

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

Reflection on Today's Gospel

By Father Stephen

Murder by brutal tyrants and accidental death seem to be God's punishment for sin, and Jesus says, 'Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.' Jesus hearers believed along with most of their contemporaries that sudden death was a punishment for sin and that since things were going well in their lives, they had no need to repent. The point of the stories of the massacred Galileans and the eighteen killed by the falling tower is the suddenness of the event. Don't leave repentance till it is too late!

Jesus then tells the parable of the fruitless fig tree, the owner wants it chopped down, but the man who looks after the vineyard asks him to leave it one more year, so he can dig round it and manure it, and then 'it may bear fruit, if not then you can cut it down.' Did it bear fruit? The answer is to be found in our own lives. Do we turn away from sin and embrace the Good News that God wants to be involved in our lives, so that he can find us? What is the state of our own personal fig tree? God is patient but time may run out for us.



Please join us on **Saturday mornings** to pray the rosary for parishioner, Mary Brownrigg and for all in the parish who are sick and all who need prayers. **All are welcome to join us each Saturday at 9.30am.**



The Easter Flower collection at Holy Family will take place again this **Sunday, 24th March**. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

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
- ❖ Veronica (Ronnie) McAllister
- ❖ John Smith
- ❖ Peter Bowskill



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.

✠ May They Rest in Peace ✠

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Norman Hayes** who has recently died.

Norman's Funeral Mass will take place on **Wednesday 27th March at 11:00 am** at Holy Family.

May his soul Rest in Peace. Please remember to pray for his family at this difficult time.

Dates for you Diary 2019 from the Holy Family Social Committee

- ❖ Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea: *19th May*
- ❖ Parish BBQ: *9th June*
- ❖ Strawberry Tea: *13th July*
- ❖ Parish Meal: *Mid-September*



Also, our ever-popular Easter Egg raffle has begun. Tickets are on sale from the Box Office £1 per strip. Raffle will be drawn on Easter Sunday.



Planned Giving – Next Year's Envelopes

Please note that next year's envelopes for Holy Family will be available from **this Sunday, 24th March**. Boxes for OLSJ parishioners will be available the following weekend, **30th/31st March**. The boxes of envelopes are in alphabetical order at the back of church. This year there are no addresses on the boxes due to GDPR, only names. It is very important that you make absolutely sure you are taking the correct box. Please collect your box as soon as you can and it would be helpful to pass on their box to anyone else you can see is present. The first Sunday of the new tax year is 7th April. Any questions please contact:

Holy Family: Fred Taylor 342 5922

OLSJ: Bernard Larkin 342 5517

Red Mission Boxes Would all boxholders at both Holy Family and Our Lady & St. John please bring boxes to church for emptying/ counting. Would everyone please make sure that their name and address is on the box (label is situated on bottom of box). Boxes can be left in the sacristy at either church or handed to Mary/John Wrigley at Holy Family or Ian Butler at OLSJ. Donations also gratefully received.



3rd Heswall Scout Group Gold Mine: Many of us have bits of broken jewellery lying around in boxes and drawers that individually hold little value. 3rd Heswall Scout Group are collecting all of these scraps to raise funds for the troop. Bring your gold in an envelope to Tricia Birch or Anne O'keeffe at Holy Family or David O'Hagan at OLSJ. Thanks for your support.

Wirral Foodbank This year at Easter, we are asking if you church could collect for us, some items we really need. These are Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Carrots and Soap Powder Tablets. Total for the last week's collection, Our Lady & St John, 28.68 kg and Holy Family, 34.23 kg.

There are No Ordinary People

An evening with Jeff Lucas & the Searchlight Theatre Company – Comedy, Story Telling, Theatre and Music..... **Monday 1st April** at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall. Begins at 7:30pm, tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door, suitable for ages 12+. Tickets can be bought in advance online at www.searchlighttheatre.org

The Carmelite Monastery of The Annunciation in Birkenhead invites you to *The Solemn Profession of Sister Maria Graziella of Jesus Crucified*, icd on **Monday, March 25th at 11.00am**. Celebrant: The Right Reverend Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury. All are warmly welcome to join with the community in thanking Almighty God, for this grace-filled day. Refreshments will be available after the Ceremony.

Mass for Healing to pray for those who have suffered abuse, to be held at **Holy Apostles and Martyrs Parish Church**, St George's Road, Wallasey Village, CH45 6TU **on Tuesday 26th March at 6.45pm**. All are welcome to attend and pray for those who have been abused.

A Mass for the Legion of Mary will be celebrated on **Thursday 28th March at 7pm**. There will be refreshments in the Meeting Room afterwards.

Please join **Together Wirral Churches** in a Wirral Prayer Gathering being held at Woodchurch High School at 7.30pm on the evening of **Thursday 28th March**. Everyone welcome.

Ladies and Gents Over 55's Afternoon Tea

The next afternoon tea will be on **Tuesday 26th March 2-4pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ. Do come and enjoy a nice cup of tea and friendly conversation. Everyone welcome.



Easter at Holy Family

The time is fast approaching when we ask for your support to enable fitting liturgies to take place. We ask for **READERS** and **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** to assist at the various Masses and Services. If you wish to exercise your Ministry over the Sacred Triduum please sign up on the sheets in the Sacristy Corridor as soon as possible. Once again, **ONLY** sign if you are sure of your attendance at the Mass/Service you have indicated. Thank you. Rev Jeff

Maundy Thursday: Father Stephen is looking for volunteers to help with the washing of the feet for both parishes. Could you please let Father know if you are able to help?



