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



Immediately preceding today's gospel in Matthew is the parable of the lost sheep, which shows the evangelist's concern for the weakest members of the community. One sheep wanders off (a term used normally for moral straying), and the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine on the mountain to seek the errant member. The most vulnerable becomes the criterion of pastoral care. This seems like a strange way to care for the welfare of a community.

Today's gospel seems to present a different way of dealing with sinners. First there is one-to-one confrontation, followed by a meeting with official witnesses and then an appearance before the community of believers. If the sinner persists, he is to be treated "like a pagan or tax collector," a decision that will be ratified by God. Clearly Matthew was faced with situations in which a particular member was a threat to the good of the community. In this passage, which deals with the unity and reconciliation of differences in the community, the power of binding and loosing earlier given to Peter is granted to the whole community of disciples.

This is a classic instance of Matthew's bringing out from his storeroom things both new and old and changing traditional teaching by the way he arranges his material. This disciplinary teaching is sandwiched between the parable of the lost sheep (the errant brother or sister is sought out rather than thrown out) and that of the unmerciful servant, next week's gospel (where Peter is counselled to show unlimited forgiveness). The tension between Church order and the example of Christ remains through the ages.

Yet, from the perspective of the whole Gospel, dealing with the sinner as a tax collector and a pagan may not be so harsh. Jesus heals the servant of a pagan tax collector, while a slur against Jesus is that he is "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." When the ordinary church structures of reconciliation break down the true shepherd must seek the one who is lost. Treating a sinner like a pagan or tax collector is not simply to practise *excommunication* but to seek new ways of *communication*.



Ladymount School - Foundation Governor Vacancy

A vacancy for a Foundation Governor has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising, committed Catholics for the role.

Foundation Governors are appointed by Bishop Mark, to represent his and the Catholic Community's interests.

Governors have key roles in ensuring clarity of vision, holding the school to account, and financial oversight.

Foundation governors ensure that the religious character of the school is preserved, and religious education is delivered in accordance with the Bishop's policy.

If you are interested in the role, further information is available from Fr Stephen, or Brian Sharp the current chair of the Governing Board who can be contacted on 342 8519.

Last Month's Collection Amounts

OLSJ:	13.08.2017:	£611.03
	20.08.2017:	£789.32
	27.08.2017:	£554.27
	03.09.2017:	£509.38

HF:	13.08.2017:	£579.10
	20.08.2017:	£458.17
	27.08.2017:	£498.96
	03.09.2017:	£606.35

Assam £194.49



Family Ceilidh



at the British Legion, Heswall
on
Friday 29th September.

This is open to family and friends of Our Lady & St. John and Holy Family. **Tickets are going fast** - please contact Joan as soon as possible to get your tickets (£5 each).

Call Joan Larkin 342 5517.

Important Notice



OLSJ Church Interior Redecoration



Please note that Our Lady & St. John's Church is currently being redecorated internally for the next month. **All weekday Masses, Services and Liturgies, which usually take place at OLSJ, are therefore taking place at Holy Family** during the period of the works. Weekend Masses **will not** be affected by this.

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament on Wednesdays will take place at Holy Family, starting immediately after the morning Mass, however, due to circumstances will finish at **7:30pm!**

The Meeting Room at OLSJ, will also be repainted during this time. Activities that normally take place in the Meeting Room, will have to be postponed during the week beginning **Monday 18th September.**

For safety reasons, please do not attempt to gain access to the Church on weekdays during this period.



Catechetical Formation

A National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage will be held in Liverpool, in **September 2018.**

As part of our diocesan preparation for this, the theme for the next Catechists' Day will be: *'The Eucharist: Food for our Joy'*. We will ask how we, as Catechists, can communicate this great truth of our faith to the many different people with whom we work. The event is open to all Catechists, and to anyone who has a particular interest in this question.

Speakers: Miss Barbara Davies will explore how and where society encourages us to find joy; Deacon Tony Crisp will give the Gospel writers' answer to our search: The Eucharist.

Date: Saturday, 7th Oct 2017.

Times: 10:00-13:00

(9:30 Registration/Refreshments)

Venue: Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, CH65 7AQ.

