

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



Reflection on Today's Gospel By Father Stephen

Life today often seems to be like a brief interlude between rushing and waiting. We rush to airports only to wait in line to drop off our bags, go through security, board the plane. We hurry off to

Christmas Sales or returns and again wait to be served, we even stand in long lines to receive Holy Communion. Waiting involves a necessary slowing down as well as hope of fulfilment.

The Advent season that begins the Church's Year summons us to slow down, even at rather a hectic time, but also to live in expectation of the various comings or arrivals of Christ: his future arrival at the consummation of history (today's gospel), his coming as a human being like us in history and his continuing entry into our personal history. Through ritual and readings the Church sacramentalises our waiting over the next weeks and sets before us three figures of expectation as models: the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist and Our Lady. All the first readings this Advent of Year A contain visions of hope. Today Isaiah gives hope for a time in the future when the people will walk in the Lord's ways and proclaim a message of justice and a time when war and preparing for war will cease.



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.**



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 **on the last Wednesday of each month** at the beginning of Exposition (about 9:30am). There will be special prayer cards at the back of church and also in Holy Family where Exposition is after 12 noon Mass on Saturdays.



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

Gerry Smith

Joe Lucas

John Moroney

Ken Davies

Mary Brownrigg

Madge McGrath

David Gorman

Norman Corish

Carol Ross

Jillie Huntingford

Maureen McNutt

Imelda Atherton

Eileen Millard

Pauline Pritchard

Deacon Philip White



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.

DON'T FORGET!

Holy Family Christmas Bazar will take place on **THIS Sunday 1st December after 9.30 Mass**. Please stay after 9.30 mass and enjoy our Christmas Bazar. It is a chance for our community to come together and have some Holy Family fun. We will start our Christmas raffle on Sunday with some great prizes to be won.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☜

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Janet Winters** who has recently died. May her soul Rest in Peace.

Janet Winters Funeral Mass will take place at 9:00 am on **Tuesday 10th December** at Holy Family. Please remember to pray for her family at this difficult time.

♥♥ New Defibrillator (AED) @ Holy Family ♥♥

Our training and familiarisation sessions have now been completed. If you missed out then don't worry, we will be arranging a "Catch up", probably early in the New Year. Thank you to all who attended these enjoyable and informative evenings and who hopefully feel a little more confident now. Fr Stephen & Rev. Jeff

New Ministry Rotas at Holy Family. The New Ministry Rotas for the coming 6 months have been completed, and are now available in the usual places (Website, Email receipt, notice boards and a few extra hard copies). May I please once again remind you that it is your responsibility to find cover if you are unable to fulfil your ministry. On a few occasions this hasn't been happening. Thank you, Rev Jeff

*** Don't forget ***

The monthly **Assam** collection will take place after all Masses **THIS Sunday, 1st December** at Holy Family.



Help Needed - Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Fundraising Initiative:

The Chernobyl Children's Lifeline charity have been presented with a fantastic fundraising opportunity. Morrisons, who are very generous in their support of the charity, have agreed to us "bag packing" with collection boxes at their New Brighton Store between **10am & 5pm on Thursday 5th December**. If you are able to give up a couple of hours to help can you please contact her on 07769 656271 or jayne.pattullo@yahoo.com



The next Monthly Prayer Breakfast will be on



Saturday 14th December at 8:30am

in the Meeting Room at OLSJ.

This month it will be hosted by the parishioners of the Quakers. No need to book, just turn up, everyone welcome.



Don't Forget that in the meeting room at Our Lady & St John, **each Monday morning** following the 9am Mass, coffee and teas are served until 10:45am. Do call in, you are most welcome to join us.

OLSJ Piety Stall: Do come and have a look at the lovely selection of Christmas cards, advent calendars, diaries, candles and other gifts for sale at the back of Church. All items individually priced. Please put money for any Piety Stall items, in the wall box by the defibrillator.



Christmas Mass Times 2019

Tuesday 24th December

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

11:30pm Carols - Our Lady & St. John

Midnight Mass - Our Lady & St. John

Wednesday 25th December

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

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

Dates for the Diary - December 2019

- ★ **1st December, Sunday** - Holy Family Christmas Bazaar after 9:30am Mass
- ★ **10th December, Tuesday** - Legion of Mary Mass at 7pm at OLSJ, starting with the Rosary at 6:40pm
- ★ **14th December, Saturday** - Churches Together Prayer Breakfast at 8:30am at OLSJ
- ★ **16th December, Monday** - Ladymount School Carol Concert at 7pm at OLSJ
- ★ **22nd December, Sunday** - Carols by Candlelight at 6pm at OLSJ

Children's Nativity: Calling all children from both churches, if you would like to take part in the nativity at the Carols by Candlelight service on 22nd December, please contact Monica Campbell on 342 9626.

Red Missio Box: The recent collection in Holy Family raised an amount of £560. Many thanks to all who contributed.



