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

Frequently in literature and drama weddings are the setting for both a joyful denouement when young lovers surmount numerous hurdles on the road to the altar, as well as for the finale of an unfolding tragedy. So too in the Bible. Isaiah chooses the image of a feast of rich food and fine wines, where God will destroy death and wipe away every tear as he invites all nations to the table. When envisaging how God's reign will culminate at the end of history, Jesus tells of a king hosting a great wedding feast for his son.

In the first century a dual invitation was customary. Guests were invited well in advance and again gathered when the feast was about to begin. The banquet is prepared, everything is ready and the king perhaps somewhat satisfied summons the guests. Shockingly some simply ignore the invitation; others head out of town and the rest maltreat and kill the king's messengers. The previously generous host in his fury sends his armies to wipe out the invited guests and burn their town. Far from sulking though, he orders other servants to go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone they can find, good and bad. Matthew equates the refusing guests with those who hear the invitation of Jesus and turn it down leading to disastrous consequences. The substitute guests are then given a chance to do something with the invitation.

I always feel sorry for the poor guest not wearing a wedding garment, who gets thrown out into the dark. On the literal level it seems absurd that he would have a fine garment after being dragooned in from the streets. However, since clothing can be the symbol of new identification with Christ, the wedding garment evokes the good deeds or quality of life that one must show at the time of the great eschatological banquet. Matthew's Christians are not to bask in malicious joy over the destruction of Jerusalem, but to realise that despite their invitation they must be appropriately dressed. The gifts of God should always bear fruit in works of loving kindness and justice.

All of us can thank God for the invitation to the Eucharistic banquet given in baptism, which is an anticipation of the end-time feasting with God and the saints. At the same time, we should pray in repentance for those times when we have rejoiced over the suffering of others. We should also check out our wedding outfit. It may need sprucing up.

Holy Family 200 Club**Week 2**

1 st Prize	£25	No. 61	M. Close
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 82	T. McGetterick
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 86	E. Doyle

Please can all members pay their subs as soon as possible. Ronnie will be available after all masses at Holy Family this Sunday. New members are needed please give this some consideration.

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.

"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.



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?*

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 Cafod Fast Day envelopes during October. Donations can be put in the offertory collection plate at either parish but **MUST** be in a Cafod envelope. If you need an envelope, there are plenty at the back of Church.



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.

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



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.

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. Donations can also be left in the box in the Meeting Room.

The Hoylake Pro-Life Group have organised an ecumenical service of prayer and music to proclaim THE SANCITY OF LIFE. It takes place on Sunday **29th October at 4pm** at St Catherine's Church, Birkenhead Road, Hoylake, CH47 5AF All are welcome.

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 6th November at 12 noon**. All ex-pupils welcome.

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.



Change a Child's Life: This coming weekend, at all Masses at both parishes, Sister Martha will be talking about the work that she does with orphans and underprivileged children in Kenya, for the charity Change a Child's Life. You can also visit her Facebook page for further information about the charity. <https://m.facebook.com/changeachildslife/?ref=bookmarks>



Lucy's Pineapple Fund: Many thanks to the parishioners of Our Lady and St John's Church for raising £302.21 in the recent collection.



Mass will still take place at 9am next **Monday (16th of October)** at Our Lady and St. John and activities can still take place in the Meeting Room all day **BUT the church will be CLOSED** for a thorough clean from 10am and stay closed for the rest of that day.

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.

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!"

New Representative Required for Our Lady and St. John's Parish to help co-ordinate the **Women's World Day of Prayer** with the other churches in Heswall. Unfortunately, due to ill-health Susan McNulty has had to step down from this position and would be very grateful if someone would be willing to take up this role. If you are interested and would like to know more about what the role entails, please do contact Susan on 342- 6427.

Thank you to everyone from the Parish of Our Lady and St. John who helped to make our Harvest Festival Mass, last Sunday, such a success. A special thank you to **Bernie Hailwood** and **Joan Larkin** who spent a lot of time preparing for the event, that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sat 14 th October	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Agnes Cummins	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 15 th October	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Michael Buckley R.I.P.	
Mon 16 th October	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Tim Dwyer R.I.P.	
Tues 17 th October	St Ignatius of Loyola	9:00 am	Mass – Rosemarie (nee Pritchard) R.I.P.	
Wed 18 th October	St Luke	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 19 th October	St Peter of Alcantara	7:00 pm	Mass – Thomas McNamara R.I.P.	
Fri 20 th October	Ferial		(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)	
Sat 21 st October	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Jane Corcoran R.I.P.	
Sun 22 nd October	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Aidan Rogers	

HOLY FAMILY	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
	Mon 16 th October	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 17 th October	St Ignatius of Loyola	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Wed 18 th October	St Luke	9:00 am	Mass - John Telford R.I.P (Birthday Remembrance)
	Thurs 19 th October	St Peter of Alcantara		(Mass at OLSJ at 7pm)
	Fri 20 th October	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Holy Souls
	Sat 21 st October	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – For the Parish
Sun 22 nd October	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Special Intention	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Dorothy Bloom 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 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.