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

Immediately after calling the first disciples, Jesus inaugurates his ministry with a day foreshadowing the rest of the Gospel, consisting of exorcisms and healings that crystallise John the Baptist's prediction of the arrival of the stronger one. This first story reflects contemporary Jewish thought that the advent of God's reign would spell the defeat of evil, which is personified in an array of demons and unclean spirits. From the rebuke of the demon and its expulsion by a single command, readers know that Jesus, who will be later charged with being in league with Satan and who is condemned as a blasphemer is a victor over evil, which in turn underscores the authority of Jesus as teacher. His word is so powerful that people abandon their occupations and follow him and even demonic powers cower before it.

In the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people that God will raise up for them a prophet like himself. Moses was not only a great lawgiver but a figure of power. Like Jesus he confronted the forces of evil, liberated his people from slavery and enacted a covenant in blood. Jesus is known as the new Moses.

Faced with the prospect of Christ's imminent coming, St Paul in the second reading considers the various bonds from which the Christian could/should free himself. He also counsels abstaining from marriage. Not all will follow his advice but on the day of the Lord we must have undivided hearts.

The readings for these first Sundays in Ordinary Time offer a kaleidoscope of themes: the graphic realism of Mark's Jesus; the sudden coming of God into ordinary human life; the challenge for the Church to be prophetic and a "community of disciples;" the confrontation of God's reign with the anti-reign of evil. Conversion, community and confrontation with evil are ultimately God's doing, achieved in startling ways.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

To conclude the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Parish of Our Lady and St. John's will be hosting a **Churches Together in Heswall Unity Service** this Sunday,

Sunday 28th January at 6:30pm

Visiting preacher, the Bishop of Stockport, Rt. Revd. Libby Lane followed by refreshments in the parish room.

Everyone welcome.



**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 10th 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.



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 **THIS Tuesday, 30th January, 2-4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Do come and enjoy a nice cup of tea and friendly conversation. 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?

Hosts welcome children into their homes as part of their own family. Over the years many hosts have acquired "extended families" as contact is maintained over the years with children that have stayed with them. Host families are all volunteers - the reward comes in seeing children blossom during their time in the UK.

We can arrange for two families to share a four-week period and ensure a smooth transition from one family to the other. We recommend that children are hosted in pairs so that they can relax together. We also have supporters (or Buddies) to help our host families look after the children, when needed. There may be times when family matters take precedence over activities and it might be that a "sitter" is required. These support families provide an integral part of the hosting activity. If you would like to know more or ask any questions then please contact Gareth Goddard at 0151-339-5249.

Pensioners Lunch - the next lunch will be held on **Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 12.30pm in the meeting room. The cost of the lunch will be £4. If you would like to come please call Helen on 342 7824 on or before Monday 5th 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 6th February.**

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the week. Holy Family 20.85 kgs and OLSJ 14.15 kgs. The contributions from our Parishes for the last year where:

Our Lady & St John's: 765.95 kgs

Holy Family: 1067.25 kgs

Please see the letter on the notice board at the back of church.



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 6th 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.

Heswall Game Changes:

Monday 29th 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!

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 8th February at 10am.**

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

REMINDER! Holy Family Assam Collection will take place after all Masses next **Sunday, 4th February.**

A retiring collection will be taken at the end of all Masses this weekend for the **Priest's Retirement Fund.** Envelopes to gift aid your donation, are available at the back of church.



Beth Whitehead and Emilia Belderbos will be having a **CAKE SALE** after the 6pm Mass on **3rd February** and one at the 11:15am Mass on **4th February** at OLSJ, to help raise money for their trip to Lourdes at Easter with the HCPT.

Lucy Hamilton one our young parishioners at Holy Family is going to Lourdes in the summer to help with the sick pilgrims. As a parish we are supporting Lucy in her fundraising. On **Sunday 4th February** we will be holding a **CAKE SALE** after 9.30 Mass. We hope you will support this excellent cause and treat your taste buds to some delicious treats.



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



Into the Deep - Parish Youth Leaders Training and Retreat Day - March 17th 2018

At Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Ellesmere Port, 10am – 3pm

One of our main goals as SYMT (Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team) is to support the wonderful work that already happens in Parishes and also provide a helping hand to any Parishes or groups that wish to start up new initiatives with young people. As part of our mission as SYMT want to provide regular opportunities for training (and retreat time) for those who work with young people. We are also very aware that starting up a youth group can be very daunting so we want to give you a hand with all the initial logistics, it's also important to know you are not alone and the day is looking to be a good space to share new ideas and to meet some other youth leaders. This day is aimed at those in charge of your Sacramental programmes or have any contact with the youth of the Parish. There is no charge for the day, you just need to bring a packed lunch.

To secure your place on the 17th March 2018 please email us at:

youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 16

1 st Prize	£25	No. 129	A. Ireland
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 54	C. Keenan
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 94	P. McKevitt

Week 17

1 st Prize	£25	No. 130	C. Moore
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 63	A. O'Keefe
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 99	C. P. Braden

Sat 27 th January	BVM on Saturday	6:00 pm	Mass – Deceased members of the Curtis & Davies Families	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 28 th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Thomas Bernard McGurk Anniversary	
		6:30 pm	Christian Unity Service with guest preacher Bishop Libby Lane	
Mon 29 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Jim Walker	
Tues 30 th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Relatives & Friends of the Fishwick Family	
Wed 31 st January	St. John Bosco	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 1 st February	Ferial	7:00 pm	Mass – Monica Reynolds R.I.P.	
Fri 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord		Mass at Holy Family at 9am	
Sat 3 rd February	St. Werburgh	6:00 pm	Mass – Maureen Birch & Ray Coonan	
Sun 4 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 27 th January	BVM on Saturday	12 noon	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.	
	Sun 28 th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Sarah Davies R.I.P. (Birthday Remembrance)	
			5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Fr Stephen & Mum	
	Mon 29 th January	Ferial			Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Tues 30 th January	Ferial			Mass at OLSJ at 9am
	Wed 31 st January	St. John Bosco	9:00 am		Mass – John Gibbings
	Thurs 1 st February	Ferial	9:00 am		Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord	9:00 am		Mass – Intentions of Lisa & Paul Barsby
	Sat 3 rd February	St. Werburgh	12 noon		Mass – Ann Flanagan
	Sun 4 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am		Mass – Intentions of Ann-Marie Bruder
5:00 pm				Mass – Intentions of Eileen Byrne	

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, Frances Firth and Ken Davies.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.