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

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At times we are tempted to wish that certain sayings of Jesus were lost or omitted from the Gospels. Jesus' sharp answer to the Pharisees and the Herodians (supporters of the client king of Galilee, Herod Antipas) in today's gospel may be one of these: "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Taken out of context this line has been used to justify a "two kingdom" theology, where life is divided into two autonomous realms, the secular and religious, or worse to justify unswerving obedience to secular authority.

Yet these views are far from Matthew's meaning. The setting is a trap laid for Jesus by opponents. The precise issue is paying taxes, not the autonomy of Caesar in the secular sphere. Taxes were an incendiary issue during the lifetime of Jesus. The Roman Empire imposed a head tax on the population of Judaea and Samaria and conducted a census to enforce it. While Jesus was still a child, Judas the Galilean led a revolt against the census, which was ruthlessly put down by the Roman army. The Pharisees who resented the Romans' occupation of the pure land of Israel were against the tax, while the Herodians supported it. They are setting a trap for Jesus. He is faced with being a collaborator or an insurrectionist.

With the wisdom of Solomon and a measure of irony Jesus traps the trappers. He asks to see a coin and they hand him a denarius which has the image of the Emperor "Tiberius, son of the divine Augustus" on one side and on the other his title of "Pontifex Maximus" (the supreme priest). Since Matthew locates these conflicts with Jewish authorities in the Temple area, the questioners are discredited by carrying the image of a pagan emperor into the Temple.

By responding, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," Jesus addresses only the census tax and embodies his rejection of violence as a way of dealing with oppressive situations. The second half of the reply "and to God what belongs to God," is comprehensive and includes all areas of life. The three disputes of Jesus in Matthew 22 culminate in the greatest of the commandments: loving God with our whole heart, mind and soul, and loving our neighbour as ourselves (next Sunday's gospel). Human beings not coins bear God's true image and no edict of Caesar can absolve Christians from this command to love God and to see and love God in your neighbour.

In every age Christians are faced with balancing the demands of Caesar with the commands of God. All leaders are subordinate to God's will. Paul summons the Thessalonians to show their faith in action, work for love and persevere through hope "in our Lord Jesus Christ." What better way is there to give back to God what belongs to God?

### **British Summer Time**

**Next Weekend 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> October, British Summer Time ends and Daylight-Saving Time (GMT) begins. Don't forget to put your clocks **BACK** one hour.**

**Holy Family 200 Club****Week 3**

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	£25	No. 138	P. Marley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	£10	No. 14	C. Keenan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	£5	No. 151	J. Lucas

Please can all subs be paid as soon as possible new members most welcome please see Ronnie Buckley after 9.30am or 5.15pm masses at a Holy Family.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> October (pm) until after lunch Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 - 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.

**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.

### **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.



### **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!"*

### **Fr Andreas - Silver Jubilee**

The J & P group are offering a mass to celebrate the occasion of Fr Andreas's Jubilee Year. We are also sending a congratulations card to Fr Andreas direct. Parishioners will have the opportunity shortly to personally sign this card and join with us in offering him our congratulations and joining in our promise to continue our prayers for the success of his priestly mission, particularly to the cause of the Adivasi people in Assam. The card will be at the back of Holy Family church.



**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

**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.

**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.

**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.

### **THANK YOU from Sister Martha!**

Many thanks to the generous donations to the charity, Change a Child's Life. The collection that took place last weekend raised a phenomenal amount (OLSJ £532.94 and Holy Family £579.84). Thank you for this wonderful opportunity for our children in Kenya.

### **Christian Aid Petition to the Big Four Banks**

At all masses **this** weekend 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.

**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.

Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Ferial	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Jane Corcoran R.I.P.	<b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b>
<b>Sun</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Aidan Rogers	
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Intentions of Helen Dwyer and Family	
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – Ernest Pocock Anniversary	
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> October	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 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	7:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Intentions of Carmel and Michael Delamere	
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial		<b>(Mass at Holy Family at 9am)</b>	
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Ss. Simon & Jude	6:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Edward Congdon R.I.P.	
<b>Sun</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	11:15 am	<b>Mass</b> – Cathy Marland R.I.P.	

<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>	Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Ferial	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – For the Parish
	<b>Sun</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> – Special Intention
			5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Dorothy Bloom R.I.P (Anniversary)
	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Ferial		<b>(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)</b>
	Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> - Intentions of Fr Peter Kelly (Sick)
	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Service of Word and Sacrament</b>
	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Ferial	9:00 am	<b>Mass</b> – For the Parish
	Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Ss. Simon & Jude	12 noon	<b>Mass</b> – Holy Souls
<b>Sun</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9:30 am	<b>Mass</b> – Special Intention	
		5:00 pm	<b>Mass</b> – Monica 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, Alexander Hennessey and Father Peter Kelly.  
*Please get in touch if there are any alterations.*