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

The first reading today concludes the cycle of narratives about Abraham which unfold from his call, with the promise that he and Sarah will be the parents of many nations, through the covenant and the birth of a son, the bearer of the promise, Isaac. The cycle reaches its pinnacle in God's command that Abraham offer Isaac as a burnt offering. As one of the most treasured subjects of Christian art, the denouement is well known. At the last minute the angel of the Lord intervenes, Isaac is spared and the promise is renewed: "Because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you."

In both Judaism and Christianity Abraham is an example of faith, who when tested was found loyal. Abraham hoped against hope and when put to the test, offered up Isaac, because he believed in a God who could raise up the dead.

"Transformation" would be a better term to describe today's gospel story, since Jesus though in the form of God took on the form of a slave and is now transformed and seen as an exalted member of the heavenly court. The narrative is full of biblical allusions. The dazzlingly white clothes are a symbol of the divine presence in Daniel, while Moses and Elijah are symbols of the of the Law and the prophets. Both are people who did not taste death but were taken up to heaven: Elijah in 2 Kings, Moses in Jewish tradition. Both are faithful prophets who suffered because they followed God's word.

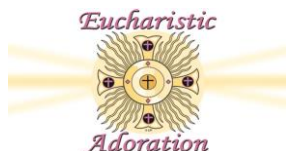
The divine voice from the cloud, saying: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him," gives a deeper focus to the event. The transformation follows the first of three predictions by Jesus of his death by crucifixion, which the disciples consistently resist. Peter's desire to make three tents seems an attempt to substitute divine presence for the way of the cross. The same three disciples who witness Jesus' transformation fail to watch with him during his agony in the garden. Mark's hearers and we ourselves are to hear the voice of a Jesus who says that the way to glory is only through the cross.

The Transfiguration is not a kind of mid-point encouragement to the disciples, since they will continue to misunderstand Jesus and will flee at his arrest and Peter denies him. The meaning of the Transfiguration for Mark and us during Lent is that even after moments of transcendence and transformation, we must come back to earth, continue to hear the voice of Jesus, and follow him on the way to the cross. Experience of transcendence is juxtaposed with the struggle against evil.

The readings today encourage deep faith and trust in God. Poignant and powerful is the faith of an aging Abraham, ordered by the same God, who promised many descendants, to kill the son who was to fulfil the promise. And yet such a mystery of total self-giving is rooted in the very nature of God who did not spare his own son but gave him up for us all.

+ 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

&

Saturday after 12 noon Mass at Holy Family

Further to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, where he asks the question, "How could our hearts ever remain unmoved by the love shown to us by Jesus, when just before dying for us on the Cross, He left us Himself in the form of bread?". This is Jesus showing His love for us that knows no limit. During this Lent let us repay that love by recognising Jesus Exposed on the ALTAR and let us kneel before Him in ADORATION.

Do not miss this opportunity to worship your God and return some of His love.

Confirmation 2018: This year confirmation will take place on **Wednesday 20th June** at Our Lady and St John's Church. Young people in Year 8 and above are eligible to be confirmed. If you wish for your child to enrol, please give your child's name, date of birth and your email address to Fr..Stephen as soon as possible.

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 20

1 st Prize	£25	No. 148	J. Turner
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 27	M. Robson
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 62	T. Brabrande

This concludes this session

Accounts as follows:

Subscriptions receive	£1,190.00
less Prizes paid out	<u>£ 800.00</u>
Profit paid to Holy Family	£ 390.00

New session will start 8th April 2018 envelopes will be available from mid-March. New members are needed so please give this some thought. Many thanks for your support.

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

Lenten Lunches

Raising money for CAFOD & Christian Aid

Why not support CAFOD and Christian Aid by attending one (or more) of the four Lenten Lunches? As part of "Churches Together Heswall", the team provide home-made soup and crusty bread, followed by a biscuit and a cuppa.

Dates: March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.

