

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



Reflection on Today's Gospel

by

Father Stephen

As the new liturgical year begins, the First Sunday of Advent reminds us that our lives are caught up in a cosmic drama and that history will end with the return of Christ and the redemption of humanity.

St Luke urges that we live not only by looking back to what Christ has done for us, but also by looking forward to the future. Despite the emphasis throughout his Gospel on the joyful benefits of God made known in Jesus, in this apocalyptic section Luke's Jesus is more concerned about negative behaviour: debauchery, drunkenness, concern for the anxieties of daily life. Jesus here virtually paraphrases the Lord's Prayer in asking for God's protection in the time of trial: "Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man."

Advent's stress on the Second Coming of Christ in glory at the end of time, as we prepare to celebrate the First Coming of Jesus in humility and at a certain point in history, remind us that we should shape our faith in terms of hopes as well as memories.



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



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
- ❖ Harry Rylance



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.



SEAFARERS' CENTRE – NEW DATE

We are asking for help on **Thursday 6th December at 7:30pm** 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.**

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:

- **6th December, Thursday** – Wrapping of Seafarers' gifts at OLSJ – **CHANGE OF DATE**
- **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 next week Sunday 9th December.**

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

News from Ladymount P.T.A.

- On **Thursday 6th December** the Round Table Christmas Carol Wagon is looking for helpers early evening to go with Father Christmas and help raise money for Ladymount. If interested, please call school to find out more details.
- On **Friday 7th December** is the Christmas coffee morning at Ladymount you are very welcome to pop in from 9.15am-11.30. The children & choir sing beautifully and there are a few stalls too. We would be really grateful for donations for raffle prizes and home-made cakes to help raise money for school.
- Reminder that there is a school disco on **Thursday 13th December** 5-5.45pm F2, 6-6.45pm years 1&2 and 7-7.45pm KS2. Helpers required if anyone is free.

Please contact school on 0151 648 4326 for more information or if you can help in any way.

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

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.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☜

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Jessica Griffiths, Kevin Bunting, Veronica Shannon and Lucy Moroney** who have recently died.

- 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.**
- Veronica's Requiem Mass will take place at dy & St John La on **Thursday 20th December at 11:30am.**
- 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.

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 30.46 kgs and OLSJ 19.39 kgs.

The **Stitch Craft Group** will close for Christmas on **Tuesday 11th December** and restarts on **Tuesday 8th January 2019** at 10am. Merry Christmas to everyone.



EXPLORE ADVENT with the SYMT
The Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team invite all the youth of the Parish to join them for an evening of Worship, Prayer, Food, Fellowship and

Teaching on **Tuesday 4th December at 7pm until 8:30pm** at Our Lady and St John's Church in Heswall.

Holy Family Christmas Bazar Sunday 9th December after 9.30am Mass. Our Christmas Bazar is next Sunday after 9.30 am Mass. Please stay for an hour to help raise funds for new kitchen equipment and to socialise with other parishioners. There will be a number of stalls and refreshments. Let's enjoy some time together.



Adoration Urgent!

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

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

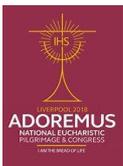
AND

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:

THIS weekend (1st & 2nd December) Today the annual Collection for the Clergy Education & Training Fund is being held. Special envelopes are available for you to use. If you use weekly Offertory Envelopes, please can I ask that you write in your envelope number. If you do not have this, or you give to your Parish by means of Standing Order, write your name and full address (including postcode). It will then be possible to claim Gift Aid on your donation if you have joined the Gift Aid scheme. 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.

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 **THIS 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.



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 and support the event.

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| Sat 1st December | BVM | 6:00 pm | Mass – Fred Overton <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i> |
| Sun 2nd December | 1st Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week I) | 11:15 am | Mass – Michael Sugrue R.I.P. |
| Mon 3rd December | St Francis Xavier | 9:00 am | Mass – Margaret McGurk |
| Tues 4th December | Ferial | 9:00 am | Mass – Robert Thompson |
| Wed 5th December | 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 6th December | Ferial | 7:00 pm | Mass – Maureen Birch & Ray Coonan |
| Fri 7th December | St Ambrose | | No Mass |
| Sat 8th December | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 6:00 pm | Mass – Peter Boylan R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i> |
| Sun 9th December | 2nd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week II) | 11:15 am | Mass – Derek Jones |

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN

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| HOLY FAMILY | Sun 2nd December | 1st Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week I) | 9:30 am | Mass - John Pritchard R.I.P (Anniversary) |
| | | | 5:00 pm | Mass – For the Youth of the Parish |
| | Mon 3rd December | St Francis Xavier | | No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am) |
| | Tues 4th December | Ferial | | No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am) |
| | Wed 5th December | Ferial | 9:00 am | Mass - Intentions of Ron & Maureen Jones |
| | Thurs 6th December | Ferial | 9:00 am | Service of Word and Sacrament |
| | Fri 7th December | St Ambrose | 9:00 am | Mass – In Thanksgiving |
| | Sat 8th December | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 12 noon | Mass – John Webster R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 11.30am-11.55am)</i> |
| | Sun 9th December | 2nd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week II) | 9:30 am | Mass – Lucy Moroney R.I.P. |
| 5:00 pm | | | Mass – Dave Gorman Intentions | |

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.