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

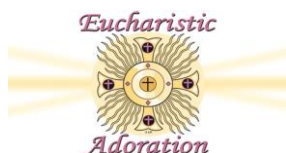
The readings today remind us of the importance of law to bring about respect for God and neighbour and also warn us of the dangers that arise when commercial concerns are intertwined with religious devotion. The book of Exodus lists the Ten Commandments near the solemn conclusion of the Sinai Covenant. Observing these commands is a response to the liberating love of God, “who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” They unfold in two panels, one concerned with wholehearted love of God and rejection of idolatry, the other with relations of justice and care between neighbours. Even today these provide a foundation for human dignity and human rights, especially since Jesus redefines the neighbour as the stranger in need.

The gospel seems to be a prophetic attack by Jesus, cleansing the temple from mercantile misuse: “Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.” Yet the issue quickly becomes not what Jesus has done but who he is. The Jews ask, “What sign (authentication) can you show us to justify what you have done?” Jesus answers, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Following the usual Johannine technique of misunderstanding the narrator notes that Jesus was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, which the disciples understood only after the resurrection.

The three readings today have been selected with a view to the Lenten schooling of catechumens preparing for Baptism: the fundamental demands embodied in the Decalogue, the “preaching of a Christ crucified,” and the hope of resurrection. But they have enduring value for all members of the pilgrim Church. In a culture of autonomy and personal fulfilment, it is crucial that the deepest social values we share be translated into law. At times this can involve a form of “crucifixion” as people struggle against racism, sexism and the various assaults on life. The gospel also reminds us of the cost of prophetic criticism of the abuse of religious institutions. The scripture scholar Raymond Brown, who was one of my professors at university, observed that if Jesus were to reappear with similar challenges today, those most likely to reject him would identify themselves as Christians and think of Jesus as an imposter. Lent is a time not only to rejoice but also to repent of those evils that can lie close to the very heart of religious devotion.

+ 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: The current session has now closed. A 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.



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 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.

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.

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.

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



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 SYMT 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.



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 this **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.

The next **Prayer Breakfast** will take place on **Saturday 10th March at 8:30am** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Everyone welcome.

Red Mission Boxes: Would all box holders in Holy Family parish Church bring them to church for emptying/counting. Boxes can be handed to Mary/John Wrigley or left in the sacristy. Donations also gratefully accepted.

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.



Holy Family Easter Egg Raffle

Our annual Easter egg raffle will start this Sunday. Monies raised will be shared between Lucy's fundraising for Lourdes and funding our senior citizens afternoon tea. Tickets available from the Box Office. As ever we are grateful for your support and generosity.

St Patrick's Day - Ceili Night to be held at Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight. The evening starts at 7.30pm until 12.00pm and includes Irish Music by Sean McSherry, Irish Bingo and plenty of dancing. All proceeds are in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets cost Adults £8, OAP £5 and Child £3. Call Ann on 07919185047 or Pat at the Door.

Catenian News

The Catenian Provincial Public Speaking Competition for sixth former students will take place on **Friday 23rd March** at Carmel College St Helens WA10 3AG at 7pm. Our local schools will be represented. Tickets £14 each which includes refreshments. Contact Eddie Byrnes Tel. 342 5872 Birkenhead Circle are delighted to announce the issue of an award from the Bursary fund to support Charlotte Duggan's future mission. This award will be presented after Sunday mass in the near future by their President Terry McLoughlin.

Gift Aid: The end of the tax year is drawing ever closer. If you Gift Aid your offertory donation it is important that you check you are paying sufficient tax to cover the amount we will reclaim under Gift Aid. If you are no longer paying tax or not enough tax to cover the claim you should contact us urgently:

Holy Family: Fred Taylor 342 5922

OLSJ: Bernard Larkin 342 5517

Sat 3 rd March	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Fred Overton	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 4 th March	Third Sunday of Lent	11:15 am	Mass – Edward Congdon R.I.P.	
Mon 5 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Giovanni Laterra R.I.P.	
Tues 6 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Kay Gibbings R.I.P.	
Wed 7 th March	Ss Perpetua & Lucy	11:30 am	Funeral Mass – Pamela Nolan	
		9:00 am to 8:30 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 8 th March	St John of God		No Mass	
Fri 9 th March	St Francis of Rome		No Mass	
Sat 10 th March	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Winifred Lewis Birthday Anniversary	
Sun 11 th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	11:15 am	Mass – Frances Fishwick Anniversary	

HOLY FAMILY	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
	Mon 5 th March	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at Our Lady & St John at 9am)
	Tues 6 th March	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at Our Lady & St John at 9am)
	Wed 7 th March	Ss Perpetua & Lucy	9:00 am	Mass – Mary Teresa Murphy R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Thurs 8 th March	St John of God	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
			12:45 pm	Funeral Service – Elizabeth Walker
	Fri 9 th March	St Francis of Rome	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Stations of the Cross (Every Friday in Lent)
Sat 10 th March	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Patrick Hopkins R.I.P (Anniversary)	
Sun 11 th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	9:30 am	Mass - Arnold McNab Intentions	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Keith John Smith R.I.P (Lately Dead)	

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.