

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



3RD SUNDAY OF Advent

Reflection on Today's Gospel

by

Father Stephen

To put this Sunday's gospel in context we need to consider the verses that come just before the ones we hear today. John, the fiery, uncompromising reformer says to the crowds who come to be baptized by him: "Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But, if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruits." Claiming Abraham as their father is not enough, for every tree that does not bear fruit will be thrown into the fire. John will come back to this theme when he points to the person coming who is more powerful than I (Jesus). His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor. The wheat he will gather into his barn but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

Yet between the two uncompromising statements John is quite moderate. He urges people to use their possessions kindly and justly, telling the crowds to share their clothes and food with the needy, advising hated tax collectors to be honest and soldiers not to exploit people and to be content with their often-meagre wages.

So, despite John's fiery preaching there is a lot to be joyful about this Gaudete Sunday.



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
- ❖ Veronica (Ronnie) McAllister



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)

*** TONIGHT ***



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 16th December**. We want to make the church as festive as possible and this and thank you for your previous generosity.



OLSJ Flower Group: Please meet at **3pm on Sunday 23rd December** for the Christmas flower arrangements and tree decoration. Please bring any suitable greenery.

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

The **Stitch Craft Group** is now closed for Christmas and restarts on **Tuesday 8th January 2019** at 10am. Merry Christmas to everyone.



✠ May They Rest in Peace ✠

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

- 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 2pm**.

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 15.96 kgs and

OLSJ 13.01 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.



**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

Visiting Ministers 2019 Rota at OLSJ: The new rota for the first six months of 2019 for Ministers visiting those in a nursing home or the housebound, is now available at the back of church. Perhaps you would be good enough to collect your copy.

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.

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

Legion of Mary Meetings

Every Monday morning at 10:45am in the meeting room at OLSJ.

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.

Important Notice for all parishioners currently on a rota at either Parish Church Parish GDPR Data Consent Form

On 25th May 2018, a new EU Regulation came into force, called the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**. If you are on a rota at either parish church, we are now required by this new law to have your written consent to keep hold of your personal details (name, telephone number and email address). To comply with these new regulations, if you are on a rota, please could you ensure that you complete a GDPR Data Consent Form and return it to either Father Stephen, Jeff Telford, Brian Sharp or Victoria Hanlon at your earliest convenience. Blank forms are available at the back of church for you to complete and return. Many thanks for your co-operation.

THANK YOU: Thanks to all who supported our Parish Bazaar. We raised £431 which was fantastic. There was a lovely atmosphere and it was good to see everyone enjoying themselves.

Christmas Cards to Palestine 2018: Many thanks to all who joined in sending messages of hope and support to the Holy Family Parishes in Gaza and Ramallah. Your response was generous and heart-warming. 45 cards have been sent to each parish to be displayed in their churches this Christmas. Thank you.



Crib Scene Silhouettes at OLSJ: The crib scene has now been attached to the exterior wall of the church. Thanks are due to Hannah Johnston for the original idea, to Charles Johnston for the construction and installation, and to Ferdia de Buitlear for illuminating the scene. Also, our thanks go to Terry Able, church warden of St Mary and St Helen's Church, Neston for the original idea and his initial advice on the construction of the figures.

Children's Nativity: There will be a small impromptu nativity after 11.15am mass on **Sunday 23rd December at OLSJ**. All children are invited come to mass in any Nativity costume (angel, shepherd or king/queen etc). We are singing 2 simple carols and a few readings to act out the Christmas story.

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 Gaudete Sunday (Psalter Week III)	11:15 am	Mass – Kay Gibbings Anniversary
		6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 17 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Peter Goodin R.I.P.
		7:00 pm	Ladymount KS2 Carol Service
Tues 18 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Geraldine Chitty R.I.P.
Wed 19 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Celebration of Word and Communion
		1:30 pm	Peter Clarke Funeral Service
		9:30 am-8:30 pm	Adoration - Come and spend some quiet time with Our Lord
		11:30 am	Veronica Shannon Requiem Mass
Thurs 20 th December	Ferial	7:00 pm	No Mass
Fri 21 st December	Ferial	2:00 pm	Memorial Service for Lucy Muroney
Sat 22 nd December	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Maureen Mutch R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 5.15pm-5.45pm)</i>
Sun 23 rd December	4th Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week IV)	11:15 am	Mass – Kathleen Dohm 106 th Birthday

OUR LADY & ST. JOHN

HOLY FAMILY	Sun 16 th December	3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Mass – Intentions of Catherine Webster & Family
			5:00 pm	Mass – Jack Heery R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Mon 17 th December	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Tues 18 th December	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Wed 19 th December	Ferial		No Mass or Service
	Thurs 20 th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word and Sacrament
	Fri 21 st December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Vera Shannon R.I.P.
	Sat 22 nd December	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Craig Brown R.I.P. <i>(Confessions 11.30am-11.55am)</i>
	Sun 23 rd December	4th Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week IV)	9:30 am	Mass – Helen Ryan R.I.P. Anniversary
5:00 pm			Mass – Intentions of Pauline & Steve Burke & Family	