Mother's Day Cards and Easter Cards are now available at the Piety Stall at the back of Church at OLSJ. Please do come and take a look.

+ Lent 2019 +

Pray....

+ Stations of the Cross during Lent +

Our Lady and St John

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed after Mass on weekday mornings.

Holy Family

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed after 9am Mass on a Friday.

S.P.U.C. Rosary for the Unborn: S.P.U.C. is privileged to be partnering with the Knights of St. Columba in their 50th Anniversary Year. In OLSJ we are marking this special year by saying the Rosary for the Unborn before the Blessed Sacrament next **Wednesday 27th March** at the beginning of Exposition and on the last Wednesday of each month. There will be special prayer cards at the back of church and also in Holy Family where Exposition is after 12pm Mass on Saturdays.

Lenten Service of Reconciliation: There will be a Mass of Reconciliation for our L.M.A. (Local Missionary Area, previously known as L.P.A. Local Pastoral Area) on **Thursday 4th April at 7pm** at OLSJ. Everyone welcome.



Come to Adoration in Lent. Come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament every **Wednesday 9:30am-8:30pm** at OLSJ and every **Saturday after 12 noon Mass** at Holy Family.

Listen....

Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent.....

Instead, discover simple ways to transform your life in forty days. Join our parish for **BEST LENT EVER**, a **free** email program from Dynamic Catholic that is designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Each day, you'll receive a short inspirational video that will help you . . . find areas for growth, build better habits, spark lasting change

Sign up at www.DynamicCatholic.com/BestLent

Join In....



Lenten Lunches 2019

This year the Lenten Lunches will be held on **Friday 29th March** and on **Friday 5th & 12th April** at 12:15 to 13:30. As before they are being hosted by the United Reformed Church (next to Tesco's in Heswall). Please consider joining us for lunch. The proceeds will be divided between Christian Aid and CAFOD. If you can help at one of the lunches, please let me know, Suzy Smallwood (suzy.smallwood1963@gmail.com or 07875 404128) or come to the first lunch for 11:45am.

Our Journey Through Lent – Week 3 Sweets and Chocolates



This is a traditional thing to 'give up' for Lent.

Perhaps we might include sugar in tea or coffee? Some children (and adults!) are addicted to sweet drinks or breakfast cereals. Do without a pudding? Can we give any of these up for the full week, or a day, or just one meal?

Why are we doing this? Can we compare the slight 'craving' we might feel with what it must be like to be desperately hungry for any kind of food? The small saving, we make by this self-denial will make a huge difference to one or two of those who are starving.

What do Cafod do with this money? This Autumn Cafod highlights the needs of a Bangladesh fisherwoman whose livelihood is lost because of a severe drought which killed all the fish. Cafod is teaching her, and her village, new farming methods and providing seeds, duck and chickens as new sources of sustenance.

Spare Cafod envelopes are at the back of church.

Try Something New...

FREE Chi Gong Classes for Lent!

Parishioner, Marian Jones, is offering all parishioners free Chi Gong classes every Thursday during Lent 2019. The classes will take place **every Thursday** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ from **10:30am** for ½ hour of gentle exercise ending with a short relaxation, followed by tea and biscuits. Chi Gong is gentle flowing exercise and is simple to perform. It aids circulation and improves balance. Suits any age group. No need to book, just come along and give it a try. Wear comfortable clothing. Everyone welcome.

Sat 23 rd March	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Ruth Hughes Anniversary	OUR LADY & ST. JOHN
Sun 24 th March	Third Sunday of Lent (Psalter Week III)	11:15 am	Mass – Hazel Campbell Anniversary	
Mon 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord	8:30 am	Mass – Patricia Wheldon R.I.P.	
Tues 26 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Maureen Birch Birthday Anniversary	
Wed 27 th March	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 28 th March	Ferial	7:00 pm	Legion of Mary Mass	
Fri 29 th March	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at Holy Family)	
Sat 30 th March	Ferial	6:00 pm	Mass – Germaine Overton	
Sun 31 st March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday (Psalter Week IV) 	11:15 am	Mass – Elaine Naughton R.I.P.	

HOLY FAMILY	Sun 24 th March	Third Sunday of Lent (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Mass – Douglas Thompson R.I.P.
			5:00 pm	Mass – For the Parish
	Mon 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 8:30 am)
	Tues 26 th March	Ferial		No Mass (Mass at OLSJ at 9am)
	Wed 27 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Deceased Relatives & Friends of Tom & Linda Herbert
	Thurs 28 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word & Sacrament
	Fri 29 th March	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass – Intentions of Sara Bull +Stations of The Cross after Mass+
	Sat 30 th March	Ferial	12 noon	Mass – Intentions of Margaret Robson (Sick)
	Sun 31 st March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday (Psalter Week IV) 	9:30 am	Mass – For all Our Families
11:30 am			Baptism of Ana & Thomas Caulfield	
5:00 pm			Mass – Mary Teresa Murphy R.I.P (Anniversary)	

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

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.

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

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