

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

OUR PARISH CHURCHES REMAIN OPEN DURING THIS CURRENT LOCKDOWN

As per the latest [Government Guidelines](#) both our Parish Churches are allowed to remain open for Mass. However, as a community, we must all do our bit to ensure that we are keeping each other safe. We can do this by making sure that we are familiar with the rules that have been set:

- ★ Please sanitise your hands on arrival and when leaving church.
- ★ Please wear a face covering when in church, ensuring your nose and mouth are covered.
- ★ Please sit where the stewards direct you, and remain in that seat throughout the service.
- ★ Please do not kneel as this reduces the distance to the person in front of you.
- ★ Please stand and sit at the same time as the congregation to maintain distancing to the person in front of you.
- ★ At communion, please maintain a single file and keep distanced from the person in front of you.
- ★ Approach the minister with your mask on and arms outstretched, receiving the host in your hand.
- ★ Move away from the minister and slip your mask open and place the host in your mouth.
- ★ Replace your mask and leave church, please do not return to a seat, or stand at the back of church.
- ★ Please do not mingle outside church, but leave the premises promptly.

It is appreciated that some of these requested may cause concern for some people, but our aim is to ensure that as far as possible our activities do not contribute to the spread of the virus. We do not know who has the virus, we must act as though we all have it and behave in a manner which seeks to protect others in our group.

Please be reminded that in these difficult times ***there is no duty to come to church, and no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday.*** Currently infection rates on the Wirral are at their highest levels ever. The government has issued advice for those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, summarised below:

- ★ The new national lockdown guidance, which applies to everyone, means that you must not leave or be outside of your home and garden, except for limited purposes which are set out in that guidance.
- ★ We are advising clinically extremely vulnerable people to stay at home as much as possible.
- ★ You can still go outside for exercise or to attend health appointments, but try to keep all contact with others outside of your household to a minimum, and avoid busy areas.
- ★ You may receive further advice from your medical professionals.

Don't forget that you can watch Mass from the parish via our [YouTube](#) channel as well as from our [Diocesan Cathedral in Shrewsbury](#).

Thank you for your co-operation & understanding.

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen



Today we have Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus. The term "temptation" is inaccurate, since the original Greek means "tested" or "subjected to a trial." This evokes the wider theme of God's testing of the people of Israel, like Jesus in the wilderness, the suffering servant of Isaiah and the suffering just person of the Book of Wisdom who, though tested by God remains faithful and is called a child of God. In this first Lenten Sunday gospel the Church portrays a Jesus who "because he himself was tested through what he suffered is able to help those who are being tested."

Jesus leaves the wilderness to proclaim the Good News from God. The news is good because the kingdom of God, God's reigning is at hand. God is a king who protects an endangered people, has special concern for the vulnerable and judges violence and injustice. Only by following the way of Jesus through the Gospel, hearing his word and adopting his values can we understand more deeply the mystery of God's reign. The beginning of this journey through Lent calls for repentance or a second look at life and belief, an act of trust in God who guides the unfolding journey.

Masses for the Week Commencing Sunday 21st February 2021

Sun 21st February	1st Sunday of Lent (Psalter Week I)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Intentions of Eileen Cantillon
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
Mon 22nd February	The Chair of St Peter	9:30 am	OLSJ	Mass - Edward Wilson R.I.P.
Tues 23rd February	St Polycarp	8:30 am	YouTube	Mass - Maureen Birch & Raymond Coonan
Wed 24th February	Ferial	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Brian Cantillon R.I.P.
Thurs 25th February	Ferial	9:30 am	OLSJ	Mass - Henry Bernard McGurk R.I.P. Anniversary Rememberance
Fri 26th February	Family Fast Day <i>Day of Special Prayer for the Needy & the Hungry of the World</i>	8:30 am	YouTube	Mass - Ian Ashton R.I.P.
Sat 27th February	Ferial	12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Marino Restrepo Birthday Thanksgiving
Sun 28th February	2nd Sunday of Lent (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Peter Fishwick R.I.P.

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
**Edward (Ted) Wilson, William Frederick
 Beaumont & Mary Susan McNulty**
 who have recently died. May their souls rest in
 peace. Please remember to pray for their families
 at this difficult time.

