

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

Two themes resonate throughout today's readings: God's shepherding care: "As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view, when he stands up in the midst of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall be a true shepherd to them," and the vision of the end time, when Jesus as King and Son of Man will separate the evildoers from the virtuous as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

The parable of the Last Judgement can be interpreted in two ways. It has become the "Gospel within the Gospel" for people dedicate to works of charity and justice for today's multitudes suffering hunger, thirst, horrible illness and imprisonment. Most surprising is that Jesus is identified with such people and was unknown even to those who ministered to him. A 'universalistic' interpretation says that anyone (Christian or non-Christian) who does such works of mercy to another person is doing them to Christ and will be rewarded by Christ.

However, this parable concludes a long discourse by Jesus to *disciples* telling them how they are to live during his absence. When Jesus departs after the resurrection, he commissions his disciples as missionaries to the ends of the earth, baptising in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and spreading his teaching, but always with the consciousness that he will be with them to the end of time. The setting for the parable of the sheep and goats is at the end of time when we learn that Jesus was always with them among the least of his brothers and sisters. The least are called 'brothers and sisters' a term that Matthew reserves for disciples of Jesus. The Gentile nations will be judged on how they received Christian disciples, the least of Jesus' brothers and sisters, who carry the presence of the absent Jesus. These disciples bear the same kind s of apostolic sufferings that Paul speaks of: hunger, thirst, living as a stranger, nakedness, sickness and imprisonment. Paul sees these as signs that Christ's power is made perfect in weakness. Apostolic sufferings hide the power and the presence of Christ.

Matthew is not just concerned about punishment being meted out to Gentiles who resist the Gospel imperatives. Gentiles who minister to Christ hidden in the missionaries are called virtuous. Justice is constituted by acts of loving kindness and mercy to those in need; the world will be made right or just when the way the least are treated becomes the norm of action. What is done positively for them is not to be limited to them. The values we propose to the nations must be those that we as Church witness to among the nations.

## Christmas Mass Times 2017

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9:30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - **Holy Family**

11:15am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - **Our Lady & St. John**

**No 5pm** Mass at **Holy Family**

6pm Christmas Vigil Mass - **Our Lady & St. John**

11:30pm Carols - **Our Lady & St. John**

Midnight Mass - **Our Lady & St. John**

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9:30am The Nativity of the Lord - **Holy Family**

11:15am The Nativity of the Lord - **Our Lady & St. John**



**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.



### Help Needed for the Holy Family Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will take place on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at Ladymount School. Help is needed to set up Fayre on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** in the school from 4.30pm. Tables from church need transporting to school. If you can help please give your name in at the Box Office. All money raised will go towards plants, shrubs and any other gardening materials for our hardworking team.

**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.

### Christmas Cards to Palestine Message of Hope

The Justice and Peace Group invite you to join them again in sending Christmas Cards with our messages of support to the beleaguered Christians in the Holy Family parishes of Gaza and Ramallah. This year we've been told that the children in the two parish schools would also very much appreciate cards to brighten their lives and it would be lovely if some of our children would like to send their own to them.

As last year, we are asking if you would bring one or two cards to church - signed and with a short greeting. Just address the envelope *Gaza* or *Ramallah*. Stamps are not needed as we will post the cards. There will be a collection box for them at the back of both our churches so that parishioners in both can join in. **The last collection will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

Your response last year was magnificent and we thank you again in anticipation.

*The Justice and Peace Group*



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

**Thanks to everyone who chose 3rd Heswall** as their co-op charity you helped us raise £1365.13 towards renovations in the Scout Hut. Good news we have been chosen again so please log in and choose us again and every time you use your co-op card we will get a donation. If you haven't chosen a charity before please choose us. Thanks for your support.

### 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.

**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 17.93 kgs and OLSJ 11.69 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.

### Churches Together in Heswall

invite you to come **Carol Singing** on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at **10:30am** outside Lingham, Telegraph Road, Heswall with the Port Sunlight Lyceum Band.





