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

The liturgical year involves the festal cycle comprising Advent-Christmas and Lent-Paschaltide, and Ordinary Time, which is the weekly celebration of the extraordinary event of the proclamation of the word and the Eucharistic paschal mystery. After the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the readings of the second and third Sundays of this time focus on discipleship, a sign that our “ordinary” lives unfold as a following of Christ.

The theme of call and response permeates the readings. Samuel who was to be the great prophet who anointed David, receives a threefold call while sleeping (an encouraging note to priest and people on a grey mid-January Sunday) and finally responds, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” The Lectionary unfortunately omits 1 Samuel 3:11, where Samuel hears from God: “I am about to do such a thing in Israel as will make the ears of all who hear it ring.” God is literally commissioning a “wake-up” call to his people.

The gospel from John depicts the call and response of Jesus’ first followers as part of a series of initial revelations of Jesus that culminate at the wedding feast of Cana where Jesus “let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him.” The

“calls” reflect distinctive Johannine themes. John is the witness who points out Jesus as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”, evoking the Suffering Servant of Isaiah and the sacrifice of the paschal lamb. The two disciples follow Jesus, but, unlike in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus asks, “What do you want?” They answer “Rabbi” –which means Teacher – “Where do you live?” Jesus invites them to come and see and they stay with him for the rest of the day. The following day Andrew finds his brother Simon and tells him, “We have found the Messiah” – which means the Christ or Anointed One – and takes Simon to Jesus who gives him the name Cephas (meaning Peter or Rock).

This narrative is a Johannine “coming to faith” story not only for John’s original hearers or readers, but for Christians today. The questions and commands highlight the process, “What do you want?”, “Where do you live?”, “Come and see.” People come to Jesus on the testimony of others. Jesus enters their lives as a response to their deepest longing, and only after “staying” with him can they confess him as “Christ.”



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 **Kay Gibbings** and Paul Sherrard's Father, **John Sherrard** who have died recently.

- **Kay Gibbings'** body will be received into Our Lady and St John's Church on **Thursday 18th January at 5:30pm**. The Rosary will be said following 7pm Mass that day and her Funeral Mass takes place the following day, **Friday 19th January at 11am**.
- **John Sherrard's** Funeral Mass takes place at St Michael and All Angels, Woodchurch on **Friday 19th January at 10am**.

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

Next Justice & Peace Group Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Monday 15th 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 10th February @ 8:30am

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



Ladies and Gents Over 55's Afternoon Tea:

The next afternoon tea will be on **Tuesday 30th January, 2-4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Do come and enjoy a nice cup of tea, homemade cakes and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome.

Newsletter Items: If you have an item that you would like to appear in the weekly newsletter, please either e-mail it to contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk or you can leave a handwritten note in the blue box at the back of OLSJ church or alternatively leave a message on 0774831317. The newsletter is usually printed on a Thursday, so please ensure that all items for inclusion are submitted before then.

Thanks, from an Assamese Girl

Phulwanti Beg lives in Fr Andreas's parish and is being helped in studying for a law degree with your prayers and three donors from our two parishes. Her letter of thanks speaks for itself.

"I would like to thank you all for your generosity, loving and cares. With your help I have completed my first year of LLB 3 year course and am now pursuing my 2nd year, exam will start from 21st December, I am doing my level best to do my examinations well. ... may this Christmas bring lots of joy and peace to you all and your families. I always remember you all in my prayers and keep praying for me too."

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 7th January 2018.**

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the past two weeks. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 10.86 kgs and OLSJ 10.41 kgs.

The OLSJ Parish Support Committee will be next meeting on **Wednesday 17th 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.

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

Please come on **Tuesday 16th 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/christspas-sionforwirral2018> 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 5th 2018

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 15**

1 st Prize	£25	No. 15	Mr F Taylor
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 56	Mrs E Pearson
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 124	Mrs G Cooper

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).



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



Sat 13 th January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Christie Griffin & Family	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 14 th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day of Special Prayer for World Peace</i>	11:15 am	Mass – Aileen Pocock	
Mon 15 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Anthony McGoldrick R.I.P.	
Tues 16 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Philomena Alston R.I.P.	
Wed 17 th January	St. Anthony	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 18 th January	Ferial	5:30 pm	Reception of Kay Gibbings's Body into Church	
		7:00 pm	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P. Rosary is being said after Mass for Kay Gibbings	
Fri 19 th January	Ferial	11:00 am	Funeral Mass - Kay Gibbings	
Sat 20 th January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Frances First	
Sun 21 st January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Terry Loines	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 13 th January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Joan Rippon R.I.P.
	Sun 14 th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <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
	Mon 15 th January	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Tues 16 th January	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 17 th January	St. Anthony	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Barbara Whitehead
	Thurs 18 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 19 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Barry Burbridge
	Sat 20 th January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Intentions of Ronnie Buckley & Family
	Sun 21 st January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Samuel Chadwick R.I.P (Anniversary)
5:00 pm			Mass – Stephen Dooley (Successful Operation)	

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 and Frances Firth.
Please get in touch if there are any alterations.