

---

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

---

I have always felt a certain sympathy for the battered man who hides his unexpected gift of one talent. Before going abroad, a man gives incredible sums of money to three servants: the first ten talents, the second five talents and the third, one talent, which alone equalled the wages of an ordinary worker for twenty years! Without further instructions the master leaves. Hurriedly the first two servants double their gifts, while the one-talent man digs a hole in the ground and hides his master's money. A long time afterwards the master returns and asks what has happened to his money. After identical recitations of having doubled their gift, the first two servants are each told, "Well, done good and faithful servant," and put in charge of even more and welcomed into their master's happiness.

The man with one talent must be despondent and begins immediately with his excuse, "Sir, I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you had not scattered, so I was afraid and I went off and hid your talent in the ground." The master's outburst is shocking. He berates the servant as wicked and lazy, tells him that he should have invested the money with bankers (contrary to the Jewish laws against usury), gives the talent to the one who already has ten and has the servant thrown out into the dark where there will be weeping and grinding (better 'gnashing') of teeth.

If the master of this parable is to represent the returning Jesus, he seems vindictive, arbitrary and even somewhat immoral. Is there anything the poor third servant does that explains the bitter response and punishment? Comparison of his excuse with the master's reply gives a clue. He calls his master a hard man who expects returns from his investment and invokes fear as his defence. In replying "So you knew ..." the master admits that he expects a return but never repeats or agrees with the servant calling him "a hard man." A person who gives away vast sums may be enterprising but is scarcely hard. The tragic flaw of the one-talent man is that he lived out of fear even when gifted.

Unlike the waiting bridesmaids last week who presumed on the generosity of others, this man is a victim of his own fright. After the predictions of the end time and the threats of severe judgement awaiting the unfaithful at Jesus' return, Matthew is urging his community not to be timid and fearful but to take risks. The paradox of biblical revelation is that the merciful, gracious and compassionate God who frees us from slavery is also the God who will judge us on the use of our gifts. Every gift of God is also a mandate to bear fruit in God's vineyard.



**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.

**ARC Christmas Cards:** A small supply of this year's cards will be on sale after the 9.30 am mass at the Holy Family parish, this Sunday. This is a chance to support a local charity who specialise in helping the homeless in our locality - a very deserving cause, particularly at this time of the year.



**Do you want to have the experience of a lifetime that will be giving something back?**

We are a newly formed HCPT group taking local children to Lourdes at Easter, looking for enthusiast volunteers to join us. The trip is from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018. We are a self-funded local charity that is made up of volunteers and do all this in our spare time. If you would like further information call Phil 07515689833.

**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. If you would like to come and join us, please give Helen a call on 0151 342 7824 on or before Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Cost for your home cooked lunch is £4.00 per person.



### **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.

**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.

**CAFOD Envelopes:** If Parishioners of either Parish have CAFOD Family Fast Envelopes that you haven't yet brought back, please do so as soon as possible. We are being pressed by CAFOD to finalise figures. Thank you.

**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.



**Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm at OLSJ**

**&**

**Saturday after 12 noon Mass at Holy Family**

*When we contemplate Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, He draws near to us and becomes more intimate to us than we are to ourselves. He grants us a transforming union and, in the Spirit, He gives us access to the Father. As He, Himself said to Philip, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9)*

*(Quote from Saint Pope John Paul II)*

**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.



**Special Viewing of Fatima DVD at the Monday Coffee Morning this week at OLSJ.** This week, after Monday morning Mass (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November) a short DVD (25 minutes long) entitled '**What did Our Lady say at Fatima**' will be shown at 10:15am in the Meeting Room at OLSJ, followed by tea and coffee. Everyone welcome.