The last **Stitch Craft meeting** before Christmas will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December** the group will recommence on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

**Connor Johnson from OLSJ Parish**, will be doing the Sponsored Santa Dash on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** to help raise money for the WWW Fund (his school charity this year). He will be at the back of Church at the end of 11:15 am Mass at OLSJ this Sunday, if you could sponsor him for this worthy cause. Thank you.

**MISSIO at Our Lady and St John**. Many thanks to all who contributed towards the recent collections which finally realised £250.00.



**Scout Stamps** will be on sale in both parishes from this weekend. Stamps cost **30p** which is considerably lower than Royal Mail. There will also be a Scout-Post Post Box at the back of Our Lady and St John this year. Please support this as monies go both to charity and your local scout group.

**Advent Service at 6pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December** at Our Lady & St John. A traditional service of readings, poems and carols followed by seasonal refreshments. All welcome.



**First Holy Communion 2018 Preparation – Next Meeting:** The next meeting for children not in our Parish School, who are due to make their First Holy Communion in June 2018, will be on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm** in the Parish Meeting room at Our Lady and St John.

**Clergy Education & Training Fund – Annual Collection** will be held after all Masses at both parishes **THIS weekend (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.

**CARITAS at Christmas 2017:** There will be a collection after all weekend Masses at both Parishes on the **weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you for your support. Your donations will go to families in need within the Diocese, ensuring they have a Christmas and gifts to celebrate Christ's Birth and create happy family memories.

**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 £12, available to purchase at Lingham's or visit [www.stpeterssingers.co.uk](http://www.stpeterssingers.co.uk)

**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!).

#### Holy Family 200 Club

##### Week 7

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 169	V. Taylor
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 43	F. Caldow
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 31	P. Davies

##### Week 8

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 110	K. Doyle
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 80	T. Otty
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 52	T. McGetterick

#### \*\* Service Change at Holy Family \*\*

From this week we will no longer be having a Service of Word & Communion at Holy Family on Tuesdays. We are finding it difficult to get cover on occasion and we're increasingly finding that it falls upon one or two people. Mass is of course available at Our Lady & St John on Tuesday at 9am and we would encourage you to attend there. There is no change to the Thursday Service for the time being. Thank you

#### Lately Dead (Holy Family)

Your prayers are asked for the Repose of the Soul of **Fred Braithwaite** who died recently. His Funeral Service takes place at Holy Family at 1:15pm, followed by interment at Heswall Cemetery this coming Thursday. May he Rest in Peace.

Please remember his family in your prayers at this difficult time.

There will be a memorial Mass for the late **Tim Dwyer R.I.P.** at St. Werburgh's Church in Chester on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10:45am.



**Children's Nativity:** Note that there will be NO Children's Nativity at Mass this Christmas, however, all children are welcome to come to the Advent Service at OLSJ on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**, to take part in a nativity scene with a reading and a children's carol. Please let the children's liturgy team at OLSJ know, if your child would like to take part.

Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Matt O'Keefe Birthday	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Margaret & Bill Lee	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Hazel Campbell	
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Marie McKeown	
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Celebration of Word and Communion</b>	
		9:30 am to 8:30 pm	<b>Adoration</b> - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord	
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St Andrew	7:00 pm	Mass – Private Intention	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Ferial		<b>(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)</b>	
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Andrew Walker	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>	11:15 am	Mass – Agnes Murphy, Charlie, Owen & Family	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – In Thanksgiving
	Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>	9:30 am	Mass – Doris Horton (90th Birthday Thanksgiving)
			5:00 pm	Mass – Margaret Mulligan R.I.P.
	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial		<b>(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)</b>
	Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial		<b>(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)</b>
	Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Frances Ford Intentions
	Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	St Andrew	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
			<b>1:15 pm</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b> - Fred Braithwaite
	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Alan Greer R.I.P (Recently Died)
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Fr Pat O'Brien R.I.P (Anniversary)	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b>	9:30 am	Mass – John Pritchard R.I.P (Anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Joan Garvey (Speedy Recovery)	

**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.*