



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

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Freda Stewart, John Joseph Gray, Peter Furr, Phyllis Brownrigg, Brian Cantillon, Valerie Bennett & Marie Bell

who have recently died. May their souls rest in peace. Please remember to pray for their families at this difficult time.

IMPORTANT - BE E-MAIL AWARE!

Parishioners, please be extra vigilant of email and telephone scammers at this time of the year.

We have been informed of a number of cases in the Diocese, where parishioners have received emails supposedly from the Parish Priest, asking for money or to buy Amazon gift vouchers on their behalf.

YOUR PARISH PRIEST WILL NEVER ASK YOU FOR MONEY OR TO BUY VOUCHERS ONLINE

The scammers will go to great lengths to make the email look authentic. I myself received this email supposedly from Father Stephen last week:



Father Stephen <rev821234@gmail.com>
Sat 28/11, 11:28
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

📧 Reply all | ▼

Great Saturday Morning. Have a wonderful day ahead? I need an urgent favour from you and I will be glad if you could help me with it now, Message me back on here. Thanks

A good way to check if it is really from Father Stephen or someone else you might know, is to check the email address. As you can see here, although it says it is from Father Stephen the email address is wrong. If in doubt, phone the person in question, to check whether the request is genuine.

For the latest advice on how to spot fraud, tricks or scams visit the Government website at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/frauds-tricks-and-scams

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,
Carol Ross,
Jillie Huntingford,
Imelda Atherton,
Eileen Millard,
Pauline Pritchard,
Deacon Philip White,
Sara Bull,
Lil Skinner,
William Kerin,
David Johnston,
Phil Shaw,
Eileen Roberts,
Irene Fitzpatrick,
Frances Ford,
Maureen Jones,
Paul Baker,
Moir Griffiths-Parr,
Andrew Whittingham-Jones,
John McNulty,
Susan McNulty



Please get in touch if there are any alterations.

Mass Times for December 2020

Weekday Masses

Mondays	9:30 am	@ OLSJ Church & on YouTube
Tuesdays	8:30 am	on YouTube
Wednesdays	9:30 am	@ Holy Family Church & on YouTube
Thursdays	9:30 am	@ OLSJ Church & on YouTube
Fridays	8:30 am	on YouTube
Saturdays	12 noon	@ Holy Family Church & on YouTube

Our Sunday Masses open to the public, will also resume:

Sunday Masses

Sunday	9:30 am	@ Holy Family Church & on YouTube
Sunday	11:15 am	@ OLSJ Church & on YouTube

Remember if you are unable to get to Mass, **all Masses are still Live-Streamed Masses via our YouTube** channel. The link to our YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyzzNjNscAoxuWubVYv04Lw>

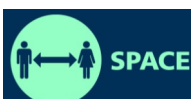
Have you subscribed to our YouTube channel yet?

By subscribing to our YouTube channel, you need never miss a Mass again, as YouTube will notify you when a new video (Mass) has been uploaded onto our channel. It is free to subscribe and you can unsubscribe at any time.

When coming to Mass remember to.....



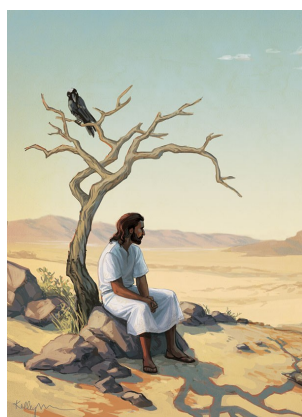
Use hand sanitiser on your way in and on your way out of church.



Wear a mask or face covering that covers both your mouth **and** nose, when entering church and during the duration your time inside the church.



Ensure that you stay a safe distance away from people who aren't from your household **at all times** when in church.



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

The open verses of Mark's Gospel reach back to Isaiah to hear again a voice in the wilderness calling the people to make way for the coming of God. By "beginning" Mark means not simply the initial verses of a book but the origin of the Church's proclamation of the Good News in the deepest aspirations of the Jewish people for liberation and intimacy with God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Mark introduces the second of the three Advent figures of expectation (Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary). John's location in the desert, the barren wilderness southeast of Jerusalem near the Dead Sea has broad resonance for Jews, recalling the years of wilderness wandering between the Exodus and entry into the Land, and the place of the covenant at Sinai. The wilderness has a dual connotation: positively as the place of God's saving acts and negatively as the site of testing and rebellion. Jesus himself is tested there, retreats there to pray and to avoid crowds, feeds the people there. His final test comes when he is "deserted" by his followers and accepts the chalice of suffering. Today John the prophet summons the people to a baptism of repentance, a symbolic washing that signifies a new way of thinking.

