

---

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

---

As the liturgical year draws to a close, the Church is less concerned about the number of shopping days to Christmas than with sobering reflections on the end of all days. The Gospels conclude with Jesus' final instructions to his disciples, his final testaments, which weave together words of hope and warnings about the pitfalls that loom during his absence.

Today's gospel launches a bitter polemic against the Pharisees. Its purpose is less to pillory them than to warn the leaders of Matthew's community about certain 'pharisaical' attitudes. They preach but do not practise what they preach; they lay heavy burdens on people's shoulders, without lifting a finger to lighten them; they revel in external signs of respect and honour – elegant clothes, places of honour at worship and at banquets, concern for official titles. In contrast Jesus' disciples are to be equal brothers and sisters with only one Father in heaven, and one master, Christ, while their chosen title should be 'servant', one who seeks humiliation rather than exaltation.

When coupled with Malachi's attack on the priests who cause many to falter and show partiality, the gospel sounds a strong warning to religious leaders of all ages. From Jesus first great sermon, in which he praises the poor in spirit, the meek and humble, the mourning and the merciful, and those who seek peace and justice, until his final proclamation that he is hidden in the least of his brothers and sisters, he heralds values directly opposed to dominating power. Rather than laying burdens on people without lifting a finger, Matthew's Jesus will give rest to those who labour and are overburdened and his prime 'honorific title is 'glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners.'

Bishops these days are faced with almost unsurmountable tasks but Vatican 2 emphasises that their primary role is to be spiritual guides to their flock, proclaimers of God's word and pastors to their priests. During the Ordination ceremony, when the priest places his hands between those of the bishop, it is not simply a one-way gesture of obedience, but in reality, the gesture commits them both: priest and bishop. The newly ordained priest chooses to entrust himself to the bishop and for his part the bishop obliges himself to look after those hands.

Paul provides a counter-vision to dominating and distant leadership. His care is that of a mother feeding and looking after her own children. He has come to love them so much that he shares not only the Good News but his whole life too. Later he says, "We treated each one of you as a Father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you. A nursing mother's love and a Father's encouragement are combined in Paul's pastoral consciousness. How about our pastoral outlook?"

**Holy Family 200 Club****Week 5**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 24	A. Smallwood
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 38	S. Orr
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 92	M. Fidderman

**Caritas Holy Family:** The recent collection in Holy Family Parish Church raised an amount of £80. Many thanks to all who contributed.



*Christmas Card and Gifts Sale in aid of  
Wirral Hospice, St John's*

Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7.30pm in the  
Meeting Room at Our Lady & St John Church.

Entertainment by Accord Singers.

Entrance £2.00 including Tea/Coffee and cake.

**World Faiths', Climate Change & Community  
Influence Event - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Faiths4Change** is a local charity group which is organising an event aimed at bringing together, on Merseyside, individuals and groups interested in practical local action to meet the many challenges posed by climate change. The event is free and open to all, by booking or invite, and takes place at Wirral Change, in Birkenhead. To find out more please contact [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk) or 0151 705 2162 / 07976 205 629



**Monday Coffee Mornings at OLSJ** after Monday morning Mass every week, 9:30am-11am). A welcome start to each week for all who would like to come.

**PENSIONERS LUNCH:** Our monthly pensioners lunch for men and women, returns on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** at 12:30 in the meeting room of Our Lady and St John. Please see additional information on the separate sheet in the newsletter.

**OLSJ Piety Stall:** Do come and have a look at the lovely selection of Christmas cards, advent calendars, diaries, candles and other gifts for sale at the back of Church. All items individually priced. Please put money for any Piety Stall items, in the wall box by the defibrillator.



**Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm at OLSJ  
&  
Saturday after 12 noon Mass at  
Holy Family**

*It is our very sweet duty  
to honour and adore in the Blessed Host,  
which our eyes see,  
the Incarnate Word whom we cannot see  
and who, without leaving heaven,  
is made present before us.*

**OLSJ Children's Area:** We are hoping to revamp the children's area at the back of church. We have quite a lot of books now and would be very grateful for any donations of toys. Some suggested items include puzzles, dolls, cars, Duplo/building blocks, role play (dressing up, play shop/kitchen). Anything and everything will be considered and any surplus will go the charity shop once we have finished. If you have any suggestions for the area please speak to Laura (from Children's Liturgy) or email [craftykidswirral@hotmail.com](mailto:craftykidswirral@hotmail.com). Donations can also be left in the box in the Meeting Room.

**New Representative(s) Required** for Our Lady and St. John's Parish **AND** Holy Family to help co-ordinate the **Women's World Day of Prayer** with the other churches in Heswall and Pensby. Unfortunately, Susan McNulty (Our Lady and St John) and Carole Hawkins (Holy Family) have both had to step down from this position, after many years' service and would be very grateful if someone would be willing to take up this role by themselves or with a friend, on behalf of both of parishes.