Gift Aid – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The end of the tax year is drawing ever closer. If you Gift Aid your offertory donation it is important that you check you are paying sufficient tax to cover the amount we will reclaim under Gift Aid. If you are no longer paying tax or not enough tax to cover the claim you should contact us urgently:

Holy Family: Fred Taylor 342 5922

OLSJ: Bernard Larkin 342 5517

Fairtrade Fortnight 22nd Feb to 7th March

Although the Covid Restrictions prevent us from the usual display and 'sale' of goods, we can remind ourselves of the need to think carefully about the goods we buy. Can we seek out a **Fairtrade** alternative? In this way we can give our practical support for the many exploited farmers in poorer nations than ours.

Steven Donnelly, of the Fairtrade Foundation, is giving a short talk at the invitation of St Alban's Justice and Peace group, via Zoom on Tuesday next **23rd Feb at 7. 30pm**. To register for the meeting please contact SKeithTay@outlook.com

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
22 FEBRUARY - 7 MARCH



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,

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,

Moira Griffiths-Parr,

Andrew Whittingham-Jones,

John McNulty,

Samantha Stevens,

Tony Newby

Please get in touch if there are any alterations.





**Family Fast day is on
Friday 26th February**



Fast, pray and give



Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else.

This Family Fast day please donate the money you have saved from your fasting, to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Cafod Family Fast Day envelopes are available at the back of both churches. If you are unable to get to church in these difficult times, you can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by texting **LENT** to **70460** to donate £10.

Don't forget that you can also help by sponsoring one of our walking groups, who are doing Cafod's **Walk for Water** challenge (see below).



**'Walk For Water' – Action for Lent
Holy Family Justice & Peace Group**

This year Cafod are appealing for support of the many poor people who suffer simply because of their need for drinking water, something we all take for granted. Cafod tells us how individuals need to walk many miles everyday simply to supply their family with water.

We now have 4 Walkers each supported by one or more sponsors. The start date is next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday and we plan to report weekly on each Walker's mileage and finish on Palm Sunday. As added interest the walkers have given their names as:

- *Puss-in-boots* sponsored by *Dick Whittington*
- *The Tonics* sponsored by *The Gordons*
- *The Wanderer* sponsored by *The Wolves*
- *The Water Carriers* sponsored by *Aquarius and others*

This is not a race. It is a way of showing our solidarity with those in need to whom the slightest bit of help can make all the difference. The Sponsors will be asked to make their donation on or after Palm Sunday.

Anyone can join in at any time so why not give an added purpose to your Lockdown fitness walks and help others too? For more info ring Fred Taylor at 342-5922.



Year of St Joseph

Prayer from the Roman Missal

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Ancient Prayer to Saint Joseph

Oh Saint Joseph whose protection is so strong, so great, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain from your Divine Son for me all spiritual blessings through Christ Our Lord, so that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh Saint Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name, and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.



Pray for those with Coronavirus

Please keep everyone who is currently suffering from Coronavirus in your prayers. We especially pray for Father Paul O'Grady, the Parish Priest at St. Winefride's, Neston as he continues to make a recovery from Coronavirus.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:
For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians and
Health of the Sick: *Hail Mary...*

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

WARNING Covid-19 Vaccine Scams

You may have seen in the media that the police are warning people about a number of Covid-19 Vaccine scams going on. Police have warned that fraudsters are sending out fake text messages, emails and phone calls in an attempt to steal people's personal data and financial details.

REMEMBER....

- ⇒ You will **NEVER** be asked to pay for the vaccine....it's free for everyone.
- ⇒ You should **NEVER** give out your personal details over the phone or via text or email.

The NHS will **NEVER** ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine, and will **NEVER** ask for payment or for your bank details.



Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team (SYMT) News Update

We have received a letter from SYMT and below is information that could be of interest to you all, especially young Catholics. Over the last few months the Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team have had some great success with online ministry. We thought it might be good just to draw your attention to some of the great work that has been done.

 **Last May we started our YouTube channel** – Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team SYMT. This has grown from strength to strength with regular live broadcasts and constant content renewal. This would be a great resource for some of your parishioners, particularly the young. There will be even more exciting and new content coming up in the coming weeks.

