

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



Christmas 2022

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).

*Father Stephen &
Deacons Jeff & Paul*

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
**Cecilia Maureen Jones, Bernadette Wiles
& Pauline Oxtan**
who have recently died.
May their souls rest in peace.

Cecilia Maureen Jones' Funeral Mass will be held at **Our Lady & St John on Tuesday 3rd January at 11:00 am.**

Bernadette Wiles' Funeral Mass will be held at **Our Lady & St John on Wednesday 4th January at 12 noon.**

Pauline Oxtan's Funeral Mass will be held at **Our Lady & St John on Wednesday 11th January at 11:00 am.**

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



Confession



Holy Family: 11:45am - 12 noon on Saturdays

Our Lady & St John: 5:15pm - 5:45pm on Saturdays

Parishioners who need our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those in both parishes who are sick at home or in hospital, including:

- Ken Davies
- David Gorman
- Imelda Atherton
- Sara Bull
- David Johnston
- Phil Shaw
- Eileen Roberts
- Irene Fitzpatrick
- Frances Ford
- John McNulty
- John Charles Smith
- Peter Ryan
- Bernard Davies
- Lauren
- Gerald Sanderson
- Carol Ross
- Kevin Doyle
- Anne O'Keeffe
- Andrew Deacon
- Molly Turner
- Joe Hemington
- Fred McCloud



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

Come and Pray the Rosary



The Rosary will be prayed at Our Lady and St John's church at **9:30am each Saturday**, for the sick in the parish, our families and all the suffering in our world today. Please do come and join us.

| Masses for the Week Commencing Saturday 24th December 2022 to Sunday 8th January 2023 | | | | |
|---|---|----------|-------------|---|
| Sat 24th December |  Christmas Eve | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Come Pray the Rosary |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Family | Mass - Thomas Horton R.I.P. |
| | | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Christmas Vigil Mass - Barbara Adams R.I.P. |
| | | 11:30 pm | OLSJ | Carols followed by Midnight Mass - Thanksgiving |
| Sunday 25th December | Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord  | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Parishioners |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Special Intention |
| Monday 26th December | St Stephen | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Celebration of Word and Communion |
| Tuesday 27th December | St. John | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Celebration of Word and Communion |
| Wednesday 28th December | The Holy Innocents | NO MASS | | |
| Thursday 29th December | St Thomas Beckett | NO MASS | | |
| Friday 30th December | The Holy Family  | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Intentions of Pauline Burke |
| Saturday 31st December | 7th Day of the Christmas Octave | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Come Pray the Rosary |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Family | Mass - Special Intention (Family) |
| | | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Fred & Janine Overton R.I.P. |
| Sunday 1st January | Mary, the Mother of God (Psalter Week II) | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Vera Brockway R.I.P. |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Pam Morris R.I.P. |
| Monday 2nd January | Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen | 10:00 am | OLSJ | Mass - Bernard & Elizabeth Jones R.I.P. |
| Tuesday 3rd January | The Most Holy Name of Jesus | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Celebration of Word and Communion |
| | | 11:00 am | OLSJ | Cecilia Maureen Jones Funeral Mass |
| Wednesday 4th January | Wednesday of the Christmas Season | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Mrs S. Rowe R.I.P. |
| | | 12 noon | OLSJ | Bernadette Wiles Funeral Mass |
| Thursday 5th January | Thursday of the Christmas Season | 7:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Mary Brownrigg Anniversary |
| Friday 6th January | Epiphany of the Lord | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Christopher Allmand R.I.P. |
| Saturday 7th January | St Raymond of Penyafort | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Come Pray the Rosary |
| | | 12 Noon | Holy Family | Mass - Intentions of Gerry & Chris Keenan |
| | | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Maureen Birch & Raymond Coonan R.I.P. |
| Sunday 8th January | The Baptism of the Lord (Psalter Week I) | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Eileen Kavanagh R.I.P. (Birthday) |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - People affected by floods in St. Lucia |



Children's Liturgy at Our Lady and St John's

There won't be Children's Liturgy over the Christmas holidays but there is a video on the parish YouTube page with the Christmas gospel, discussion and activities. <https://youtu.be/9Y0BNw6IJ1M>

The activity is making a Christingle, and if you would like to have a go you will need an orange, a candle, some tin foil, red tape or ribbon, cocktail sticks and sweets or dried fruits and nuts.

