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

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Until Ash Wednesday the gospels of Year B follow Mark. Each of the four Gospels has distinctive literary characteristics, a particular picture of Jesus and different understandings of discipleship. Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, contains the most vivid human portrait of Jesus. He expresses deep emotions (which Matthew and Luke often omit): compassion, strong displeasure, surprise at disbelief, deep sighs, indignation, and ignorance of when history will end. Jesus is a powerful and mysterious presence whose actions constantly elicit wonder and surprise and evoke such question as “Who is this?” The narrative style harmonises with the picture of Jesus –rapid scene changes with Jesus on the move, surrounded by crowds, announcing and enacting God’s reign, narrated in short, staccato sentences with constant use of the connective “immediately.”

But as the Gospel moves forward, the pace slows. After Jesus enters Jerusalem, time is measured in days; his final day is marked by hours. The figure once powerful in word and deed, speaks only briefly, and his last words are, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The hands that once fed the hungry and brought a little girl back to life are immobile, nailed to a cross.

Mark’s introduction of Jesus is a summary of his whole Gospel. Jesus arrives after John has been arrested, a fate that will await Jesus himself and his followers after his death. He proclaims the “Good News from God”, that is a new privileged time, when God’s manifestation of power and care for the people (kingdom or reign) is at their doorstep. He then summons them to a change of heart, to take a new look at their lives and put their trust in the Good News. This is not simply a story from the past but a clarion call to us hearing the message today.

Jesus also calls the first disciples. Jesus is not a solitary prophet but one who calls companions; he enters the lives of four people, engaged in their ordinary occupations, simply saying, “Follow me, and I will make you into fishers of men.” They immediately drop everything to follow. Discipleship involves being with Jesus and doing the things of Jesus.

The story of the disciples, along with the story of Jesus, provides the great drama of Mark. Though following enthusiastically, their fate will be like that of the different hearers of the word in the parable of the sower. Satan will steal the commitment from some, some will fall away during persecution and ultimately all will abandon him at the cross. Mark is interested not only in portraying the power of Jesus to elicit an immediate response but wants to tell a story of the challenges and failures that can await people as they respond to this call.



**Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm 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.**

### **Annual Diocesan Mass for the Celebration of Marriage**

If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary during the course of 2018 and who would like to receive an invitation from the Bishop to participate in the Annual Diocesan Mass for the Celebration of Marriage at Our Lady & St Christopher's, Romiley on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon**, would you please advise Father Stephen. All married couples are welcome to this Mass, but invitations from the Bishop will only be sent to those celebrating significant anniversaries this year.

**Barry Burbridge thanks friends** in Holy Family and Our Lady and St John for their kind expressions of condolence and support on the sad loss of his dear wife, Jo.



### **Ladies and Gents Over 55's Afternoon**

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



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place on

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February @ 8:30am**

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. No need to book, just turn up. 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](mailto: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.

**Pensioners Lunch** - the next lunch will be held on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 12.30pm** in the meeting room. **The cost of the lunch will be £4.00.** If you would like to come please call Helen on **342 7824** on or before **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

The monthly lunch began in 2017 and during the year the number of parishioners attending did not increase greatly and so it had been decided not to continue with lunch on a monthly basis.

The people who did come for lunch enjoyed the 'home cooked' meal and chat. During 2018 there will be 'pop up' lunch dates announced. Please watch the newsletter and do come along. **NEXT DATE Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 12.77 kgs and OLSJ 17.93 kgs.

The **Food Bank's Annual General Meeting** is on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm** at **Birkenhead Town Hall.** Guest speaker, Rt Hon Frank Field, MP who will be speaking on the subject of Poverty, Present and Future. Everyone welcome.



**Bingo at Holy Family:** Do you fancy an afternoon, out tea and scones and a few games of bingo? Come along to Holy Family church on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 2pm-4pm** and join in the fun £2. Leave names at the Holy Family Box Office or phone Jean 648 0988. All welcome.

