



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

Ruth Morton, Charles Walker, Joan Downing & Laura Jane Ball

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



Baptism Congratulations

We warmly welcome **Layton and Vincent Jones** to our Parish who will be baptised at Holy Family this Sunday, 19th December 2021.



Christmas 2021

We wish you joy and peace this Christmas and for the New Year. May our Lord Jesus Christ *'give light to those in darkness and those who dwell in the shadow of death and guide us into the way of peace'* (Luke 1:79).

Thank you for your love, kindness and support in these challenging times.

Father Stephen & Deacon Jeff

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,
- Pauline Pritchard,
- Sara Bull,
- William Kerin,
- David Johnston,
- Phil Shaw,
- Eileen Roberts,
- Irene Fitzpatrick,
- Frances Ford,
- Maureen Jones,
- Moira Griffiths-Parr,
- John McNulty,
- Samantha Stevens,
- John Charles Smith,
- Father Paul O'Grady,
- John Gibbings,
- Peter Ryan,
- Bernard Davies,
- Anne Crowden,
- Anne Henry,
- Mary Wrigley,
- Lauren



Please get in touch if you would like to add or remove someone from the list.



A
CHRISTMAS
POEM

This Christmas is another strange one. We know not how 'twill be –
As we think about it now,
Did a 'lockdown' set us free?
Of *one* thing we are sure –
Never doubting, you and me –
That it signifies much more
Than just lights and Christmas tree!

Though the world around looks bleak
While Covid holds its thrall,
Once came to earth a Child so meek,
Birthed in a stable's stall...

God's Son! His Gift: brings happiness,
And proves how we might dwell,
Now salves our hollow loneliness
And whispers, 'All is well.'

'Fear not!' says He. 'Let sorrows flee,
For I have seen your plight.
Tomorrow's dawn shines clear. Trust Me!
I've overcome your night.'

His crown is Hope, whose loving hands
Can field all doubt, all fears;
Our anxious hearts He understands;
Each desperate cry He hears.

Remember, then, His so dear Name,
This wondrous Christmas Day
When our own Lord Jesus came
To herald God's new Way...

His gifts are Strength for each fresh morn;
The blessed Peace we seek!
Bow low and *know* that Christ is born –
That little Child so meek –

His Birth-day – gifts for me and you:
A Star to light our way;
Hearts lifted up to vistas new
Give meaning to each day;

Yes! Angel choirs still sing His birth, From galaxies of glory,
Hear! voices raised to share with Earth Our Lord's Eternal Story.
Amen.

Masses for 2 Weeks Commencing Sunday 19th December 2021

Sun 19th December	Advent Week 4 (Psalter Week IV) <i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen Davies 3rd Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Rachael & Nick Belderbos Silver Wedding Anniversary
Mon 20th December	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Gordon Wilson Anniversary
Tues 21st December	St Peter Canisius	9:45 am	OLSJ	Ruth Morton Funeral Mass
Wed 22nd December	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Theresa Stubbings R.I.P.
		11:00 am	OLSJ	Charles Walker Funeral Service
Thurs 23rd December	St John of Kanty	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Angela McQuade R.I.P.
Fri 24th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Special Intentions for CJ & Family
	Christmas Eve 	6:00 pm *	OLSJ	Mass - Dan Miller R.I.P.
		Midnight *	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
Sat 25th December	 Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	9:30 am *	Holy Family	Mass - Holy Souls
		11:15 am *	OLSJ	Mass - Peter Fishwick R.I.P.
Sun 26th December	The Holy Family (Psalter Week I) 	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Elizabeth Roberts R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Kevin & Gerard Jones Special Intentions
Mon 27th December	St. John	<u>10:00 am</u>	OLSJ	Mass - Bill & Pat Rowlands
Tues 28th December	The Holy Innocents	<u>10:00 am</u>	OLSJ	Mass - Bryne Edwards
Wed 29th December	St Thomas Beckett	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Safe Arrival of Luke George
Thurs 30th December	6th Day of the Christmas Octave	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Kathleen O'Malley R.I.P.
Fri 31st December	7th Day of the Christmas Octave	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Fred & Janine Overton Anniversary
Sat 1st January	Mary, the Mother of God	12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Lumley Family
Sun 2nd January	2nd Sunday After Christmas (Psalter Week II)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Sarah Kirkham Speedy & Full Recovery
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Deceased Relatives & Friends of the Campbell Family

* Prior booking required for all 4 Christmas Masses



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Carrying Jesus within herself, Mary sets out on a journey from Nazareth to the hill country of Judah, anticipating that final journey that Jesus will make from Nazareth to his passion and death in Jerusalem. As soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting the child in her womb leaps for joy. John the son of Elizabeth will be the first to recognize Jesus as he begins his public ministry. Elizabeth, then, like the prophets and like Mary, is filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaims the word of God with a loud cry: "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled." Elizabeth's praise describes Mary as the model believer. Mary believes in the word of God that has been spoken to her and acts on that word in her journey to see Elizabeth. Mary is the mother of all who believe in God's word and follow that word on all their journeys. Amid the rush and commercialism of this season let us quietly ponder in our hearts the gifts God continually gives us and our loved ones.



