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

Tales of unrequited love have shaped the tragic imagination in dramas: Euripides' *Medea*, on which apparently BBC's *Doctor Foster* is based; Shakespeare's *Othello*, where the spurned Rodrigo hastens the downfall of "one that loved not wisely, but too well"; epic poems with Dido on the shores of Carthage as Aeneas sails away and the haunting arias of Bizet's *Carmen*. The real life tragedy of spurned love plays out in divorce and family courts across the land.

The Bible itself offers a startling panorama of spurned love. "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" hears the complaints of his people against Egyptian slave drivers and knows their suffering, comes down to rescue them and makes with them a covenant of enduring faithfulness (Exodus 3:4-9). Then rhythms of failure and apostasy unfold, followed again and again by a rejected and suffering God reaching out to an obtuse people.

Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard (5:1-7) is a poignant reminder of such love. God, the friend, plants and constructs a vineyard with loving care so that it will yield grapes but sour grapes is all it gives. A distraught God pleads with the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah, "What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?" Here the song turns tragic as God will cause ruin to the vineyard because he expected justice but found bloodshed, integrity but only a cry of distress.

Today's Gospel is a commentary on Isaiah's song. A man constructs a vineyard, reflecting God's care in Isaiah. He leases the vineyard to tenants and then at vintage time wants his share of the produce. He sends three servants whom the tenants beat up and kill, followed by another set more numerous than before who are treated the same way. Then with seemingly obtuse logic he muses that if he sends his son they will respect him. Not surprisingly, the tenants see this as an act of powerless desperation and kill the son. As in Isaiah the mood shifts, the owner will come "and bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives." The rejection of Jesus by the Jerusalem establishment resulted ultimately in the destruction of the Temple and the transfer of the vineyard to others.

The utterly illogical action of the owner in sending his son reflects that pattern in which a long-suffering and compassionate God reaches out to human beings in the face of the most blatant forms of apostasy and idolatry. As followers of Jesus we are gifted tenants of God's vineyard, but if we neglect our responsibilities, the consequences are tragic and disastrous.



Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 19.87kgs and OLSJ 12.01kgs.

SPUC NESTON are having an evening with a fabulous local singer Susan Hedges on **Friday 13th October** at 7:30pm in St Winefride's School Hall, Mellock Lane, Neston. Tickets are only £5 which includes light refreshments and it's bring your own drink and glasses. For tickets ring Margaret on 336 2050.

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 1

1 st Prize	£25	No. 35	M. Gillham
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 113	T. Hurworth
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 141	K. Bull

Please can all outstanding subs be paid as soon as possible. New members most welcome.

Caritas
(formerly Catholic
Children Society)



HOLY FAMILY: Would all box holders bring the boxes 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 time for the Autumn Collection from Little House Boxes. Please leave them in the sacristy for emptying and collect them when emptied from the back of church. New boxes are planned for next April in the next few weeks. I will be in touch with people who Gift Aid their donations to ask you to sign new forms, to take account of the Society's change of name. Jill McKenzie 342 3338.

MISSIO Red Boxes



HOLY FAMILY: Would all box holders in Holy Family Parish Church bring the boxes to church for emptying and counting. Boxes can be left in the sacristy or handed to Mary or John Wrigley. Donations also gratefully received.

OLSJ: Would all OLSJ Red Box holders please bring their boxes to the Sacristy over the next 3 weeks for the usual collection? Boxes will be available at the back of the church 2 weeks later.

10th Cursillo Weekend in the Shrewsbury Diocese to be held at Wistaston Hall, Crewe on **12th to 15th October 2017**. See poster at the back of church for further details. shrewsbury@cursillouk.org



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

*My soul is sad,
My heart is breaking tonight.
Could you not watch and
comfort me until light?
Am I alone,
Surrounded only by night?
Could you not watch one hour with me?*

"Exploring our Catholic Faith through the Arts"

ACTS' ('ADULT CATHOLICS TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY') annual retreat is taking place from **Fri 20th October (pm) until after lunch Sun 22nd October 2017**. If you are aged between 20 – 35 you will be very welcome. Canon David Roberts will lead the retreat which will take place at St Winefride's, Holywell (N. Wales). Payment will be by anonymous donation (suggested cost £100). Please contact Siobhan Cartwright at siobhanbc@gmail.com / 0161 477 2783 / 07761 138947. Lifts may be available if required.

