

---

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

---



In today's gospel Jesus tells us that the whole Law and the Prophets hang on the commands to love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and to love your neighbour as yourself. Today's readings make a fine prelude to the coming celebrations of All Saints and All Souls, which herald again those who truly loved God and neighbour.

In hearing Jesus' word we are listening to the voice of Jesus the Jewish teacher, since he quotes texts from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Nor is Jesus unique in summarising the Law by two central commands. The great rabbi Hillel, when challenged to recite the whole Torah standing on one foot, replied, "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Law. The rest is commentary." The first-century Jewish teacher Philo affirmed that love of God and neighbour fulfil the whole Law. Loving your neighbour as yourself does not mean that love of others cannot exist without healthy love of self but that we must put ourselves in the situation of our neighbour.

While exhortations to love our neighbour reappear frequently in the New Testament, surprisingly there are few commands to love God. A command to love God seems puzzling and difficult, for if love is spontaneous and free, how can it be commanded? God does not really need our service, nor is God changed by our love as is a neighbour or a loved one. God is absolute mystery and it is difficult to love what we do not know. Often the command to love God is collapsed into service of neighbour. We are much more at ease speaking of following God's will, serving God or praying to God in faith and hope.

Loving another deeply offers an image of love of God. I have watched people after fifty or sixty years of marriage content to sit quietly in each other's presence, yet become quickly upset if the spouse returns home later than expected, even when absent for little more than an hour. Behind such silent presence lies decades of knowledge, care, and trials borne together. It is also an act of gratitude for years of mutual commitment. Love of God is like this. Often it is best expressed in simply sitting and realising quietly how God has been a partner in every aspect of life. Biblical love of God is gratitude and remembrance for what God has done rather than a project of what we do for God. Hymns of praise and thanksgiving permeate the psalms and great figures of biblical thought are called "friends of God." Let us thank God for people who have been sacraments of God's love in our lives.



**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.

### Holy Family 200 Club

#### Week 4

|                       |     |         |              |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize | £25 | No. 47  | P. Pritchard |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize | £10 | No. 111 | C. Ion       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize | £5  | No. 131 | S. Burke     |

**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.

**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.



**Wednesday 9:30am-7:00pm 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?*

### 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

**FREE VASES AND PLANT POTS** are available on a table in the meeting room at OLSJ. Please call in to view and choose. All welcome

**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.

**CAFOD:** 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.

**SPUC:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October was the 50th Anniversary of the abortion act coming into force in England and Wales, since then there have been 8.8 million abortions. 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.

### **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.

At Our Lady and St John, a Mass to remember the Deceased of the Parish of the previous year will take place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

**Wirral Food Bank:** Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the last 3 weeks. The contributions are as follows: Ladymount School 81.55kgs, Holy Family 86.37kgs and OLSJ 39.45kgs.



### **SEAFARER CENTRE**

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.

**REMINDER!** Holy Family Assam Collection will take place after all Masses next **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> November**.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Mandy Hamilton from Holy Family** is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association. The Travelsafe team is a multi-agency team working for the benefit of keeping public transport safe on Merseyside. This year one of the team members Adam Watson sadly lost his 40 year old sister to a three year battle with Motor Neurone disease (MND). Rachel Watson was a fully fit person working as a nurse supporting terminally ill children at Clare House Hospice, Wirral. Rachel was working nights when she first had a small cramp in her legs and sadly died three years later. MND has no treatment and there is still no known cause or answers for this disease. The teams were all very supportive of Adam and felt that they wanted to complete this 26 mile charity walk of the Wirral coast to raise awareness and fundraising a small amount of money to help others who are newly diagnosed. Please help the team to reach their goal of £500. There will be sponsorship forms at the back of Church. Thank you

|                                  |  |                           |  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Sat<br>28 <sup>th</sup> October  | Ss. Simon & Jude                               | 6:00 pm                   | Mass – Edward Congdon R.I.P.                                 | <b>OUR LADY &amp; ST. JOHN</b> |
| Sun<br>29 <sup>th</sup> October  | <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | 11:15 am                  | Mass – Cathy Marland R.I.P.                                  |                                |
| Mon<br>30 <sup>th</sup> October  | Ferial   | 9:00 am                   | Mass – Intentions of Mary Latimer                            |                                |
| Tues<br>31 <sup>st</sup> October | Ferial   | 9:00 am                   | Mass – Moira Rogers Birthday Remembrance                     |                                |
| Wed<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Nov       | Solemnity of All Saints                        | <u>9:30 am to 7:00 pm</u> | Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord     |                                |
|                                  |  | <u>7:00 pm</u>            | Mass – Judith Chambers and Family<br>(Holyday of Obligation) |                                |
| Thurs<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov     | Feast of All Souls                             | 7:00 pm                   | Mass – For the Faithful Departed                             |                                |
| Fri<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov       | St Winefride                                   |                           | <b>NO MASS OR SERVICE TODAY</b>                              |                                |
| Sat<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Nov       | St Charles Borromeo                            | 6:00 pm                   | Mass – Monica McNab (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)            |                                |
| Sun<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Nov       | <b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | 11:15 am                  | Mass – Derek Jones R.I.P.                                    |                                |

|                            |  |  |   |   |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>HOLY FAMILY</b>         | Sat<br>28 <sup>th</sup> October                | Ss. Simon & Jude                               | 12 noon   | Mass – Holy Souls   |
|                            | Sun<br>29 <sup>th</sup> October                | <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | 9:30 am   | Mass – Special Intention                                    |
|                            |  |  | 5:00 pm   | Mass – Monica Bennett R.I.P (Anniversary)                   |
|                            | Mon<br>30 <sup>th</sup> October                | Ferial   |   | (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)                                       |
|                            | Tues<br>31 <sup>st</sup> October               | Ferial   | 9:00 am   | Service of Word and Sacrament                               |
|                            | Wed<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Nov                     | Solemnity of All Saints                        | <u>9:00 am</u>  | Mass- Maureen & John Riley & Son<br>(Holyday of Obligation) |
|                            | Thurs<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov                   | Feast of All Souls                             | 9:00 am   | Mass – For the Faithful Departed                            |
|                            | Fri<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov                     | St Winefride                                   |   | <b>NO MASS OR SERVICE TODAY</b>                             |
|                            | Sat<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Nov                     | St Charles Borromeo                            |   | <b>NO MASS OR SERVICE TODAY<br/>(NO CONFESSIONS TODAY)</b>  |
| Sun<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Nov | <b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | 9:30 am  | Mass – Intentions of Fr Andreas Indwar (25 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Ordination) |   |
|                            |  | 5:00 pm  | Mass – Dora Noonan R.I.P (Anniversary)  |   |

**Confessions** – Saturdays 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm at OLSJ \* No confessions this Saturday 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.*