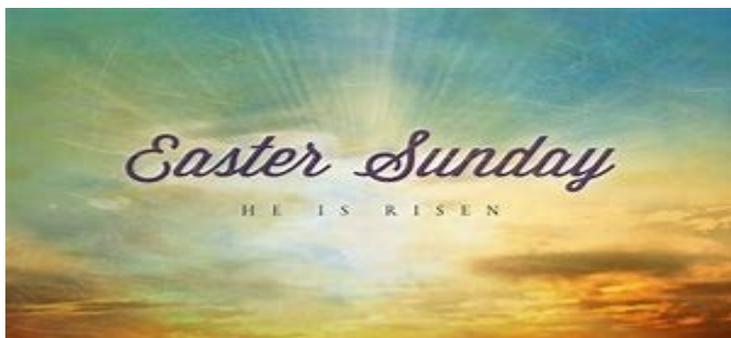


News from the Parishes of Holy Family, Pensby and Our Lady & St. John, Heswall

Both Holy Family and Our Lady & St John's will remain closed until further notice.



Reflection on the Easter Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Each Easter morning Gospel has its own distinctive beauty. The women arrive at dawn, symbolically the dawning of a new day in human history. Matthew alone tells of an earthquake which often symbolizes the punishment of God's enemies as a prelude to the resurrection of the dead. Only Matthew records that the angel, which in Jewish tradition guides the just to heaven, rolls the stone away and sits on it, another visual symbol of the victory over death.

The most distinctive elements of Matthew's version then emerge. In their fear the guards become like dead men. The angel then tells the women, "There is no need for you to be afraid... Jesus has risen, as he said he would." They are then commissioned as the first heralds of the resurrection. They leave with awe and great joy only to meet Jesus himself. Falling in worship and clasping his feet, a clear indication that the risen Jesus is not simply a spirit, they hear Jesus say, "Do not be afraid, go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee. They will see me there." The women ran from the door of death to proclaim the word of life. Shall we follow them? The Lord has truly risen!

Gospel Reading for Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow.

The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

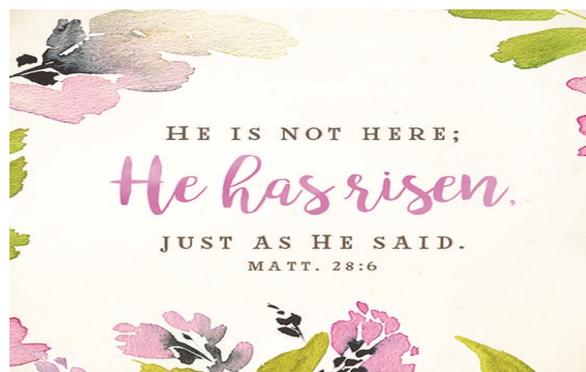
He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."



Shrewsbury Cathedral
Liturgical Schedule for Holy Week

As we are unable to be together during Holy Week, Shrewsbury Cathedral has outlined its planned liturgical schedule for Holy Week. This can be followed live from their website:

<http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses>

Good Friday

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer
- 8:15 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer
- 8:30 am Mass
- 10:45 am Mass
- 5:00 pm Adoration
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer concluding with Benediction for the Sick



Holy Family & Our Lady and St. John
Schedule for Holy Week

Here at Holy Family and Our Lady and St John, we thought that we would have a 'virtual' congregation, for us all to come together in prayer as one big parish, during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday, as we can't be together physically. Deacon Jeff and Father Stephen are asking that we join together in prayer at the following times during the week:

Good Friday at 3:00 pm

- Please join together at home to pray the STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Easter Sunday at 11:00 am

- Please join together at home to pray the GLORIOUS MYSTERIES of the Rosary

For help in saying these prayers, please go to our [website and select Spiritual Life > Prayers](#)

✠ **May They Rest in Peace** ✠

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Veronica McGoldrick
Ernest Frederick Gott (Fred)
Mariette Skates

who have recently died. May their souls Rest in Peace.

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

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,
Madge McGrath,
David Gorman, Norman Corish, Carol Ross,
Jillie Huntingford, Imelda Atherton, Eileen Millard, Pauline Pritchard, Deacon Philip White, Sara Bull, Lil Skinner, Margaret C. Hiepko, William Kerin



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.

PARISHIONER OUTREACH - THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all our parishioners who have responded to the request for help with those in our Parish who are vulnerable, elderly or unable to go out at the moment. Your kindness is really touching. To date, we haven't heard from anyone that needs help but have heard from a number of you, who are contacting parishioners you know may be vulnerable or elderly. Great work!

If you do however, hear of anyone that may need a bit of shopping or a phone call and are unable to help them yourself, do get in touch and we can organise for someone to help out.



A Message from Richard Roberts, the General Manager at the Wirral Foodbank.

