

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

Reflection on Today's Gospel by Father Stephen

Today's gospel presents one of the most dramatic scenes in the New Testament, in which the arrogant Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, learns ironically that Jesus is a king, but not of the kind with which he can deal. When asked if he is a king, Jesus does not at first claim the title "king" but replies, "Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews." This does not mean that Jesus kingdom is purely spiritual or other worldly, but that his present and future reign does not depend on power or dominance. When Jesus in reply to Pilate's next question, "So you are a king then?" does state that he is a king and adds that he came into the world to bear witness to the truth. Jesus speaks the truth about God and humanity as the "way, the truth and the life." People can reject this, but accepting this truth brings true freedom. Pilate decides to sit on the fence and says: "Truth? What is that?" He is imprisoned by his own cynicism and worldly ambition.

Pilate is called on to make a choice and so are we!



Mary Holgate and Margaret Stanley from Our Lady and St. John invite you to come and join them **every Saturday morning at 9:30am** at Our Lady and St John, to say the Rosary and pray for parishioner, Mary Brownrigg who is very poorly at the moment.

"For where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20



Pilgrimage to Walsingham 29th April to 2nd May 2019: If you are interested and would like some more information, please contact Ann Parsons on 342-7229.

Parishioners who need our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those in both parishes who are sick at home or in hospital, including:

- ❖ Catherine Maschke
- ❖ Carol Saunders
- ❖ Gerry Smith
- ❖ Joe Lucas
- ❖ Leonora Reilly
- ❖ Iris Christian
- ❖ John Moroney
- ❖ Ken Davies
- ❖ Mary Brownrigg
- ❖ Madge McGrath
- ❖ David Gorman
- ❖ Norman Corish
- ❖ Carol Ross



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.



SEAFARERS' CENTRE

We are asking for help on **Thursday 29th November at 7:30pm** (note, that there is no Mass this week as Father Stephen is away), to come along and help wrap the gifts. Please bring some Christmas wrapping paper, Sellotape and scissors! Refreshments available. **If you are able to come along and help, could you give Joan Larkin a ring on 342 5517.** Thank you.

Help Needed! We are looking for people to join a rota to give lifts to parishioners for Mass on a Saturday night. If you could help out, please give Joan Larkin a ring on 342 5517. Also, if you know someone who can't get to Mass at the weekend and needs a lift, do let Joan know.

Dates for your diary:

- **27th November, Tuesday** – Over 55's Afternoon Tea 2pm-4pm at OLSJ
- **29th November, Thursday** – Wrapping of Seafarers' gifts at OLSJ
- **8th December, Saturday** – Prayer Breakfast at 8:30am at OLSJ
- **9th December, Sunday after 9:30am Mass** – Holy Family Christmas Bazar
- **12th December, Wednesday** – LPA Reconciliation Service at 7pm at OLSJ
- **16th December, Sunday** - Carol Service at 6pm at OLSJ

Christmas Cards to Palestine

Message of Hope

The Justice and Peace Group invite you to join them again in sending Christmas Cards with our messages of support to the beleaguered Christians in the Holy Family parishes of Gaza and Ramallah. Last year some of our children sent their own cards to the children in the two parish schools which helped to brighten their lives and it would be lovely if they did so again this year.

So, if you could bring one or two cards to church - signed and with a short greeting - we will post the cards for you. Just write either *Gaza* or *Ramallah* on the envelope. Stamps are not needed. There will be a collection box for them at the back of both our churches. **The last collection will be on Sunday 9th December.**

Your response last year was magnificent, and we thank you again in anticipation.



Fr Mario da Silva, the parish priest of Holy Family Gaza, writes - *"Thank you for your concern about the situation here. Believe me it is a really difficult situation. About the Christmas Cards I must confess to you that it is a personal joy for me and my parish to receive every year your cards. It is a joy to know that many people are concerning about our situation. So, I advise, if it is possible, to continue to send cards"*

News from Assam: Fr Andreas has sent us a copy of the Holy Family English Essay winning entry. Zacharias Lakra writes about the lack of electricity and his village being in darkness due to a lack of electricity. He finds it difficult to study in these conditions. A copy of his Essay, together with his photo and two other students, is on the Noticeboard.

REMINDER! Holy Family Assam Collection will take place after all Masses next **Sunday, 2nd December**.

The Cenacolo Community invites you to an Open Day and Cenacolo Living Nativity on **Saturday 1st December** in Kendal, Cumbria. The day begins at 10:30am with Rosary and Adoration and finishes with the Nativity at 5pm. For further information please contact Margaret 342-1043 or Mary 342-4166.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☜

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Harry Morriarty, John Webster, Jessica Griffiths, Kevin Bunting and Lucy Moroney** who have recently died.

- Harry's Funeral Mass will take place at Our Lady and St John on **Tuesday 27th November at 10am**.
- John's Requiem Mass will take place at Holy Family on **Friday 30th November at 11am**.
- Jessica's Funeral Service will take place at the South Chapel at Landican Cemetery at **11:30am on Tuesday 4th December**.
- Kevin's Funeral Mass will take place at St Winefride's, Neston on **Wednesday 12th December at 12:30pm**.
- Lucy's Memorial Service will take place at Our Lady and St John on **Friday 21st December at 4pm**.

May their souls Rest in Peace. Please remember to pray for their families at this difficult time.

November is the Month of The Holy Souls

The envelopes for the Remembrance of your Loved Ones and Offerings are now available in the porch at both churches.

- **At Holy Family**, please place your completed envelopes in the basket by the Sacred Heart Statue.
- **At OLSJ**, please place your completed envelopes in the box at the back of the church.
- **Alternatively**, you can post the envelope through the presbytery letterbox.