Christmas Mass Updates

Thank you to everyone for filling out and returning

the Christmas Mass booking forms.

Bookings for a place at one of the Christmas Masses is now closed.

I am pleased to say that everyone that has submitted a request form has been allocated a place at their chosen Mass. Hopefully, most people will have been contacted by now.

For those unable to make it to Mass over Christmas, the 6pm, Midnight and 11:15am Christmas Masses will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Please note that there will be NO BOOKING SYSTEM for any of the Sunday Masses on Boxing Day. These Masses will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.



Coronavirus Update Latest Wirral Figures

Week ending	Rate per 100,000	Current cases/week
15th December	475	1541
9th December	390	1263
2nd December	388	1258
25th November	388	1261
18th November	331	1074
11th November	347	1124
4th November	374	1212
27th October	382	1238
20th October	420	1363
13th October	369	1196
6th October	256	830
29th September	310	1005
22nd September	254	824
16th September	322	1043
9th September	336	1088
3 September	298	967
27 August	300	975
20 August	296	962

With cases locally on the rise and the new variant spreading quickly, we ask you to continue to wear a mask whilst at Mass and to sanitise your hands on the way in and out of church. Thank you.



Christmas Cards to Palestine 2021

This year, to avoid postal difficulties, the Justice and Peace Group have already sent Christmas Greetings on behalf of our two parishes to the two Holy Family Parishes in Palestine. Individual parishioners may like to send their personal greetings in an email or ecard. Both parishes have new priests. Fr Yacoub Rafidi (yacoubrafidi@yahoo.com) is in Ramallah. He is the first priest to have been born and grown up in Ramallah and his parish are very

proud of him. Fr Gabriel Romanelli (gazaparish@gmail.com) is in Gaza. He hasn't been very well this year but has been singled out for praise from the Latin Patriarch for his work in caring for the whole Gaza community especially during the recent hostilities. Both priests, and their parishioners, will welcome our messages and prayers.

Online ecards can be sent through the Wirral Scout & Guide Christmas Post 2021 website wirralcharitypost.org There is no charge but a donation can be given for the Wirral Scout & Guide charities. The site is easy to use, there is a variety of cards and a space for your message. SO you'll have supported two very different causes in one go!



Pray for the success of the Synod

Pope Francis, when talking about the process of the Synod initiative, emphasises the need for individual prayer. We need to pray for guidance and to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us about how we, as a parish and as individuals, should live out our lives as members of the Church that Christ created, in the actual circumstances we each find ourselves in. The Synod process takes place over the next two years and we are all involved, particularly during the next few months.

For more information about the Synod you can visit the website Synod 2021 - 2023

“By walking together, and together reflecting on the journey made, the Church will be able to learn from what it will experience which processes can help it to live communion, to achieve participation, to open itself to mission.”



URGENT APPEAL FROM CAFOD

The humanitarian situation has deteriorated since mid-August when the Taliban took over the capital Kabul and took control of Afghanistan. Afghan families are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance: food, water and shelter.

Over half the country's population – around 22.8 million people – are facing acute hunger this winter,

the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has warned. More than eight million people are on the brink of famine, with a million children under the age of five at risk of dying over the next three months.

The situation in Afghanistan is highly complex with decades of conflict that have taken a terrible toll on Afghan people, resulting in deaths, injuries and pushing families further into poverty. Drought and coronavirus have added even greater problems for vulnerable families struggling with hunger and healthcare.

[CAFOD has joined forces with the DEC to provide help to people in Afghanistan.](#) DEC stands for Disasters Emergency Committee. It is a membership of 15 charities which work to provide aid to communities overseas when a crisis hits and CAFOD is one of these members.

Pope Francis has expressed his "*unanimous concern for the situation in Afghanistan*". He called for prayers "*so that the clamour of weapons may cease, and solutions may be found at the negotiating table*". The leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has called on the UK government to allow more refugees to come to the UK in light of the situation in Afghanistan.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Click on each link to take you to the details of how you can help Cafod in this time of crisis

- ★ [Donate to our DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal](#)
- ★ [Email your MP](#)
- ★ [Pray with us](#)

Ladymount Pre-School

We have spaces for children aged 2 ½ to 4 from January 2021.

We offer a high ratio of staff in a warm and welcoming environment. Our staff team is highly qualified and we nurture the whole child, supporting their learning with play and interaction.

Our sessions are currently 8:40-11:40am and 12:10-3:10pm. You can also use our 'lunch session' so your child can stay all day. We offer wraparound care, which starts at 8:00am in the morning and finishes at 5:00 in the evening.

Please ring 648 8005 for further information and an appointment to look around or email us at: preschool@ladymount.wirral.sch.uk



Ark Christmas Cards - Thank You

A big thank you to all those who purchased these Christmas cards. As a result of your generosity this year, we have been able to send over £160 to this local charity whose care for the homeless is, as always, very much needed at this time of the year.