Mass Intentions for the Week Commencing Sunday 6th December 2020

Sun 6th December	2nd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Irene O'Neill R.I.P.
Mon 7th December	St Ambrose	11:00 am	OLSJ	Funeral Mass for Phyllis Brownrigg
Tues 8th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8:30 am	YouTube	Mass - Peter Fishwick R.I.P.
Wed 9th December	Ferial	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mariette Skates R.I.P.
Thurs 10th December	Our Lady of Loreto	9:30 am	OLSJ	Mass - Iris Mary Pennell
Fri 11th December	Our Lady of Loreto	11:30 am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass for Brian Cantillon
		1:30 am	Holy Family	Funeral Mass for Valerie Bennett
Sat 12th December	St Damascus	12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Stephanie Orr R.I.P.
Sun 13th December	3rd Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Joan Heneghan Birthday
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Thomas Bernard McGurk Anniversary



A message from Wirral Charity Post 2020

We have rested our normal surface mail operation for 2020 to ensure that we can safeguard our Scouts, Guides, Parents, Leaders and Supporters. With your help, it can return when conditions permit.

This year we are excited to launch our new eCard venture which enables you to send electronic cards to your friends and family, both locally, but now for the first time since 1982, around the world! There is a selection of over 80 designs on our website and they will be delivered by email.

This year, the eCard scheme will be free but, to help keep the scheme running, we are asking for donations either online or by text (see website for details). With your help and support, Scouts and Guides within Wirral will continue gaining Skills For Life for the next generation of young people. The more you can donate, the more young people we can support.

www.wirralcharitypost.org



Monthly Assam Collection

The monthly collection will start again this **Sunday, 6th December** at Holy Family Church. The usual blue envelopes are at the back of church and these (or any envelope marked 'Assam') can be placed in the general bucket collection.

If this is not possible for you and you wish to donate in any other way, please ring Fred Taylor at 342-5922.

Christmas Mass Times 2020

Thursday 24th December

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

Midnight Mass - Our Lady & St. John

Friday 25th December

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

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

Christmas Masses are always busy at the best of times, but this year with the COVID-19 restrictions in place, we are unfortunately only able to safely accommodate a small number of parishioners at Mass in both our parish churches. Places will be given on a first-come first-served basis. The churches will be open half an hour before Mass starts.

If you are unable to attend any of the Masses over Christmas, they will be all live-streamed on our YouTube channel, to watch from home.

We apologise in advance if we have to turn you away from either of our churches, if we are full, but the safety of our parishioners is paramount. We hope you understand.

Celebrating Christmas safely will help end this pandemic as quickly as possible.



Wirral Ark Christmas Cards

Pack of Ark Christmas Cards will be available again this year and are in support of a local charity which directly help the homeless here in Birkenhead. Each pack costs £3.

If you would like to buy a pack please either contact Ann Grandy on 342 5901. Alternatively, there will be a few packs available at the back of Holy Family church from this Sunday.

An appeal from Father Stephen to the Parish**Caring this Christmas Time**

During Advent, please let us make a special effort to think of those we know; parishioners, neighbours, friends or family who may be feeling alone at this time of the year. Christmas can be a lonely time for some and with the added difficulties this year of Covid, let us try and make some time for others.

- ★ *Maybe you could pick up the phone and call someone to check they're OK?*
- ★ *Maybe you could knock on their door and see if they need anything?*

This Advent, let us look after one another, as a parish and as a community.

**SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

This is our annual collection of items for our Seafarers which will be distributed to crew members who will dock in Liverpool during the Christmas period. Here is a list of items which would be appreciated for our Seafarers:

- Chocolate, & Sweets e.g. Toblerone or Chocolate Orange
- Shower Gel (Men & Women)
- Shampoo (shop own brand is fine)
- Dove Soap
- Deodorant (Men & Women) - *Roll On Only*
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (single not multi packs please)
- Woolly hats, Scarves & Gloves & Socks
- Playing Cards and Dice
- Pocket games (Chess, dominoes backgammon etc)
- Mini Jigsaws

Any of the above can be delivered to Joan Larkin at 14 Speedwell Drive, Barnston

There will be a box in the Porch for your donations.

Last day for donations is **Tuesday 15th December**. If you need any further information or need something to be collected, please contact Joan on 0151 342 5517. Thank you.

**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.

Heswall Disabled Children Holiday Fund

I am Joan Larkin, a parishioner at OLSJ and one of the Committee members at HDCHF and I hope you can help.



As you know this year has been challenging for us all. Our virtual Camp in August was a super success, and it was great to see so many taking part. It was essential for us to continue to help the children, parents and carers this year but in a different way.