First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion

2018: If you have a child who will be 8 years old in this Academic Year, he or she will be eligible to celebrate these important sacraments in 2018. Children in Year 3 at our parish school Ladymount will follow a programme of preparation there. For children who are in other schools there will be a Parish Programme of Preparation taking place in the parish room at Our Lady and St John. If you wish your child to take part in the parish programme, please contact Fr Stephen on 342 6581 or email father.stephen@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk.



Cafod Harvest Fast Day

We reflect on the endless abundance of God's love, and how human beings across the world see this abundance in the harvests we bring in, the world over.

Please do not forget to bring your envelopes for collection at any of the masses at both parishes during October.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS will take place at Our Lady & St. John's on **Sunday 8th October at 3.30pm**. During the service, petitions may be placed before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will end with Benediction.



Over 55's Afternoon Tea: The next afternoon tea will be on **Tuesday 31st October, 2-4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Do come and enjoy a nice cup of tea, homemade cakes and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome.

OLSJ Children's Area: We are hoping to revamp the children's area at the back of church and would be very grateful for any donations of toys and books. 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. Donations can also be left in the box in the Meeting Room.



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.



The next **Monthly Prayer Breakfast** will take place on **Saturday 14th October 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 Heswall URC.

NEW PENSIONERS LUNCH: Our monthly pensioners lunch for men and women, returns on **Thursday 19th October** 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 16th October. Cost for your home cooked lunch is £4.00 per person.

VASES AND PLANT POTS FOR FREE



Many of us have vases and plant pots we haven't used for ages, so here is an opportunity to replenish your stock! Call in to the meeting room for a coffee on **Monday, 23rd October** between 9.30am and 11.15am and collect or swap some of your unwanted vases or plant pots. All welcome.

Christian Aid Petition to the Big Four Banks

At all masses on the weekend of **21st & 22nd October** at both Parishes, you will have a chance to sign a Christian Aid to petition asking Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and RBS to reduce their investments in fossil fuels and increase their financing of renewable energy generation. Suzy Smallwood will be at the back of both churches after each Mass to collect signatures. Additional information will be available for you to take away.

World Faiths', Climate Change & Community Influence Event - 14th 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 or 0151 705 2162 / 07976 205 629

News from Fr. Andreas in Assam.....

Fr. Andreas writes to tell us that he celebrates his Jubilee Year this year and will be celebrating this on 31st October at the school. Bishop Joseph will be there and also many parents, parishioners and School Guardians. I am sure that many parishioners will wish to pray for him and to send him good wishes. A means of doing this will be available shortly.

Fr. Andreas also tells us that Phoolwanti, one of the girls whose further education is being supported by a parishioner, has achieved top marks in her first year and is now re-admitted for her second year.

Finally, he says

" My regards too to all parishioners. Bye!"

Sat 7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary	6:00 pm	Mass – Ron Kilgannon Anniversary	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 8 th October	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Harvest Festival Mass – For the Parish	
Mon 9 th October	Blessed John Henry Newman	9:00 am	Mass – Tom Lacey Anniversary	
Tues 10 th October	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Ken Smith R.I.P.	
Wed 11 th October	Pope St John XXIII	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 12 th October	Ferial	7:00 pm	Mass – Mary Cook R.I.P.	
Fri 13 th October	St Edward the Confessor		(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)	
Sat 14 th October	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Agnes Cummins	
Sun 15 th October	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Michael Buckley R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary	12 noon	Mass - For those mourning the loss of a child
	Sun 8 th October	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Harvest Festival Mass – Harry Doolan R.I.P (Anniversary)
			5:00 pm	Mass – For the Parish
	Mon 9 th October	Blessed John Henry Newman		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 10 th October	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Wed 11 th October	Pope St John XXIII	9:00 am	Mass - Ed Flanagan R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Thurs 12 th October	Ferial		No Mass – Parish Pilgrimage
	Fri 13 th October	St Edward the Confessor	9:00 am	Mass – Alan Christian R.I.P.
	Sat 14 th October	Ferial	12 noon	Mass - Sarah Heery R.I.P (Anniversary)
Sun 15 th October	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Bryn Owen R.I.P (Anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Intentions of Mabel Levy	

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, Mary Latimer and Alexander Hennessey.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.