All Enquiries: Barbara Davies, 07730 526 821

barbara.davies@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Registration: Helen Jones, 0151 652 9855

helen.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org



Wednesday 9:30am-7:30pm
&
Saturday after 12 noon Mass

both at Holy Family during September

*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?*



VISIT TO SHREWSBURY CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Father Stephen will guide us on this tour of Shrewsbury Cathedral, which will be followed by Mass at 12.10. There will then be free time for lunch, and leisure to visit the newly opened Visitors' Centre, or perhaps explore points of interest in the city.

The 35-seater coach will depart from Our Lady and St John's church at 9.30am and leave Shrewsbury at 3.45, to return to Heswall for approximately 5.15pm.

If you would like to join this visit, please give your name and contact number with a £5 deposit or the full £12.50 to myself or a representative on any Sunday following the 11.15 Mass, before the 11th September, when the final balance is due. This is open to parishioners from both Holy Family and Our Lady and St John. (Note - Cheques payable to Our Lady and St. John's Church). For any further information please contact Sheila Smears on 342 4527.

Message of thanks from Josh Campbell

I just wanted to say huge thankyou from the bottom of my heart for supporting me on the Rock of Joy Youth mission to Uganda this summer. It really was the trip of a lifetime that I know already I am going to repeat. I was able to see and do so much more than I could ever have hoped, and assist in some truly remarkable work. It has changed my entire outlook on life and wish others could experience this; the Ugandan people are so thankful for every little blessing they have, which are very small. Yet I and many of us here in the UK take huge advantages and resources for granted and often complain. I am committed to raising much more for rock of joy, check out their website, as it is such a small charity every penny goes to the schools and orphanage in Uganda and is spent on projects that are really saving lives and futures. I have learnt so much about myself these past 3 weeks and about what is important in life, I will never forget.

Thank you. Josh Campbell



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. All welcome.

Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal – School clothing and classroom essentials: If you are buying new school clothes/equipment please consider either recycling your good quality used items or donate some new items for this appeal ball, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, spoon. Remember they don't have to be new...recycle where you can!
www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/the-backpack-project

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations last week. The contributions are as follows, Holy Family 15.99kgs and OLSJ 10.87kgs.

Justice & Peace Group Meeting: The next meeting will take place on **Monday 11th September at 7.30pm** at the Holy Family church. Anyone from either parish is welcome to come along and see what we do.

Lately Dead of the Parish

Your prayers are asked for the Repose of the Soul of **Alan Christian** (Jane Everett's dad) who died suddenly recently.

Alan's Requiem Mass takes place at Holy Family on **Monday 25th September at 11am (note change of date from previously advised)**.

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

May he Rest in Peace.

Sat 9 th Sept	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Thomas Hiepkko R.I.P.	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 10 th Sept	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Irene O'Neill Anniversary	
Mon 11 th Sept	Ferial		Church redecoration taking place. Masses celebrated at Holy Family instead.	
Tues 12 th Sept	Most Holy Name of Mary			
Wed 13 th Sept	St John Chrysostom		Adoration at Holy Family	
Thurs 14 th Sept	Exaltation of the Holy Cross		Church redecoration taking place.	
Fri 15 th Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows		Masses celebrated at Holy Family instead.	
Sat 16 th Sept	Ss Cornelian & Cyprian	6:00 pm	Mass – Eileen & Billy Boylan Diamond Anniversary	
Sun 17 th Sept	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	11:15 am	Mass – Ted Flemming R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	Sat 9 th Sept	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Sylvia Ward R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Sun 10 th Sept	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – William Landreth R.I.P.
			5:00 pm	Mass – Johnny Forrest R.I.P.
	Mon 11 th Sept	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Alan Christian R.I.P.
	Tues 12 th Sept	Most Holy Name of Mary	9:00 am	Mass – Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor R.I.P.
	Wed 13 th Sept	St John Chrysostom	9:00 am	Mass – Angela Riley R.I.P (Anniversary)
			9:30 am – 7:30 pm	Adoration Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord
	Thurs 14 th Sept	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9:00 am	Mass – Pauline Burke
	Fri 15 th Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows	9:00 am	Mass – Pauline & Bob Robinson
	Sat 16 th Sept	Ss Cornelian & Cyprian	12 noon	Mass – Eileen Finn R.I.P (Anniversary)
Sun 17 th Sept	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30 am	Mass – Anne Levis R.I.P (Anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Bernadette Cunningham 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.

Adoration: Holy Family: Every Wednesday 9:30am until 7:30pm after morning Mass during September and 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:** None during September due to redecoration of the church.

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 and Mary Latimer.

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.