Scout stamps will be on sale from this Sunday 35p per stamp, after all Masses each weekend. The last posting day for the Scout Post is noon on 18th December 2019.

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.

May we take this opportunity to remind you, because we receive so many Intentions during this month that it's simply not possible to say an Individual Mass for each and every intention. The Mass is simply styled as "Holy Souls" or "November List". Please rest assured however, that Masses will be said regularly throughout November and in the coming months, and all your intentions are remembered at those Masses.

Calling all users of the Meeting Room Kitchen at OLSJ:

Just to remind all users that the cupboard in the corner of the kitchen is a communal cupboard and it is assumed that any teas, coffees or biscuits left in there are for everyone to use, unless they have been clearly labelled otherwise. Thank you.



The flower collection for our Christmas display at Holy Family will take place on **Sunday 8th and 15th December**. Thanks in advance for your generosity which will make our church look fabulous.

Thank you for all your donations to the **Food Bank** during November. The donations for November were OLSJ 19.24 kgs and HF 139.51 kgs. The following items are currently identified as being needed; *UHT Milk, Instant Mash, Tinned Fruit, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Sponge Puddings, Sugar, Washing Up Liquid, Squash and Toothpaste.*



First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion

2020: If you have a child who will be 8 years old in this Academic Year, he or she will be eligible to celebrate these important sacraments in 2020. Children in Year 3 at our parish school Ladymount will follow a programme of preparation there. For children who are in other schools there will be a Parish Programme of Preparation taking place in the parish room at Our Lady and St John. If you wish your child to take part in the parish programme, please contact Father Stephen on 342 6581 or email

father.stephen@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk.

There will be an information evening for parents on **Wednesday 11th December at 6pm** in the Meeting Room at OLSJ, please let Father know if you are able to attend.



'Get in the Picture' on Saturday 21st December



This 'Heswall Churches Together' stall aims to attract children (& their grown ups) who love dressing up. We provide the costumes and they provide the camera phone; the result is a Nativity Scene to remember. Leaflets listing key Christmas services are proffered, a reminder of what is behind the glitter of a modern day Christmas. We need volunteers to hand out leaflets and/or help the youngsters into and out of costumes. The stall will be there from 10 am to 2pm, coinciding with the Farmers' Market. There are half hour slots to fill. Contact Suzy Smallwood at suzy.smallwood1963@gmail.com or leave a message on 07875 404128 if you are willing to help. It is good fun! www.getinthepicture.org.uk

Advance Notice: Next weekend (7th/8th December) there will be a retiring collection for **World Mission Sunday**. It's the one day in the year when our sisters and brothers around the **world** come together to support mission. It's a great opportunity for all of us to reflect on and pray for the **Church's mission** overseas and support of the **world's** most vulnerable people.



Baptisms

We warmly welcome the following children, who have been baptised in our Parish during November 2019.

- ❖ *Ava Prickett* at OLSJ on 2nd November 2019
- ❖ *James Tomos Edwards* at OLSJ on 3rd November 2019
- ❖ *Jack Stobbart* at OLSJ on 17th November 2019

Confessions

Our Lady & St John
Saturday 5:15pm – 5:45pm
Holy Family

Mothers' Prayers

Every Monday morning at 9:30am in the meeting

Legion of Mary Meetings

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

Sat 30th November	St. Andrew	6:00 pm	Mass - November List	O U R L A D Y & S T J O H N
Sun 1st December	1st Sunday of Advent Year A (Psalter Week I)	11:15 am	Mass - Kearon Worthington R.I.P.	
Mon 2nd December	Ferial		No Mass	
Tues 3rd December	St Francis Xavier		No Mass	
Wed 4th 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 5th December	Ferial	7:00 pm	Mass - Janine & Fred Overton R.I.P.	
Fri 6th December	St Nicholas		Mass at Holy Family at 9am	
Sat 7th December	St. Ambrose	6:00 pm	Mass - Josephine Ross	
Sun 8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent Year A (Psalter Week II)	11:15 am	Mass - Alice Wise R.I.P.	

H O L Y F A M I L Y	Sun 1st December	1st Sunday of Advent Year A (Psalter Week I)	9:30 am	Mass - John Pritchard R.I.P. (Anniversary)
			5:00 pm	Mass - Fr Pat O'Brien R.I.P. (Anniversary)
	Mon 2nd December	Ferial		(No Mass at OLSJ)
	Tues 3rd December	St Francis Xavier		(No Mass at OLSJ)
	Wed 4th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Mr & Mrs Michael & Maura Heneghan
	Thurs 5th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word & Sacrament
	Fri 6th December	St Nicholas	9:00 am	Mass - Holy Souls (November List)
	Sat 7th December	St. Ambrose	12 noon	Mass - Stanley Braden R.I.P.
Sun 8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent Year A (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Mass - Mrs L. Skinner (Speedy Recovery)	
		5:00 pm	Mass - George Kelly	

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.