### 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.



Liverpool  
Seafarers Centre  
*A Lifeline for Seafarers*

### LIVERPOOL SEAFARERS CENTRE

#### MORE ITEMS NEEDED!

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. Over the last few years, we ask for your donations which will be wrapped in Christmas Paper and given to our visiting Seafarers. There will be a box in the meeting room at OLSJ, where you can place any of the following items:

- Face flannel, ball point pen, playing cards, key rings
- Chocolate bars, mints, chewing gum (Toblerone is a favourite!), boxed tea/coffee sachets
- Woolley hat, scarf, fingerless gloves, socks, baseball cap
- Christmas card or festive note with handwritten message
- Pocket bible/ New Testament / individual book of the bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

We are asking for help on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** after 7pm Mass, to come along and help wrap these gifts. Refreshments available. Thank you.

**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 13.21 kgs and OLSJ 16.97 kgs.

### Ladies & Gents Over 55's Afternoon Tea Christmas Special



The next afternoon tea will be on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm prompt til 4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Come and enjoy a mince pie and some entertainment. Suggested donation of £3. Parishioners from both parishes welcome.

There will be **no** Afternoon Tea in December, the next Afternoon Tea will be in January.

**St. Peter's Singers, Heswall's Choral Society**, will be performing Mendelssohn's Elijah with the full choir and soloists at the Church of the Good Shepherd on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Tickets are £12 (including programme) and are available to purchase at Lingham's or visit [www.stpeterssingers.co.uk](http://www.stpeterssingers.co.uk)

**URGENT: The British Red Cross** are desperately looking to recruit some bag packing heroes on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** at Heswall Tesco - 10am to 4pm. If you could spare a couple of hours to help, please call Lauren on 07969430471 or send an e-mail to [laurendoy@redcross.org.uk](mailto:laurendoy@redcross.org.uk). Thank you.

### Would you like to give your acting skills a go?

Christ's Passion for Wirral 2018 is a collaboration of all the Christian Churches on the Wirral. They are gathering together to produce a film of Christ's Passion next year. Auditions for the various roles will take place on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**.

All roles are voluntary and will be rehearsed and filmed over six weeks, afternoons and evenings beginning Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Everyone welcome but please be aware that this is a Christian project and voluntary prayer will be part of rehearsals. For more information call 07465 233252 or email [cpf2018@gmail.com](mailto:cpfw2018@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.wirralpassionplay.co.uk](http://www.wirralpassionplay.co.uk)

### Lately Dead of the Parish

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of **John Joseph Gratton** (Our Lady & St John). John's Funeral Service takes place on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 1pm** at Our Lady and St John. May he Rest in Peace. Please remember his family at this difficult time.

**Clergy Education & Training Fund – Annual Collection** will be held after all Masses at both parishes on the weekend of **25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> November**. The collection for the Clergy Education & Training Fund is essential to help meet the cost of training Seminarians for the Priesthood, and other ongoing training costs for Parish Priests and Deacons.

**New Ministry Rotas at Holy Family:** The New Ministry Rotas for the next 6 months are now available. They have been emailed to those who have requested, copies are on the notice boards around Church, they are on the website and a few copies have been printed off for those who can't access them in other ways. As always, please remember that if you can't fulfil a particular Ministry, it's YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to make arrangements for cover (in some instances, this is not being done!). Thank you.

Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Maureen Birch & Ray Coonan R.I.P.	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
<b>Sun</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Holy Souls	
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Intentions of Beth Bowman	
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary		<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	St Cecilia	9:00 am	<b>Celebration of Word and Communion</b>	
		<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>John Joseph Gratton Funeral Service</b>	
		9:30 am to 8:30 pm	<b>Adoration</b> - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Ferial	7:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Tim Dwyer R.I.P.	
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ss Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions		<b>(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)</b>	
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Matt O’Keefe Birthday	
<b>Sun</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Margaret & Bill Lee	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – Theresa Miller Intentions
	<b>Sun</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> – Intentions of Jeanette & Family
			5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Moira Williams R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial		<b>(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)</b>
	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	St Cecilia	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> - Thomas, Pam, Thomas & Melvin Johnston R.I.P (Anniversaries)
	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ss Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Holy Souls (November List)
	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – In Thanksgiving
	<b>Sun</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> – Doris Horton (90th Birthday Thanksgiving)
5:00 pm			<b>Mass</b> – Margaret Mulligan R.I.P.	

**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.*