

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

### NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.

The Epiphany or showing forth of the “infant king of the Jews” to wise men from the East is celebrated by the Eastern Churches as the remembrance of the gift of the Incarnation for all peoples. The readings resound with themes of universality. The first reading from Isaiah expresses the hope of the pilgrimage of the nations to the one God of Israel, and the author of Ephesians who had earlier spoke of Christ breaking down the wall of enmity between Jew and pagan speaks of both groups as sharing the same inheritance, being parts of the same body and co-partners in the promise in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Matthew’s main focus is on the universal benefits of the coming of the Messiah. The visit of Gentiles (non-Jews) to the infant King anchors an arch over the whole Gospel, which ends with the risen Jesus commissioning his disciples to make disciples of all nations. As Gentiles, they

receive their revelation through natural creation – a symbol of the innate quest for God. Matthew’s night visitors are developed in Christian art and literature. They become three kings and later one becomes a person of colour. The bounds of inclusiveness are extended. As the Church becomes a world culture, one of its major challenges is to be inclusive, to welcome “the other,” and to break down various destructive walls of hostility: ethnic, religious, national and socio-economic.



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



**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)*



**Do you know a child that would benefit from a child friendly Lourdes trip this Easter 2018?**

Following on from our talk at Our Lady and St John's Church at the end of November, a new local HCPT group is travelling to Lourdes this Easter and we have some last-minute places available for children (age 6yrs - 15yrs). The children we work with usually either have learning difficulties or are from underprivileged backgrounds. The trip is made up of party and games for the week to give the children a holiday of a lifetime. If you would like to nominate a child please call Phil 07515689833.

### **Thank You from the Charity Change a Child's Life**

Paul Kenny and I, at Change a Child's Life are very grateful for the money raised from the parish. The final total was £664.84 from Holy Family and £816.39 from Our Lady and St John. We are purchasing 280 chickens for the children at Maria Immaculata School, Nairobi, Kenya. This will make a huge difference to the children's diet and welfare, and enable the school to become self-sufficient. Without having to purchase eggs and meat for the children, the Sisters can use the money saved to benefit the children in other ways. We also thank the parishioners for continuing to collect books for the new school library that we will be opening next year. Many thanks, Lisa Brocklebank.

### **Lately Dead of the Parish**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Michael Murphy** and **Kay Gibbings** who have died recently.

- **Michael Murphy's** Funeral Mass takes place at Holy Family on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 10am**.
- **Kay Gibbings's** Funeral Mass takes place at Our Lady and St John on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 11am**.

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

### **Diocese of Shrewsbury – Catechists Formation**

Reminder that the next meeting for Catechists will be on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, at Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port CH65 8BY.

**Registration:** 9:30am for 10:00am.

**Topic:** Sharing Best Practice.

**Moderator:** Miss Caroline Farey.

This will be a good opportunity to get to know each other better, all Catechists from the Diocese are welcome. For those who would like to do so it will be possible to attend Mass in the parish at 12noon.

**All enquiries:** Barbara Davies 07730526821

**Registration:** [helen.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:helen.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

### **Next Justice & Peace Group Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January** at Holy Family Church at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to everyone from both parishes - so why not come along and see what we try to do.



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place on

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January @ 8:30am**

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. The refreshments this month are being provided by the parishioners of St. Peters.

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

**Greetings from Assam**

Bishop Joseph has sent us his own personal greetings to our parishioners:

*Dear friends,*

*This greeting brings a special wish for you all on CHRISTMAS DAY,*

*to let you know you're thought of in a warm and loving way.*

*A wish for every happiness the NEW YEAR can hold in store,*

*along with all the special things your heart is hoping for.*

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND BRIGHT NEW YEAR 2018**

*Bishop Joseph Aind sdb, Dibrugarh*

**Assam Collection at Holy Family:** Please note that the next Assam collection will be taken after all masses today, **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR everybody – its 2018 – Year of Christ's Passion for Wirral**

Please come on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm** to St James with Emmanuel in New Brighton for Prayer, worship and to learn the BIG SING. Please encourage folks to come along to this as this is also an opportunity to volunteer. We still need stewards, construction team, clean up team, actors for the crowd scene and the voice overs, and artists. We are still very much in need of finance so please consider giving via the Crowdfunding page

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/christspasisonforwirral2018> or directly to us.

STARTING this week then every Friday until the Passion Play there is an opportunity to meet for prayer in Wallasey.

**Gwyneth Jones warmly invites you to an hour of prayer followed by refreshments:**

**Where: 11 Magazine Lane, New Brighton, CH45 1LT**

**What Time: 5.30 – 7.00pm 0151 638 0988**

**When: Each Friday beginning on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 until the Events**

Praying for every aspect of the planning and organisation of the Easter Events, and any needs arising during the lead up.

**Holy Family 200 Club****Week 13**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 9	Mr. Guntrip
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 111	C. Ion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 44	S. Cantillon

**Week 14**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 59	P. Barsby
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 149	E. Doolan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 28	M. Turner

**Thank You** so much for your generous donation of 55 backpacks and for supporting Mary's Meals. For many of the children who receive a donated backpack, it will be the only gift that they have ever been given. On behalf of the 1,230,171 children around the world receiving Mary's Meals every day, I thank you with all my heart for your kindness. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow (Founder of Mary's Meals).



**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the past two weeks. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 39.54 kgs and OLSJ 25.79 kgs.

**The OLSJ Parish Support Committee** will be next meeting on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. 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.

**SPUC White Flower Appeal 2018:** There will be a retiring collection for the SPUC White Flower Appeal after all weekend Masses next weekend (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January). Please give generously to SPUC to help us oppose decriminalising abortion.



Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Saturday of the Christmas Season	6:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Frances Firth	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Feast of the Epiphany</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Anna Romaniuk Anniversary	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord		No Mass	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January	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 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass	
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass	
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Christie Griffin & Family	
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Day of Special Prayer for World Peace</i>	11:15 am	Mass – Aileen Pocock	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Saturday of the Christmas Season	12 noon	Mass – Margaret Middlehurst
	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Feast of the Epiphany</b>	9:30 am	Mass – Norah & Lawrence Chadwick R.I.P. (Anniversaries)
			5:00 pm	Mass – Helen Ryan R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord	<b>10:00 am</b>	Requiem Mass - Michael Murphy
	Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass
	Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass
	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass
	Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Joan Rippon R.I.P.
	Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Day of Special Prayer for World Peace</i>	9:30 am	Mass – Jo Burbridge R.I.P.
5:00 pm			Mass - Intentions of Pauline & Steve Burke	

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and Frances Firth.

*Please get in touch if there are any alterations.*