donate the savings to their efforts to feed the poor of the world who go hungry and not out of choice. As in past years, the Holy Family parish are extending this opportunity for self-denial to the whole period of Lent. To help remind us what this is about we shall be making paper bowls available for individuals, or families, to take home after mass on 18th February. The bowls are to contain the savings from each treat; drink; snack; meal given up during the 6 weeks of Lent. The bowls [or proceeds] can be returned at any time up to Palm Sunday using the Cafod or other clearly marked envelope. You should also know that the Government has promised to double the money collected.

CATENIAN NEWS

"Strengthening family Life through friendship and faith "

www.thecatenians.com

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



Books for the Maria Immaculata School: Lisa Brocklebank is collecting books that are suitable for a school library for children from as young as 3-18 years. end of Secondary School. She is asking for donations of fiction, non-fiction, early readers, picture story academic course books, reference books such as dictionaries, bibles, atlases. There is a box at the back of church for any donations. Thank you.

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 18

1 st Prize	£25	No. 98	Mrs Ramsey
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 10	S. Smallwood
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 38	S. Orr

Week 19

1 st Prize	£25	No. 91	M. Green
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 65	D. Horton
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 58	A. Doolan

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.
Mon 12 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Roger & Barbara Walker
		2:00 pm	Catherine Garry Funeral Mass
Tues 13 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Josephine Burbridge R.I.P.
Wed 14 th February	ASH WEDNESDAY	7:00 pm	Mass - Roger McGoldrick
		9:30 am to 7:00 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord
Thurs 15 th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm	Mass – Alan Kavanagh R.I.P.
Fri 16 th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday		Mass at Holy Family at 9am
Sat 17 th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	6:00 pm	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.
Sun 18 th Feb	First Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Intentions of Ron & Maureen Jones

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN

HOLY FAMILY	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
	Mon 12 th February	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Tues 13 th February	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 14 th February	ASH WEDNESDAY	9:00 am	Mass – For the Parish
	Thurs 15 th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 16 th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Marino Restripo Followed by Stations of the Cross (Every Friday in Lent)
	Sat 17 th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	12 noon	Mass – Private Intention
Sun 18 th Feb	First Sunday of Lent	9:30 am	Mass – Harry Doolan R.I.P. (90 th Birthday Remembrance)	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Frances Firth	

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.