Cake Sale at Holy Family on after 9.30am Mass TODAY. Proceeds are to support Niamh O'Keefe (a parishioner at Holy Family) to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree representing 3rd Heswall Scout Group and West Wirral in July 2019.

OLSJ Saturday Evening Readers' Rota: As always, we're looking for more readers for the Saturday evening Mass. I will be putting the new 2019 rota together within the next couple of weeks and so, if you think it is something you would like to try, please contact Frankie Wise on 07828 820569.

Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your Harvest donations over the past week. The contributions are as follows: Holy Family 21.59 kgs and OLSJ 34.37 kgs.

Asia Bibi: We should all be aware of the plight of this poor woman and her family in Pakistan. She is a typical example of the level of hatred and persecution of Christians all over the world. Please say a special prayer for her and her family.

Adoration Urgent!

Our GOD humbly awaits YOU in the monstrance
under the form of Bread every

Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm at OLSJ

AND

Saturday after 12 noon Mass at Holy Family



We thank those who are so loyal to their "Holy Hour" with Jesus on a Wednesday. We would welcome, particularly those who could come to spend an hour at 1:30pm, 2:30pm and 4:30pm but whatever time you are able to come, Jesus will welcome you.

Please Come

Adoremus Revisited

By popular demand, there will be the possibility to revisit Bishop Robert Barron's first talk on the Mass from the recent Adoremus Eucharistic Congress. Open to everyone, all Catechists are invited to attend. Our local event will take place at **St Anne's, Rock Ferry on Saturday 8th December**, starting at 9:15am and ending with 12:15 Mass. If you would like to attend, please could you put your name on a list on the table in the porch. This is so we can let St Anne's know the number to expect. We would urge you to take this opportunity to hear Bishop Robert Barron.

Clergy and Training Fund – Special Collection:

Next weekend (1st & 2nd December) the annual Collection for the Clergy Education & Training Fund will be held. On the training and formation of Priests, the future of our Diocese so much depends. Special envelopes are available for you to use. A leaflet about the Fund is also available which explains how to make a regular donation by Standing Order and how donations can be Gift Aided. It is in every sense, an investment in the future life and mission of the Diocese.

With every good wish, yours sincerely in Christ
+ Mark, Bishop of Shrewsbury

Ministry Rotas at Holy Family

The New Ministry Rotas for the coming 6 months are now available. Please note that we can't publish a list of "Useful Telephone Numbers" at the present time due to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that have recently come into force. All those on the Ministry Rotas will be contacted shortly as regard permissions to share details among those on the rotas ONLY. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holy Family Christmas Bazar Sunday 9th December in church after 9.30 Mass.

There will be a number of stalls and refreshments. please stay and support this event and take time to have a chat and socialise with each other. All profits to help buy new kitchen equipment.



The next **Monthly Prayer Breakfast**
will take place on

Saturday 8th December 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
and hosted by us, so please come along.**

Arc Christmas Cards: These popular cards will be available for sale at The Holy Family Church after Mass. Please take this opportunity to help our local Charity and its wonderful work for the poor and homeless in our region.

Christmas Raffle: The raffle will start on **Sunday 2nd December**. Lots of prizes to be won, including M&S voucher, chocolates, wine, Christmas cake plus vouchers from local shops. Tickets available from the Box Office.

Parish GDPR Training: On 25th May 2018, a new EU Regulation came into force, called the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**. The Diocesan Solicitor, Sarah Williams, has written a couple of very helpful guides for all parishioners who may handle Personal Data for the Parish (collecting sponsorship money, writing rotas, organising trips, running groups etc). These can be accessed from the Diocesan website <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/parish-docs>. A limited number of paper copies of the guidelines will also be available at the back of church.

Sat 24 th November	St Andrew	6:00 pm	Mass – Pamela & Thomas Johnson & Sons <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i>
Sun 25 th November	34th Sunday in Ordinary Time Feast of Christ the King (Psalter Week II)	11:15 am	Mass – Matt O’Keefe
Mon 26 th November	Ferial		No Mass
Tues 27 th November	Ferial	10:00 am	Harry Moriarty Funeral Mass
Wed 28 th November	Ferial	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 29 th November	Ferial		No Mass
Fri 30 th November	St Andrew		No Mass
Sat 1 st December	BVM	6:00 pm	Mass – Fred Overton <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i>
Sun 2 nd December	1st Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week I)	11:15 am	Mass – Michael Sugrue R.I.P.

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN

HOLY FAMILY	Sun 25 th November	34th Sunday in Ordinary Time Feast of Christ the King (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Mass - John Pritchard R.I.P (Anniversary)
			5:00 pm	Mass – For the Youth of the Parish
	Mon 26 th November	Ferial		No Mass or Service
	Tues 27 th November	Ferial		No Mass or Service
	Wed 28 th November	Ferial		No Mass or Service
	Thurs 29 th November	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 30 th November	St Andrew	11:00 am	John Webster Requiem Mass
	Sat 1 st December	BVM	12 noon	Mass – Holy Souls (November List) <i>(Confessions 11.30am-11.55am)</i>
	Sun 2 nd December	1st Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week I)	9:30 am	Mass - Fr Pat O’Brien R.I.P (Anniversary)
5:00 pm			Mass – For the Parish	

Legion of Mary Meetings
Every Monday morning at 10:45am in the meeting room at OLSJ.

Mothers’ Prayers
Every Monday morning at 9:30am in the meeting room at OLSJ.

Confessions
Our Lady & St John: Saturday 5:15pm – 5:45pm
Holy Family: Saturday 11:30am -11:50am

Adoration
Holy Family: Every Saturday after 12 noon Mass. On 1st Saturday of the Month, Divine Mercy devotions, prayers are included.
Our Lady & St John: Every Wednesday 9:30am – 8:30pm after morning Mass.