

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



Reflection on Today's Gospel By Father Stephen

John the Baptist filled with the Holy Spirit, who like Amos and Isaiah, castigated the religious leaders of his day, proclaimed the coming wrath of God and pointed to one coming who is even stronger than he, now sits in Herod's prison awaiting death because he confronted with God's word the powerful and violent people of his day. John wonders if his life has been worthwhile and asks his disciples to go and ask whether he really is the one who is to come.

Jesus' answer is as much a challenge to John as is his life to us today. Jesus is not the stronger one who will usher in the day of wrath and winnow the wheat and the chaff, but the one whose deeds gather up the deepest hopes of Isaiah: the blind see again, the deaf hear, the lame walk, lepers are cured and able to rejoin their families, the poor receive the news that God is on their side. John who has lived proclaiming God's word, must now wait for death sustained by faith and hope in that word.

John is for us a symbol of hopes proclaimed and hopes transformed. Our Church is not a church of the powerful but of the poor, the mourners and those who hope for justice.



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
Sara Bull



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.

✠ May They Rest in Peace ✠

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Kevin Rodgers** and **Frederick William Jones** who have recently died. May their souls Rest in Peace.

- Kevin Rodgers' Funeral Mass will take place at **10:30am on Friday 20th December** at Our Lady & St John. There will be a Vigil of the Deceased service with the reception of Kevin's body into church on **Thursday evening (19th December) at 6pm** followed by the Rosary at **6:40pm**.
- Frederick Jones' Funeral Service will take place at **2:30pm on Monday 30th December** at Our Lady & St John.

Please remember to pray for their families at this difficult time.

Thanks to all who supported our Christmas Bazar at Holy Family. We raised £504 to date but more importantly we socialised together as a family. Raffle tickets will continue to be sold until 22nd December. Lots of great prizes to be won including £50 voucher for The Fox and Hounds, Christmas Hamper, Christmas cake, wine, chocolates and many more. Tickets available from The Box Office.



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.*

The Stitch Craft Group at OLSJ will close for Christmas on **Tuesday 17th December** and re open on Tuesday **7th January 2020**. Merry Christmas to you all.

Chernobyl Children

The organisers of this charity are putting together a group trip to visit Belarussia and see first hand how the charity is helping these poor children. The trip is fully escorted and provides the chance to see and visit schools and other places, which otherwise might not be possible. The trip will be in late August / early September 2020. If anyone is interested you are asked to find out more via:

10ho@ccll.org.uk

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.



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

- ★ **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.



Advent Mass in Arrowe Park Hospital Chapel (1st Floor in main building) next **Thursday 19th December** at 12.30pm.

Celebrant Canon Philip Moor. Patients, staff, visitors and parishioners from our Wirral Parishes all most welcome.

Calling all Eucharistic Ministers at OLSJ

With Christmas falling during the weekday this year, there is currently no rota to cover the Eucharistic Minister duties at the Christmas Masses. If you are a Eucharistic Minister and are able to minister at one of the Masses over Christmas, please could you contact Rosemary Greaney or sign up on the rota sheet at the back of church? Thank you.



'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 **S u z y S m a l l w o o d** 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



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

Holy Family 200 Club

Week 8

1 st Prize	£25	No. 28	M. Turner
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 148	J. Turner
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 88	M. Hamilton

Week 9

1 st Prize	£25	No. 131	S. Burke
2 nd Prize	£10	No. 97	C. V. Braden
3 rd Prize	£5	No. 76	A. Hamilton



A big **THANK YOU** to all the parishioners who contributed to the Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund. We were able to present the charity with a cheque for **£1144.28**
Well done!



Use your free time to inspire young people to build a fairer world:

CAFOD is looking for volunteers who have a passion for, and experience of, working with young people. We need people who have a commitment to CAFOD's aims and values and an interest in sharing our work in secondary schools through delivering assemblies or workshops. CAFOD will provide training and support, and expenses will be paid.

Volunteering assignments will be in local Catholic schools and you can either work on your own or as part of a team. None of our work is possible without you, so join us and put your faith into action.

If you are interested please email **Ciara Hogan**, chogan@cafod.org.uk



OLSJ Parishioner, Joshua Campbell and many other locally based youth have had their lives changed forever by the ROCK of

JOY charity. The Heswall based charity is run by four local people including a surgeon and a nurse. They all work full time so as to take not a single penny from the trust in admin costs and at great cost in time and resources to themselves. They support 4 schools in Uganda (one residential) by feeding the children, paying teachers and investing in buildings and resources. Each school is somewhat self funding with projects such as farm land and small school run businesses, but the job isn't done yet. Recent inflationary changes in the area mean that instead of needing to send £3000 per month they now need about double that to go forward. Josh will be handing out information cards at the end of Mass, describing how you can help this worthy charity, by paying to feed one child per month. Please do help if you can. More details can be found on the website:

www.rockofjoy.co.uk

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 14th December	St. John of the Cross	6:00 pm	Mass - Kay Gibbings Anniversary	O U R L A D Y & S T J O H N
Sun 15th December	3rd Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> (Psalter Week III)	11:15 am	Mass - Clothilde Meigh R.I.P.	
Mon 16th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Geraldine Chitty	
Tues 17th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Yvonne Martineau R.I.P.	
Wed 18th 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 19th December	Ferial	6:00 pm	<i>Reception of the body of Kevin Rodgers into church followed by the praying of the Rosary.</i>	
		7:00 pm	Mass - Kevin Rodgers R.I.P.	
Fri 20th December	Ferial	10:30 am	Funeral Mass - Kevin Rodgers	H O L Y F A M I L Y
Sat 21st December	St Peter Canisius	6:00 pm	Mass - Pat King R.I.P.	
Sun 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent <i>Day of special prayer for expectant mothers</i> (Psalter Week IV)	11:15 am	Mass - Intentions of Aiko Burke	
Sun 15th December	3rd Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Mass - Judith Roberts R.I.P (Anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Mass - For the Parish	
Mon 16th December	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)	
Tues 17th December	Ferial		(Mass at OLSJ at 9am)	
Wed 18th December	Ferial		No Mass or Service	
Thurs 19th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Service of Word & Sacrament	
Fri 20th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Mass - Maud Skea R.I.P (Anniversary)	
Sat 21st December	St Peter Canisius	12 noon	Mass - Martha Joanes & Nasei Rodrigues	
Sun 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent <i>Day of special prayer for expectant mothers</i> (Psalter Week IV)	9:30 am	Mass - Helen Ryan R.I.P (Anniversary)	
		5:00 pm	Mass - Eileen Davies R.I.P (Anniversary)	

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.