Times: 12:15 - 1:30pm.

Price: £4.

Venue: Heswall United Reformed Church.

I hope that more Catholics will be able to support CAFOD and Christian Aid by attending this year's Lenten Lunches. Please join us!

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

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Pamela Nolan, Elizabeth Walker** and **Kathleen Jones** who have died recently.

- **Pamela Nolan's** Funeral Mass takes place at Our Lady & St. John on **Wednesday 7th March at 11:30am**
- **Elizabeth Walker's** Funeral Mass takes place at Holy Family on **Thursday 8th March at 12:45pm**
- **Kathleen Jones's** Funeral Service takes place at Landican on **Monday 19th March at 11:30am**

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

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.

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 22.89 kgs and OLSJ 10.99 kgs. Please see the notice board at the back of church for the AdLent Calendar.

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.



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

SYM T 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.

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

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**.



Feed the Hungry

This is the theme of Holy Family's Lenten self-denial campaign, the proceeds of which are in aid of the work done by Cafod. There are paper bowls available at the back of church. These act as a reminder of why we choose to give up a meal or a treat in order to help those who have no choice but to go hungry. Please also take a **Cafod envelope** to return your savings via the Sunday collection plate at any time between now and Palm Sunday.

Don't forget the next **Assam collection** at Holy Family will take place next **Sunday 4th March**.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018
26 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH



Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. We do this by changing the way trade works through better prices, decent working conditions and a fair deal for farmers and workers in developing countries. All our local supermarkets offer Fairtrade items. You can do your bit to help by purchasing one or more of these products in this period.

Collection Amounts for Our Lady and St. John

17.12.17	£644.97
Carols by Candlelight	£176.46
24.12.17	£868.89
Christmas Offering	£2398.52
31.12.17	£605.09
07.01.18	£708.79
14.01.18	£634.98
SPUC White Flower	£311.97
21.01.18	£691.68
28.01.18	£645.15
Retired Priests' Fund	£688.56
04.02.18	£712.59
11.02.18	£644.97
18.02.18	£757.13

Collection Amounts for Holy Family

11.02.18	£536.94
18.02.18	£610.34

Ladies and Gents Over 55's Afternoon Tea



The next afternoon tea will be on **Tuesday 27th February, 2-4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Do come and enjoy a nice cup of tea and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome.

The OLSJ Parish Support Committee will be next meeting on **Wednesday 7th March**. 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.

National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage (Adoremus), Liverpool 7th – 9th September 2018.

Shrewsbury Diocese has been allocated 154 places for delegates on Friday 7th and 710 places on Saturday 8th September. There are two Masses on Sunday 9th September (9.30 and 11.00 a.m.) For more information and a booking form, please visit www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/catholic-faith/the-new-evangelisation/adoremus. Booking forms should be returned by **Monday 12th March** to Helen Jones at the Curial Offices.

Sat 24 th February	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Marco Miserotti R.I.P.	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 25 th Feb	Second Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Joseph Chambers	
Mon 26 th February	Ferial		No Mass	
Tues 27 th February	Ferial		No Mass	
Wed 28 th 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 1 st March	St. David	7:00 pm	Mass – John Campbell R.I.P.	
Fri 2 nd March	Ferial		Mass at Holy Family at 9am	
Sat 3 rd March	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Fred Overton	
Sun 4 th March	Third Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Edward Congdon R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	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
	Mon 26 th February	Ferial		No Mass
	Tues 27 th February	Ferial		No Mass
	Wed 28 th February	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Anne Hopkins
	Thurs 1 st March	St. David	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 2 nd March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – David Burke Intentions Followed by Stations of the Cross (Every Friday in Lent)
	Sat 3 rd March	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Jack Henderson R.I.P. (Anniversary)
Sun 4 th March	Third Sunday of Lent	9:30 am	Mass - Nellie Henreham R.I.P.	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Mike & Patricia Bessant	

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.