We have not been able to carry out our usual fundraising events and so we have decided to have a **Christmas Raffle** which will take place on **Saturday 12th December 2020**.

Tickets are £1 each ticket or £5 for a book of five. The prizes are:



1st £200

2nd £100

3rd £50

4th Marks & Spencer Voucher and other prizes

If you would like to purchase a ticket(s) or help sell some please contact me by telephone on

07542213158 or via email

raffle@heswallcamp.org.uk.

Each ticket purchased will raise valuable funds for the charity and will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

**"Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path."**



Colour in the picture of a family who have come together to prepare for Christmas.

How will you prepare for Christmas? Write or draw a picture on the back of this sheet showing what you will do.

Make a straight path

Today we think about preparing a way and making a straight path for the Lord. How will you do that this Advent?

Untangle these paths and straighten out which one is which. Match each letter path to a number action that we can do to get ready for Jesus.



NEW Children's Liturgy Videos for Advent

Our Children's Liturgy Catechists will be doing a new video each week of Advent for our Parish children (and grown ups!) to watch and enjoy. To watch it, go to our YouTube channel or click on this link

Children's Liturgy YouTube Video

ADVENT REFLECTION 2020

Week 2: Building the Kingdom of God

*He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms.*

Isaiah 40:10

*We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth, where
righteousness will be at home.*

2 Peter 3:13

FAITH INTO ACTION

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd may at first seem gentle and idyllic but a shepherd in those times had to be fearless and constantly watchful to protect his flock from predators. In the face of attack only his courage would save them from danger and destruction. A shepherd's life was solitary and lonely yet he remained committed to safe-guarding his flock. Going against the crowd for the sake of justice and peace can also be lonely and requires courage and steadfastness.

Inspired by this week's readings, may we too be fearless, speaking out against injustice as we seek to build the Kingdom of God, regardless of the cost to ourselves. Our Advent preparation inspires us to work for change to make the new heaven and new earth become a reality for all peoples where everyone is cared for and valued.

This year's Advent reflections are taken from the writings of our daughter Annie, a scripture scholar, evangelist and teacher, who died of natural causes in June. In October 2012 she wrote:

"We are called as the people of God to serve the communities in whose lives we share and to be people of vision..."

...Our mission to serve cannot be restricted in terms of nationality, social group, religious affiliation, etc.

...The letter of St. James teaches that genuine faith must be expressed in action."

THE MOVEMENT OF GOD

In article from June 2017 Annie wrote: "I'd just walked up a great big hill in North Wales, and as I paused to admire the view, it struck me that such beautiful views come only after a steep climb, and, indeed, come only because of movement. It would have been easier not to move that day – I was four days into a 134-mile sponsored walk and I was a bit tired and achy. Sitting still and doing nothing seemed quite appealing. But not going uphill, not moving, would have meant not reaching my destination and not experiencing the beauty waiting there for me. So, I kept moving.

And, as I walked that day, I began to think about movement. What does it mean to move? I thought about other words and ideas that describe some aspect of this word movement – words and ideas like: motion, life, activity, energy, change, openness, improvement, growth, wondering, wandering, transformation, rhythm, flexibility.

I thought about the things in my backpack that I didn't really need for the journey that were weighing me down and restricting my movement. I thought about things in my life that need to move. I thought about things in my heart that need to move. I thought about things in our country and in our world that need to move.

...I'm reminded of something I used to teach my Philosophy students – that God is the Prime Mover, that all movement can be traced back to God because without an initial mover, nothing would move at all. Without God, there is no life, no movement, no change.

I thought about Jesus as the movement of God, the stepping out of God, the motion and activity of God, the changing and transforming arrival of God – in my life, in my heart, in our country and in our world. Then I thought about how I need to be the movement of God, how we, as Church, need to be the movement of God...

...What needs to move in your life?

Where and how can you be the movement of God?"

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Psalm 84:10

Watch Masses said
by Father Stephen
on our YouTube
channel Our Lady and St
John Heswall

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCyzzNjNscAoxuWubVYv04Lw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyzzNjNscAoxuWubVYv04Lw)




Visit the parish

Website



at

www.rcchp.org.uk

Do you know
anyone that doesn't
have access to the
internet?
 A paper copy of the
weekly newsletter can be
sent to them in the post.
Just drop a line to the
Parish Secretary.

**Ways to
Stay in
Touch with
Parish News**

Visit the
Holy Family Pensby
Facebook page



Have your contact
details changed
recently?
If they have,
please let the
Parish Secretary
know.

[contact@ourladyand
stjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)

 Sign up for the
weekly parish
newsletter via email
To join send an email to
Victoria Hanlon
[contact@ourladyand
stjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)