There are also Christmas themed colouring sheets and other activities in the children's area at the back for church, please help yourself! Also don't forget that our next **LEGO Church** will be on **Sunday 8th January**.



Our Lady & St. John

There are a number of Christmas Cards that have been left for parishioners at the back of church. Please do take a look, next time you are in church.



Wedding Congratulations



Congratulations to

Amelia Varley & Michael Ivory

who were married at Our Lady and St John on

Saturday 17th December 2022.



ASSAM COLLECTION

Reminder that the next Assam Collection will take place after Mass at Holy Family on **Sunday 1st January 2023**.

Clergy Education and Training Fund Collection

There will be a retiring collection for the Clergy Education and Training Fund after all Masses on the weekend of the 7th and 8th January 2023.

OLSJ Stitchcraft Group

The Stitchcraft group reopen on Tuesday 10th January 2023. New members are always welcome. The group meets each Tuesday from 10am until 12:30pm and develop a variety of crafting activities.

Caritas Christmas Appeal



CARITAS
DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

There will be a retiring collection after all Christmas Masses this weekend. Thank you for your generosity and support. 100% of your donations will go to those in the most vulnerable situations within the Diocese, ensuring that they receive crisis food vouchers and practical support, as quickly as possible, when it is most needed. If you are aware of someone in need of assistance, please talk to Father Stephen, Rev. Jeff or Rev. Paul.

Parish First Holy Communion Programme

The First Holy Communion Preparation Programme will begin on **Thursday 5th January at 6pm in the OSLJ Meeting Room**. If you would like your child to make this special Sacrament next year and have not yet registered, please speak to Father Stephen or email our Parish Catechist, Laura Jones, laura.jones2010@hotmail.co.uk



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Matthew and Luke both proclaim in story form the Christmas message that God's eternal Word has taken on human flesh. Matthew begins with a family tree tracing Jesus' origins through saints and sinners and a series of extraordinary births showing the triumph of God's grace. Jesus is born into a world of homelessness and violence. A wondrous parade of people in Luke's gospel are touched by Jesus' coming: an elderly priest and his childless wife; a young woman called to bring forth a child in a way unheard of in human history. The dark night is lit up with God's glory and the shepherds hearing news of

great joy. An elderly couple live in the temple and wait for the coming of God's Anointed. While in Matthew an anointed Jewish king turns out to be a brutal killer, wise men from the east follow a star to kneel before the child and his mother. Jesus begins his life as an exile from land and people and eventually returns to grow up in an obscure village. The Christmas stories affirm our humanity in all its glory and brokenness. They are retold not just at Christmas but in the lives of countless people in whom God's Word continues to become flesh and dwell amongst us. As we celebrate the joy of Christmas let us also remember in prayer the victims of violence and tragic accidents.



St Francis' Corner

Br. Thomas of Celano, a contemporary biographer of St. Francis writes:

"The birthday of the Child Jesus, Francis observed with inexpressible eagerness over all other feasts, saying that it was the feast of feasts, on which God, having become a tiny infant, clung to human breasts.

---the time of great rejoicing came. Men and women of that neighbourhood prepared with glad hearts, according to their means, candles and torches to light up that night --- At length the saint of God came, and finding all things prepared (The Nativity scene), *he saw it and was glad* (Jn. 8-56) --
- Greccio was made as it were a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with a new joy over the new mystery, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing. The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness."



Watch Sunday Mass
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



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

contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

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

