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

Today's Old Testament reading concludes the story of the Great Flood when all living creatures, apart from those saved by Noah, are destroyed. It occurs within the primeval history (Genesis 1-11), which tells how God created the world and a community of men and women with a destiny to care for the world and to experience intimacy with God. Tragically humanity turns away from God, inaugurating a rhythm of human sin and self-destructiveness, which is countered by renewed blessings from God. Out of the waters of destruction a new beginning emerges when God makes a covenant with "you, your descendants and every living creature with you for all generations... that no thing of flesh shall be swept away by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again."

This covenant with Noah is a universal promise by God to all living creatures prior to their division by race, religion and language. The second reading tells us the covenant and the saving 'by water' foreshadow baptism. By embracing all non-human life, the covenant is a mandate calling for deep respect towards all people and care for our earth. God promises that he will not destroy the world by water again, but there is no assurance that human misuse will not bring this about. The covenant is also the foundation of the particular covenants that will unfold and captures the marriage of universalism and particularism in biblical revelation: Abraham will be the father of many nations; Israel after Sinai is to be a light to the nations. Jesus will enact a new covenant that will benefit the whole of humanity.

Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus, followed by his opening proclamation, is a condensed anticipation of major themes of his Gospel. The traditional term "temptation" is inaccurate, since the original Greek means "tested" or "subjected to a trial." This evokes the wider theme of God's testing of the people of Israel, like Jesus in the wilderness, the suffering servant of Isaiah and the suffering just person of the Book of Wisdom who, though tested by God remains faithful and is called a child of God. In this first Lenten Sunday gospel the Church portrays a Jesus who "because he himself was tested through what he suffered is able to help those who are being tested" (Heb 2:18).

Jesus leaves the wilderness to proclaim the Good News from God. The news is good because the kingdom of God, God's reigning is at hand. God is a king who protects an endangered people, has special concern for the vulnerable and judges violence and injustice. Only by following the way of Jesus through the Gospel, hearing his word and adopting his values can we understand more deeply the mystery of God's reign. The beginning of this journey through the Gospel and through Lent calls for repentance or a second look at life and belief, an act of trust in God who guides the unfolding journey.

+ 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-8:30pm at OLSJ

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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



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.

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.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

16th – 19th April 2018

Some of us are joining with St Columba's Parish in Chester for a pilgrimage to Walsingham.

WOULD ANYONE ELSE LIKE TO JOIN US?

As will all pilgrimages, much laughter as well as prayers. Come and walk the ancient pilgrim way as Spring arrives! For details phone Ann Parsons on 342-7229.

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

New rotas for Eucharistic ministers at OLSJ are available at the back of church.

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 13.56 kgs and OLSJ 12.86 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 **Pamela Nola** who has died recently.

Her Funeral Mass takes place at Our Lady & St. John on **Wednesday 7th March at 11:30am.**

May her soul Rest in Peace. Please remember to pray for her family at this difficult time.

Lenten Reflections

During Lent, as a tribute to the late Fr Harry Stratton, Bob Evans is holding a discussion group on the book **Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly based out of USA. The book was donated to the Diocese by wealthy U.K. based donors. Its purpose is to bring people back to Jesus, through very readable and easy 40 chapters to be spread over the 6 Tuesdays of Lent. The discussion groups will be held in the Meeting Room at Our Lady and St John **every Tuesday in Lent from 7pm – 8pm** with refreshments served afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

A Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje has been arranged for **12th – 19th May 2018**. The cost inclusive of flights, transfers and half board is £375 sharing or £445 single occupancy. Numbers are limited to 50 and a deposit of £250 is required to secure a flight from Manchester to Split with Easyjet and deposit on a room. If you are interested in taking part or would like further details, please contact Steve Burke 07534 362555 by 28th February 2018.



St Anselm's College 6th Form Open Evening Wednesday 28th February

St Anselm's College will be hosting an Open Evening for admission to 6th Form in September 2018 for boys currently in Year 11. It will take place at the College on **Wednesday 28th February from 7-9 pm**.

St. Anselm's 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



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.



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.

THANK YOU from Mary Latimer: Mary would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has said a prayer for her, sent a card and especially those who visited her over the past few months. It has meant a great deal to her.

THANK YOU: From Beth and Emilia from Our Lady & St John, for everyone's support for their Pancake Evening. They raised £400! They have been overwhelmed with the support and generosity of everyone. It has been fantastic.

THANK YOU: Lucy from Holy Family would like to thank all those who supported her cake sale. £220 was raised to help her fundraising for Lourdes. Thanks to all who came along to our first Bingo afternoon we had great fun and raised £65 to support Lucy's fundraising.



EXPLORE LENT: A Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team night of music and fun! If you are in Secondary school and love music then this event is for you. Join the SYMT team for a night of fun, uplifting music, inspiring talks, prayer and! We start with a time of games and then move into some praise and worship.

- 7-8:30pm on **Thursday 8th March** at St. Columba's in Chester

OR

- 7-8:30pm on **Thursday 22nd March** at St. Joseph's in Upton.

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For more information go to www.symt.org.uk

Sat 17 th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	6:00 pm	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 18 th Feb	First Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Intentions of Ron & Maureen Jones	
Mon 19 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – The Burke Family	
Tues 20 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Margaret Royle R.I.P.	
Wed 21 st February	Ferial	9:00 am	Celebration of Word & Communion	
		9:30 am to 8:30 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 22 nd February	The Chair of St. Peter	7:00 pm	Mass – Michael McGurk	
Fri 23 rd February	St. Polycarp		Mass at Holy Family at 9am	
Sat 24 th February	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Marco Miserotti R.I.P.	
Sun 25 th Feb	Second Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Joseph Chambers	

HOLY FAMILY	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
	Mon 19 th February	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Tues 20 th February	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 21 st February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Eileen Morgan R.I.P.
	Thurs 22 nd February	The Chair of St. Peter	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 23 rd February	St. Polycarp	9:00 am	Mass – Winifred Lewis Anniversary Followed by Stations of the Cross (Every Friday in Lent)
	Sat 24 th February	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Sheila Smith R.I.P (Lately Dead)
	Sun 25 th Feb	Second Sunday of Lent	9:30 am	Mass - Ann Newby Intentions
5:00 pm			Mass – Molly Burke Intentions	

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, Frances Firth and Ken Davies.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.