**What does the role involve?**

It involves a couple of evening meetings per year, an evening rehearsal and the event itself which usually takes place the first Friday in March. This is one of the few ecumenical activities that we are involved with and provides an opportunity to meet with some lovely people from the other local churches. Please contact Carole Hawkins, to find out more information, 648 6130.

**ASSAM Collection Reminder:** The next Monthly Assam Collection will be after all masses this **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.**

🌸🌸 **OLSJ Flower Group** 🌸🌸 We are meeting at **2.30pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** to do the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Please bring any suitable greenery you have. Newcomers welcome.

**Volunteers needed** on the Eucharistic Ministry rota at OLSJ, to go out into our parish community, giving communion to the elderly and housebound. Full training will be given. DBS needed as working with vulnerable adults. See Father Stephen if you feel able to join our close team for this valuable and rewarding work.

**Memorial Mass for Sr Mary Borgia**, Former Head Teacher of St. Winerfreds Girls School, Prenton. The Mass will be celebrated at St. Werburghs Birkenhead on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon**. All ex-pupils welcome.

**PREPARE THE WAY** - An Advent Celebration with Jo Boyce & Friends and a Children's Choir from St Joseph's & St Alban's Schools in St Joseph's Church, Wallasey on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Please join us for an exceptional evening to begin the Advent season and your preparations for Christmas. See the poster at the back of church for further details.



### **Holy Family Christmas Fayre**

The Christmas Fayre will take place on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at Ladymount School. It may seem like a long way off but..... now is the time to clear out the cupboards for toiletries, bottles (full of course), teddies good quality bric-a-brac. More details will follow soon. Please support with your donations. Thanks.



### The next **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**

will take place on

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 8:30 am**

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ.

Please do join us for an hour of prayers, discussion and a tasty breakfast! No need to book, just turn up. Everyone welcome.

This month's breakfast will be provided by the parishioners of the Heswall Quakers.

**S.V.P. Charity Night:** The Bebington Dramatic Society present 'One Man Two Governors' at the Gladstone Theatre on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** at 7:30pm. Tickets are £9 in aid of the S.V.P. Contact Peter Ryan 648-6704.

**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 12.67 kgs and OLSJ 8.28 kgs.

### **November is the Month of the Holy Souls**

At Holy Family, envelopes are available in the foyer for you to remember your family and friends during the month of November and throughout the coming months. Please place your envelopes in the basket in front of the Sacred Heart statue. May I take this opportunity to remind you that because we receive so many Intentions during this month that it's simply not possible to say an Individual Mass for each and every intention. The Mass is simply styled as "Holy Souls", please rest assured however that Masses will be said regularly throughout November and in the coming months, and all your intentions are remembered at those Masses.

At Our Lady and St John a **Mass of Remembrance** for all in our parish who have died will be offered on Thursday next, **9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**. Following the service, all are invited to come to the meeting room where light refreshments will be served.

**Liverpool Seafarers Centre:** We are collecting items for the Seafarer Centre to give to our men and women who sail the sea and spend many months away from home. Please see the leaflet for further details of how you can help. A box will be available in the Meeting Room for collection of items. Thank you.

### **Fr Andreas – Silver Jubilee**

Thank you to everyone who signed and sent messages on the congratulations card. This will be sent to Fr Andreas shortly. We are delighted to hear from Bishop Joseph that at the celebration on 31<sup>st</sup> October he will personally hand to Fr Andreas the following message:

*'We, the Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish, Pensby, England, wish to congratulate you and join with you in the celebration of your Silver Jubilee. We also promise to pray for the continued success of your priestly mission, particularly to the Adivasi people of Assam.'*

Bishop Joseph also writes to say that he is 'Keeping you all in my prayers'.

**Justice & Peace Group- Next Meeting:** The next J&P meeting will take place at Holy Family church on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**. Parishioners from either parish are welcome to come along and see what we are about.

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St Charles Borromeo	6:00 pm	Mass – Monica McNab (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Derek Jones R.I.P.	
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Elizabeth Greenwood Anniversary	
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial		No Mass	
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	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 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	7:00 pm	Mass for the deceased of the Parish	
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St. Leo the Great		(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)	
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St. Martin of Tours	6:00 pm	Mass – David Morley 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> 	11:15 am	Mass – For all victims of war	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St Charles Borromeo		<b>NO MASS OR SERVICE TODAY (NO CONFESSIONS TODAY)</b>
	Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	Mass – Intentions of Fr Andreas Indwar (25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination)
			5:00 pm	Mass – Dora Noonan R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Mrs S Nagata R.I.P
	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St. Leo the Great	9:00 am	Mass – Mary Wrigley (Birthday Thanksgiving)
	Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St. Martin of Tours	12 noon	Mass – Mary Levy & Albert Shaw R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>  <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> 	9:30 am	Mass – For Victims of Conflict
5:00 pm			Mass – Norman Bennett R.I.P (Anniversary)	

**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, and Father Peter Kelly.

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