



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

**Marie Hegarty, Christina Bryenton,
Ruth Morton & Charles Walker**

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 **Leo Jones** to our Parish who was baptised at Our Lady & St John last Sunday, 5th December.



Coronavirus Update Latest Wirral Figures

Week ending	Rate per 100,000	Current cases/week
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

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

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



Masses for the Week Commencing Sunday 12th December 2021

Sun 12th December	Advent Week 3 (Psalter Week III)	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Josephine Burbridge Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
Mon 13th December	St Lucy	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Josephine Cassidy R.I.P.
Tues 14th December	St John of the Cross			No Mass
Wed 15th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Jack Heery Anniversary
Thurs 16th December	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Holy Souls
Fri 17th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Jean Watson R.I.P.
Sat 18th December	Ferial	12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Helen Ryan R.I.P.
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



Blessing of the Christmas Tree Service

Saturday 18th December

10:45 am - 11:15 am

Our Lady and St John's Church

This service will be held at Our Lady & St John's church and is in recognition and thanksgiving for all the work done in Church throughout the year by the various church groups.

The service will be followed by seasonal refreshments served outside church (weather permitting).

Everyone welcome - no pre-booking required

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

To put this Sunday's gospel in context we need to consider the verses that come just before the ones we hear today. John, the fiery, uncompromising reformer says to the crowds who come to be baptized by him: "Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But, if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruits." Claiming Abraham as their father is not enough, for every tree that does not bear fruit will be thrown into the fire. John will come back to this theme when he points to the person coming who is more powerful than I (Jesus). His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor. The wheat he will gather into his barn but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

Yet between the two uncompromising statements John is quite moderate. He urges people to use their possessions kindly and justly, telling the crowds to share their clothes and food with the needy, advising hated tax collectors to be honest and soldiers not to exploit people and to be content with their often meagre wages. Someone asked me recently why so much of our time, energy and financial resources go into helping people many of whom are not Catholics. The answer is that we help people in trouble, suffering or oppressed not because **they** are Catholic but because **we** are.



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.**

YOU WILL BE CONTACTED IF YOU HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED A PLACE.

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.



christmas raffle!!

Heswall Disabled Children Holiday Fund Christmas Raffle

Quick reminder that parishioner, Joan Larkin will be selling raffle tickets outside after 9:30am Mass at Holy Family on Sunday 12th December.

Tickets are £1 each or £5 for a book of five.

The prizes are:

1st £200

2nd £100

3rd £50

and other prizes.

The **Christmas Raffle** will draw on **Saturday 18th December 2021.**

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



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.”



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

Little Actors presents...

Cinderella

by Mike Lockley

Sun 28th November — 4.00pm
St Mary's Creative Space, Chester
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/176191663007>

Sat 4th December — 4.30pm & 7.30pm
Gladstone Village Hall, Burton
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/176231803067>

Sun 5th December — 3pm
West Kirby Arts Centre
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/207095316667>

Tickets
£10 adults, £5 children
and under 5s free

0151 336 4302
mail@littleactorstheatre.com
www.littleactorstheatre.com
Registered Charity Number 1155249

Thank You

Parishioner Peter Ryan would like to say how very grateful he is for everyone's kind messages, thoughts and prayers for his speedy recovery.

He is now home and slowly recovering.

Thank you once again, your kindness has helped enormously.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCT 2022

7 Nights Apartment B&B and return
Airport transfer from Dubrovnik or Split
from €315 per person sharing.
Guaranteed Airport transfer price for any
flight. Contact us for details and book the
dates that suit you.

MEDJUGORJE: 00387 36 651 518
ENGLAND: 0044 20 3239 8662
Email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com
Website: www.med-irishcentre.com

Children's Liturgy

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

John the Baptist was preaching by the River

Use the code below to reveal the words in his messages:

☉	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐	♑	■	□	⊗	⊗	♁	♂
A	C	E	G	H	I	M	N	O	P	R	S	Y

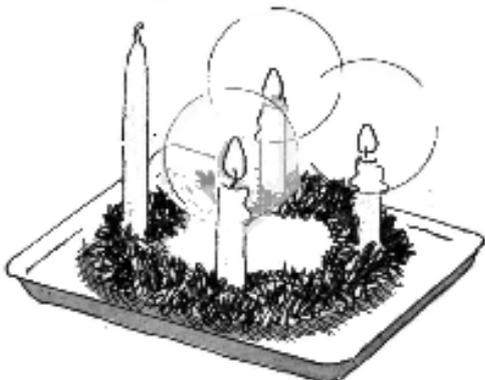
Be _____
 ⚡ ☉ ⊗ ⊗ ✨
 with what you
 have

 ⚡ ⚡ ☉ ✨ ♂
 with others



Someone is

 ⚡ □ ○ ✨ ■ •



**TODAY IS THE
 T ___ D
 SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Fill in the missing letters and colour in the three lit candles.

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