

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



*A Mother's Day Prayer*  
*Gracious and loving Mary,*  
*Mother of Jesus,*  
*and our Mother,*  
*pray for all mothers*  
*the world over*  
*on this their*  
*special day.*  
*Amen.*



*Happy*  
*Mother's Day*

We warmly welcome the **3rd Heswall Scout Group** to Mass today, here at Holy Family, to help us celebrate Mothering Sunday.

As Holy Week gets closer, the central theme of the liturgy today is captured by the second reading: "God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy... and brought us to life with Christ." The first reading presents in capsule form the "sin history" which led to exile, an experience poignantly remembered in the responsorial psalm. Yet God's final word is not indictment of sin but the gift of liberation and return to the land of promise.

The central assertion of the gospel, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life" concludes a dramatic dialogue between Nicodemus and Jesus. Nicodemus comes by night and praises Jesus, but Jesus says that no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above (*anōthen* in Greek). Since this word can also mean 'again,' Nicodemus is described -using the familiar Johannine technique of misunderstanding that leads to deeper insight- as taking this to mean natural birth, to which Jesus responds that he is talking about being born of water and the Spirit. This is an allusion to baptism, which is from above, that is from God's gratuitous act of love.

Jesus' statement then leads into the enigmatic comparison of the lifting up (crucifixion) of the Son of Man to Moses' lifting up the bronze serpent on a pole in the desert after the people were bitten by serpents as punishment for their rebellion against Moses. The comparison in John is not between Jesus and the serpent, but between the saving effect of the lifting up in both cases. The section from today's gospel then expands on the gift of eternal life that flows from belief in the exalted Son of Man.

In announcing God's love for the world. John's vision embraces the whole cosmos, not simply a chosen people so that everyone who believes may be saved. God's love is more dominant in John's writings than anywhere else in the New Testament. God is love; love is the mutual relationship between Jesus and the Father. Jesus loves the disciples and says that their love of service and friendship is to be a hallmark of discipleship.

The concluding verses present the shadow side of John's theology. Whoever does not believe in Jesus has already been condemned because they prefer darkness to light because their deeds are evil. Judgement occurs during the ministry of Jesus rather than at the end of history. Lent and Easter remind us that no human evil is beyond the pale of God's love and that forgiveness is a gift of God.

### + 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.

**Confirmation 2018:** This year confirmation will take place on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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.

**Next Justice & Peace Meeting** will be **tomorrow, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at Holy Family church at 7.30pm. Anyone from either parish is welcome to come along and see the ways in which we try to promote the causes of Justice and Peace.

**Holy Family 200 Club:** The current session has now closed. A new session will **start 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018**. Envelopes will be available from mid-March. New members are needed so please give this some thought. Many thanks for your support.

**OLSJ Kitchen:** Please do not leave items in the kitchen at OLSJ. If you are wanting to donate something to the kitchen, please check with Joan Larkin first, before leaving it there! We are really struggling for storage space! Thank you!

### ☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kathleen Jones** who has died recently.

**Kathleen Jones'** Funeral Service takes place at Landican on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30am**.

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

### Lenten Reflections

Do come and join Bob Evans in the Meeting Room at OLSJ **every Tuesday in Lent from 7pm – 8pm** where he will be holding a discussion group on the book **Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly. If you can't make the group, you can sign up for the daily Lenten Reflections from Matthew Kelly on our Parish Website via the Parish Blog. Just go to the Parish Blog and click on the link under the title 'Best Lent Ever' or alternatively you can go directly to the website at

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/lenten-reflections-2018>



Rachel Belderbos from OLSJ, invites parishioners to a **Coffee Morning** she is holding to raise funds for a new Breast Scanner at the Countess of Chester Hospital on **23<sup>rd</sup> March** from 10:30am onwards at 21 Mill Lane, Heswall.



### 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 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!

**Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje**

A Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje has been arranged for **12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Red Mission Boxes**

**Holy Family:** 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.

**OLSJ:** It is once again time for a collection. Would any OLSJ Red Box Holders please leave them in the sacristy over the next two weeks? Thank you, they will be returned with magazines in the normal way.

**National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage (Adoremus), Liverpool 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.**

Shrewsbury Diocese has been allocated 154 places for delegates on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and 710 places on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. There are two Masses on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/catholic-faith/the-new-evangelisation/adoremus). Booking forms should be returned by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Foodbank Collection:** Holy Family collection for Wirral Foodbank this week was 23.2kg. At the moment small packets of e.g. sugar, tea etc suitable for single people would be much appreciated. Many thanks for your continued generous support.

**IMPORTANT Please Take Note** that no children should be left unattended in the children's area at the back of OLSJ church during or after Mass. This area is not supervised and all children playing there should be accompanied by an adult at all times.

**Catenian News:** The Catenian Provincial Public Speaking Competition for sixth former students will take place on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

***Do you have a flair for the creative? Enjoy the outdoors and like the idea of helping young people develop new skills? Are you over 18? Yes?*** Then perhaps you might like to come and visit us @ 3rd Heswall and join our team. We need more adult helpers and leaders to continue to offer a varied and exciting programme. If you can spare an hour or so a week then speak to Jean 07966295388 Come on down for a visit!



Holy Family Easter Flower Collection will take place on Sunday March 18th. Thanks for your continued generosity.

**Fairtrade Free Raffle - TODAY at 10.30am Mass at Holy Family**

As part of the Fairtrade Fortnight campaign, Sainsburys, have donated a hamper of a sample of the goods they offer for sale under the Fairtrade banner. The Justice & Peace Group have decided that it is appropriate on Mother's Day to pass this hamper to a family in the parish via a free raffle. The tickets will be given out to all ladies as you enter church and the draw for the single winner will take place at the end of mass. The purpose of this exercise is once again to draw attention to this simple way in which we can support poor farmers in their campaign to receive a just wage for their work.



Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Winifred Lewis Birthday Anniversary	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
<b>Sun</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Frances Fishwick Anniversary	
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Fr. Stephen Dwyer R.I.P.	
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Cecilia Hiepko	
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Celebration of Word and Communion</b>	
		9:00 am to 8:30 pm	<b>Adoration</b> - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	7:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Pat Timson	
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial		<b>No Mass (Mass at Holy Family at 9am)</b>	
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> March	☘ St Patrick	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Tim Hetherington Anniversary Mass	
<b>Sun</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Michael Walker	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – Patrick Hopkins R.I.P (Anniversary)
	<b>Sun</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> - Arnold McNab Intentions
			5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Keith John Smith R.I.P (Lately Dead)
	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial		<b>No Mass (Mass at Our Lady &amp; St John at 9am)</b>
	Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial		<b>No Mass (Mass at Our Lady &amp; St John at 9am)</b>
	Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Intentions of Belinda Robinson
	Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> - Joan Garvey R.I.P. <b>Followed by Stations of the Cross (Every Friday in Lent)</b>
	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> March	☘ St Patrick	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – Mr & Mrs Stanton R.I.P (Anniversaries) <b>** NO ADORATION/HOLY HOUR TODAY.</b> <b>Baptisms taking place) **</b>
<b>Sun</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> - Smyth Family Intentions	
		5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Holy Souls	

**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, Father Peter Kelly, Frances Firth and Ken Davies.

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