Wirral Council and community food providers have come together to make sure vulnerable residents don't go hungry during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral, Wirral Foodbank and other third sector food providers, are coordinating efforts and centralising their bulk food collection and distribution operations at a new Emergency Food Hub, managed by Wirral Council.

Residents experiencing difficulties in accessing food can visit www.wirral.gov.uk/foodhelp to submit their details online using a simple form or call the **Wirral Coronavirus Helpline (0151 666 5050, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)**. Residents should be encouraged or supported to use the online referral form wherever possible.

Residents are also encouraged to visit www.wirralinfobank.co.uk for details of shopping and delivery services provided by community groups in their local area. The Infobank has an easy-to-use search facility which shows what help is available, simply by inserting a postcode. The Infobank also has a list of social supermarkets in Wirral.

Residents requiring financial assistance can continue to apply online for www.wirral.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/local-welfare-assistance

Wirral children who normally get free school meals will receive vouchers to cover the cost of food as part of a partnership between the Council and local schools. For more information on this scheme, go to <https://wirralview.com/news/meal-vouchers-wirral-schoolchildren>

If you have enough food for yourself, please do keep donating food at your local Foodbank collection points in your local supermarkets.

**Mass**

Did you know that you can watch Mass over the internet on your laptop, tablet or phone? Simply go the website www.churchservices.tv You can watch Mass live from parishes all over the UK and Ireland. Alternatively, you can visit our Diocesan website to view weekday and Sunday Mass live from Shrewsbury cathedral www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses

Free Catholic Newspapers

During this period, many of your usual Catholic newspapers are available to read online, free of charge. Visit www.ChurchPaper.co.uk, The website contains over 600 editions of the country-wide newspapers, including:

- Catholic Pic (Archdiocese of Liverpool)
- UCM News (Union of Catholic Mothers)
- Reach - Catholic Schools Paper

With many more being added weekly. They are free to download and view on your tablet or phone.

Daily Prayer

Our Diocesan website has suggestions for daily Morning and Evening Prayers, as well as a Meditation for the Week and an interesting read about the Saint of the Week. Visit www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/

Ways to Stay in Touch with Parish News



Visit the parish website
www.rcchp.org.uk



Sign up for the weekly parish newsletter via email

To join send an email to Victoria Hanlon
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk



Visit the Holy Family Pensby Facebook page



The Young Vincentians Team
St Vincent de Paul Society
(England & Wales)

Young Vincentians Team furloughed

Unfortunately, from Monday 6th April 2020 the Young Vincentians Team will be completely furloughed for at least 4 weeks. Our current situation will be reviewed but it is anticipated that unless there are drastic changes to forecasts this could be for considerably longer.

Resources

We have done as much as possible over the last few weeks to maintain all our youth apostolates virtually and to provide additional spiritual resources and activities for all our young people to engage in schools and parishes and at home with their families. We have been very pleased to be able to launch all 3 of our newly created youth microsites live as well so we now have three fully operationally microsites that are full of brand new resources. Please find the links below:

- **Mini Vinnies:** www.svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies
- **Youth SVP:** www.svp.org.uk/youth-svp
- **B-Attitudes:** www.svp.org.uk/b-attitude

and look out for posts relating to these appearing on our social media channels too:

- **Twitter:** @SVPEnglandWales
- **Facebook:** @SVPEnglandandWales
- **Instagram:** @SVPEnglandWales

Church Offertory Giving



A number of parishioners have contacted Father Stephen to ask how they can give their weekly Offertory envelopes or the envelopes for the CAFOD collection whilst the churches are closed.

Obviously, the safety of everyone concerned is our overriding concern and it would not be safe to pass these directly from one person to another or to put them through the presbytery letterbox.

One way would be to simply retain the envelopes until the churches reopen and Mass is once again celebrated in public. However, the 2019/2020 envelopes will soon run out and with the churches closed it is neither practical nor safe to distribute the 2020/2021 boxes of envelopes and we do not yet know when this might be allowed.

There is a possible solution to this conundrum which you may wish to consider; switching to Standing Order payments, either permanently or for the duration of this emergency. Many of your fellow parishioners already make their donations to the Church using this method and they find it very convenient.

If you wish to explore this option please ring Bernard Larkin on 342-5517 and he can explain what is involved.

News from Assam

We have heard from Fr Purty in Dibrugarh. They are experiencing a 'lockdown' like us but so far there have only been a few cases of infection locally. The boys, however, have all been sent back home to their villages as a precaution. Fr Purty and Bishop Albert both promise to pray for us and ask for our prayers in return. The monthly collections are, of course, suspended but will resume as soon as we have the 'all



Do you have an item for the newsletter?

If you do please send it to Victoria Hanlon at
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk
by 4pm on a Thursday afternoon.