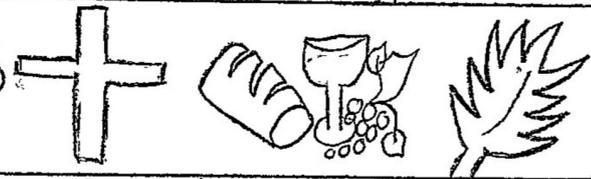
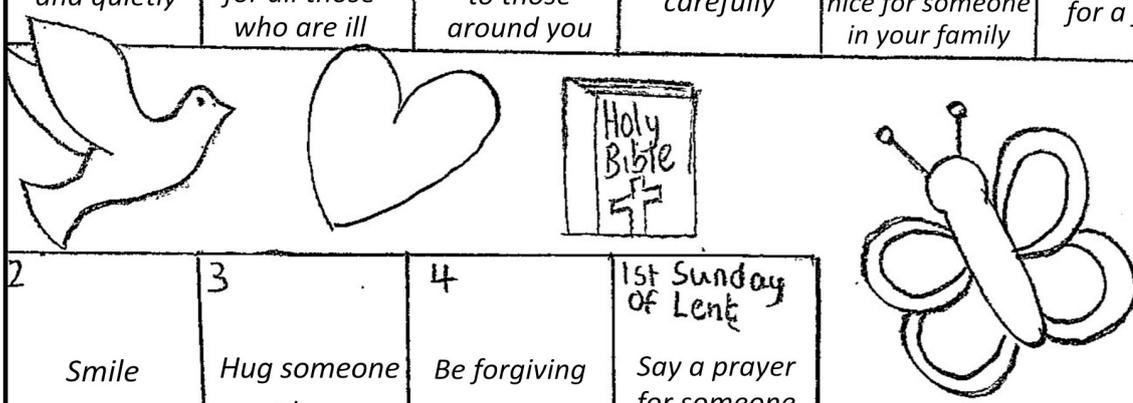
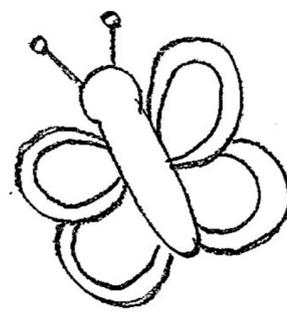
 **Social Media** – We have always had a presence on social media we have Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts but this has grown since last March with a considerable increase in content and traffic across the platforms. Way to access information regarding SYMT Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – Online Ministry Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for @Shrewsbury_ymt Find us on YouTube by searching for Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team – SYMT, don't forget to subscribe so you know when we go live or release new content.

Some future events we want to draw your attention to:

The Collective – This is a group of young adults (18+) who are meeting together for faith and friendship. The meetings run via Zoom by the team the aim is to reach out to young adults who want to grow in their faith. The dates for the collective are: 4th February, 4th March and the 1st April. Anyone interested should email: youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Altar Servers Day – After the success of the servers day last year we decided to go online with our day this year. This year it will be running on the 27th of March via zoom. More information will be coming out via email in the coming weeks. For now if you would be interested the please do let us know but emailing: youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Lent and Easter - There is an exciting programme in place for Lent and Easter – more information to follow.

Easter Sunday	40 Holy Saturday Try to say the 'Our Father'	39 Good Friday Talk to Jesus and remember His sacrifice	38 Maundy Thursday Help tidy up after dinner	37	36 Ask someone "How can I help?"	35 Pray for those who don't have enough food and medicine
<p>He Is Risen!</p> 						
29 Help someone who is younger than you	30 Say a prayer for those who care for others	31 Say thank you to your parents	32 The Annunciation Try to say the 'Hail Mary'	33 Be co-operative	34 Thank God for our beautiful world	Palm Sunday Make a palm leaf and praise Jesus
5th Sunday of Lent Help someone who is older than you	28 Be extra friendly	27 Saint Joseph's day Say a prayer for your family	26 Give someone a friendly wave	25 Help to tidy up	24 Ask someone about their day	23 Do something nice for a friend
<p>40 Days of Lent</p>						4th Sunday of Lent Thank God for your gifts and talents
3rd Sunday of Lent Look at a Bible story	17 Say thank you to your teachers	18 Let someone else go first	19 Work extra hard at school or home	20 Give someone a compliment	21 Remember to say please	22 Give something to charity
16 Talk calmly and quietly	15 Say a prayer for all those who are ill	14 Say kind words to those around you	13 Listen carefully	12 Do something nice for someone in your family	11 Saint David's day Say a prayer for a friend	2nd Sunday of Lent Go to church or watch online
						10 Clean up your toys and things
2 Smile	3 Hug someone at home	4 Be forgiving	1st Sunday of Lent Say a prayer for someone in need			9 Say sorry if you make the wrong choice
Ash Wednesday Be honest			5 Give up a treat or something you really enjoy	6 Help someone without being asked.	7 Remember to say thank you.	8 Tell someone they are special and why

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)



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.

Visit the parish

Website



at

www.rcchp.org.uk

**Ways to
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Touch with
Parish News**

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 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)

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)