

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



Reflection on Today's Gospel

by

Father Stephen

St Luke says, "The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness." The word of God comes to John as he prepares the way of the Lord Jesus, just as this word came to Mary at the Annunciation. John emerges in the wilderness which evokes Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom and the place where the covenant was inaugurated. John proclaims a baptism or immersion in the river Jordan which is to symbolize inner repentance leading to forgiveness of sins.

But for Luke John the Baptist's more important task is to prepare the way of the Lord, so that "all mankind shall see the salvation of God." Having begun today's Gospel passage with a list of rulers who did not bring wholeness or salvation, Luke ends with the expectation of a true Lord who can bring wholeness and salvation. Today, when the ruling powers seem as unaffected by the gospel as Luke's monarchs the season of expectation can still be a season of prayer that "God will lead us in joy by the light of his glory with mercy and integrity for escort."



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.

Christmas Mass Times 2018



Monday 24th December



6pm Christmas Vigil Mass - **Our Lady & St. John**

11:30pm Carols & Readings - **Holy Family**

Midnight Mass - **Holy Family**

Tuesday 25th December

9:30am The Nativity of the Lord - **Holy Family**

11:15am The Nativity of the Lord - **Our Lady & St. John**

Wednesday 26th December

10:00am Weekday Mass - **Holy Family**

Adoration – Please note that there will be **NO** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Boxing Day 26th December or on the Wednesday after New Year (2nd January 2019)

**Advent
Penance
Service**

The LPA Reconciliation Service will be held at Our Lady and St John on **Wednesday 12th December at 7pm.** Everyone welcome.



Carols by Candlelight at 6pm on Sunday 16th December at Our Lady & St John. A traditional service of readings, poems and carols followed by seasonal refreshments. All welcome.

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.

Christmas Flower Collection at Holy Family: The Christmas flower collection will take place this **Sunday 9th and Sunday 16th December**. We want to make the church as festive as possible and this and thank you for your previous generosity.



Christmas Concert by the Wirral String Orchestra and Chorus on Saturday 22nd December at 7:30pm at St Hildeburgh's Church in Hoylake in aid of the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. Tickets £8 on sale from Lingham's Bookshop in Heswall or phone 645 5547 or pay on the door.

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 TODAY Sunday 9th December.**

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

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.



Please stay for a while after 9.30am Mass today at Holy Family and support our Bazaar. Take time to have a chat and cuppa and buy some Christmas gifts.

News from Ladymount P.T.A.: 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.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☜

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Joe Holmes, Kevin Bunting, Peter Clarke, Veronica Shannon, Mary Walton and Lucy Moroney** who have recently died.

- Kevin's Funeral Mass will take place at St Winefride's, Neston on **Wednesday 12th December at 12:30pm**.
- Peter's Funeral Mass will take place at OLSJ on **Wednesday 19th December at 13:30pm**.
- Veronica's Requiem Mass will take place at Our Lady & St John La on **Thursday 20th December at 11:30am**.
- Mary's Funeral Service will take place at Landican, North Chapel on **Friday 21st December at 11am**.
- 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.

The New OLSJ 2019 Saturday Evening Mass Readers' Rota: Would all the Readers please collect their Rotas from the back of Church. If there are any mistakes or problems, then please don't hesitate to telephone me and I will make the necessary amendments. Thank you to everyone who volunteered (?) and especially our 2 new readers, Sharon and Clare. Frankie Wise (07828 820569).



Wirral Food Bank: Thank you to both parishes for all your donations over the past week. The contributions are as follows: Holy Family 26.41 kgs and OLSJ 18.47 kgs. The final day for donations is Thursday 20th December. The Food Bank will be open again on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

Advent is a good time to think about others as we prepare for the Christmas celebrations. There are many families in our own neighbourhood of Wirral who are struggling to meet the basics, never mind the luxuries we all engage in at this time. Are you able to make it a little easier for at least one of these families? There are boxes at the back of each of our churches.

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



Please note that there will be **NO Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament on **Boxing Day 26th December** or on the **Wednesday after New Year (2nd January 2019)**

Please Come

Parishioners of Our Lady and St John: Please don't forget to check the porch at the back of Church on your way out, for Christmas cards that may have been left for you.

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.

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.



Thank you from CAFOD for your prayers and support over the last year.

Without you, the work of CAFOD would not be possible. You can read a [Summary of the Annual Report](#) on the Cafod.org.uk website. As our Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bishop John Arnold, writes in the introduction, "2017/18 was truly a year in which the Catholic community of England and Wales put their faith into action and enabled CAFOD to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world."

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 8

1 st Prize	£25	No. 131	S. Burke
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 79	K. Metcalfe
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 192	Mrs Mitchell

Week 9

1 st Prize	£25	No. 37	A. Everett
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 99	C. P. Braden
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 46	L. Herbert

Sat 8 th 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 9 th December	2nd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week II)	11:15 am	Mass – Derek Jones
Mon 10 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Pat & George Wright
Tues 11 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Jillie Huntingford
Wed 12 th 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
		7:00 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service
Thurs 13 th December	St. Lucy	7:00 pm	Mass – Andrew Walker
Fri 14 th December	St John of the Cross		No Mass (Mass at HF at 9am)
Sat 15 th December	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Betty Murphy R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i>
Sun 16 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week III)	11:15 am	Mass – Kay Gibbings Anniversary
		6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN

HOLY FAMILY	Sun 9 th December	2nd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Mass – Lucy Moroney R.I.P.
			5:00 pm	Mass – Dave Gorman Intentions
	Mon 10 th December	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 11 th December	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Wed 12 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Fr. Adrian Marsh
	Thurs 13 th December	St. Lucy	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 14 th December	St John of the Cross	9:00 am	Mass – Eithne Keough R.I.P.
	Sat 15 th December	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Intentions of the Family of Kenneth Johnson R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 11.30am-11.55am)</i>
Sun 16 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Mass – Intentions of Catherine Webster & Family	
		5:00 pm	Mass – Jack Heery R.I.P. (Anniversary)	

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.