Children's Liturgy—Page 1

Don't forget that you can follow this week's Children's Liturgy on our YouTube channel.



Micah 5:1-4
Psalm 79
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

Speak, Lord



SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN
Year C — 4th Sunday of Advent



Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth and help her



HOW CAN JESUS' MOTHER COME TO VISIT ME? ... MARY YOU ARE MOST BLESSED.



Join the dots according to the number or letter to show the way Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth.

Colour in the 4 candles and fill in the missing letters.



TODAY IS THE F _ _ _ H SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JESUS' BIRTH IS VERY NEAR

Children's Liturgy—Page 2

Don't forget that you can follow this week's Children's Liturgy on our YouTube channel.

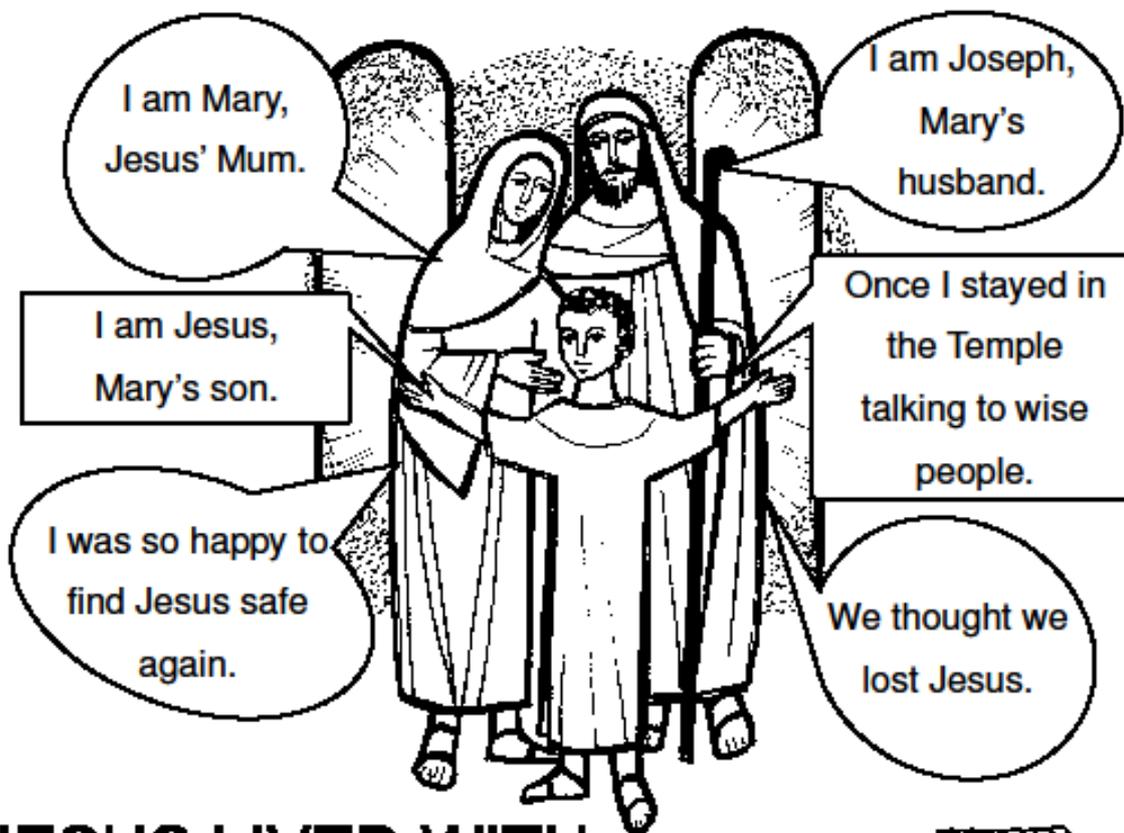
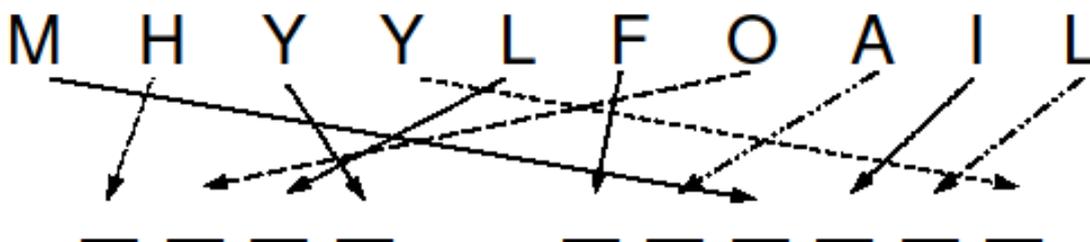
Speak, Lord

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Psalm 83
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN
Year C — Holy Family

S.D.C. SOCIETA' DIETANA CATTOLICA
www.sdcthe.uk

Put these letters in order to reveal today's feast.



JESUS LIVED WITH HIS FAMILY IN NAZARETH



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

<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



Sign up for the weekly parish newsletter via email
To join send an email to Victoria Hanlon
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk



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