**Birkenhead Catenians** are again hosting a Public Speaking Competition for 6th form students. This year's participants attend Upton Hall, St Anselm's College and John Plessington High School. Please support this prestigious event at Prenton Golf Club on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm prompt.**

Refreshments after the event. Donation of £5/head. Contact: Eddie Byrnes on 342 5872 / 07970 842529.

### **Heswall Game Changes**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7:30pm at Heswall Hall**

Do you want to be a Game Changer? Be part of an exciting celebration, collaboration and transformation? Through various contributions on the night we'll be both celebrating what is going on and finding out what needs address. Hear from the police and the council about the problems we can tackle and through working together, you can make a big difference. Join the conversation!

**FREE DIARY:** Please do pick up a free diary at the back of OLSJ Church.

### **Save a Life – Give Blood**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

13:45-15:45 & 17:00-19:00

Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall

Please ring 0300 123 23 23 to book an appointment or visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

**A Recovery of Mercy:** The radical experience of Grace through all our addictions is the theme for the next Day of Reflection for 'ACTS' ('Adult Catholics Together Spiritually') being held on **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018.** If you are aged between 18 - 35 please join us when we will be led by Damien Prescott, the Director of 'Olive Branch Recovery Communities'. The day will start at 9.30pm at Wistaston Hall, Crewe CW2 8JS and finish around 5pm. Payment by anonymous donation (suggested cost £20 & £15 for unemployed/student). If you would like to join us or wish to know more about it please contact Siobhan Cartwright at [siobhanbc@gmail.com](mailto:siobhanbc@gmail.com) tel: 0161 477 2783 / 07761138947. Wistaston Hall is accessible by public transport but please contact Siobhan to discuss the possibility of getting a lift if required.

**SPUC:** Have you got the Winter Blues? Why not come to our Winter Warmer Coffee Morning? It is in St Winefrides Church Hall, Burton Road, Neston on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February after the 10am Mass** (10:30 am till 12:30pm). We will have a quiz, a bring-and-buy, a raffle and goodies to eat and drink. All are welcome and all money raised to go towards sending young people to this year's youth and student conference. If you need any more information please ring Margaret on 336 2050.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**



Prayers and soup lunch each weekday at **12:30pm** at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**  
led by Revd. Martin Cannam

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
led by Penny & Alan

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**  
led by Revd. Steve Carpenter

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
led by Fr. Stephen

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**  
led by Revd. Jacky Wise

Concluding with a **Churches Together in Heswall Unity Service** on

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30pm**

at Our Lady & St. John's Church, Heswall. Visiting preacher, the Bishop of Stockport, Rt. Revd. Libby Lane followed by refreshments in the parish room.

Everyone welcome.

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

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Joyce Stuart** who has died recently. Her funeral service takes place at Landican Centre Chapel on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.**

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

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Frances Firth	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Terry Loines	
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass	
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Nicholas Lord R.I.P.	
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> January	St Francis de Sales	9:00 am	<b>Celebration of Word and Communion</b>	
		9:30 am to 8:30 pm	<b>Adoration</b> - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> January	The Conversion of St Paul	7:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Peter & Jill Devine	
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss Timothy & Titus	9:00 am	<b>Celebration of Word and Communion</b>	
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Deceased members of the Curtis & Davies Families	
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Thomas Bernard McGurk Anniversary	
		<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Christian Unity Service</b> with guest preacher Bishop Libby Lane	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Intentions of Ronnie Buckley & Family
	Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	Mass – Samuel Chadwick R.I.P (Anniversary)
			5:00 pm	Mass – Stephen Dooley (Successful Operation)
	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Ferial		No Mass
	Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Ferial		Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> January	St Francis de Sales	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Margaret Robson
	Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> January	The Conversion of St Paul	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss Timothy & Titus	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Barbara Walker
	Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.
	Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	Mass – Sarah Davies R.I.P. (Birthday Remembrance)
5:00 pm			Mass – Intentions of Fr Stephen & Mum	

**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, Frances Firth and Ken Davies.

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