



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
**Teresa Grumley, Patricia O'Driscoll, Cecilia
 Maureen Jones & Bernadette Wiles**
 who have recently died.
 May their souls rest in peace.

Teresa Grumley's Funeral Mass will be held at
**Holy Family on Tuesday 20th December at
 10:15 am.**

Patricia O'Driscoll's Funeral Mass will be held
 at **Holy Family on Tuesday 20th December at
 2:30 pm.**

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.**

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

Refreshments after Sunday Masses



Just a reminder that refreshments are
 available after both Sunday Masses at
 Holy Family and Our Lady and St John
 each week. Do come and join us for a cuppa and a
 chat after Mass.



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 Sunday 18th December 2022

Sun 18th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Psalter Week IV) <i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen Davies Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - O'Brien Family
Mon 19th December	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Margaret Hamilton R.I.P.
Tues 20th December	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Celebration of Word and Communion
		10:15 am	Holy Family	Teresa Grumley Funeral Mass
		2:30 pm	Holy Family	Patricia O'Driscoll Funeral Mass
Wed 21st December	St Peter Canisius	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Jack Heary Anniversay
Thurs 22nd December	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Theresa Stubbings R.I.P. Anniversary
Fri 23rd December	St John of Kanty	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mrs P. Pritchard & Family
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
Sun 25th December	Christmas Day The Nativity of the Lord	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Special Intention



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Today's gospel portrays the message announced to Joseph that Mary who was betrothed to Joseph will bear a son with a double name: Jesus "because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins" and Emmanuel, "God-is-with-us," in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

In liturgy, art and devotion we rightly merge the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke to create a Christmas tapestry. Naturally Mary the mother and her child occupy centre stage. However for Matthew the central human character is Joseph. In contrast to Luke, Joseph, not Mary, receives God's messages from angels and in dreams. Mary is most often spoken *about* and initiates no action, while Joseph's obedience to God's word appears at every critical juncture. Faced with doubt over Mary's pregnancy, Joseph "did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home." After the birth of the child Joseph again receives a dream revelation and takes "the child and his mother" to Egypt to avoid the murderous actions of Herod, and after a third dream vision returns the family to Nazareth.

Today, when parenting is both so challenging and so threatened, Joseph provides a wonderful image of a father. The future of his child unfolds in dreams. Even though he cannot see what the future holds, he protects and cares for his family in the face of murder and exile. He is faithful to God's word.



**Carol Singing with Port Sunlight
Lyceum Band
17th December 11am**

Please join us and the other churches in Heswall to sing Christmas Carols together outside Heswall Library. Just one way to remind others of the real story of Christmas.

Heswall Farmers' Market will also be open from 10am so you will be able to do a little Christmas shopping too.



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.



**Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament with Adoration**

Every Tuesday morning from
9:30am - 10:30am after the
Celebration of Word and
Communion at 9:00am at Our
Lady and St John.

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.

Holy Family Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection at Holy Family **this Sunday** to help with the cost of flowers for the church this Christmas. Any donations will be gratefully received.



SHOPPING LIST

TINNED MEAT

TINNED FRUIT

SQUASH

TINNED TOMATOES

TINNED FISH

BISCUITS

JAM

NAPPIES (SIZE 6)

WASHING-UP LIQUID

TOOTHBRUSHES

TOOTHPASTE

DEODORANT

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

BEANS

PASTA

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

This poem was read out at the Advent Carol Service that we held last Sunday at Our Lady and St John. Many of you enjoyed it and have asked for a copy, so I thought that I would put it in the newsletter for everyone to enjoy and smile at.

The Advent Virus Poem

WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

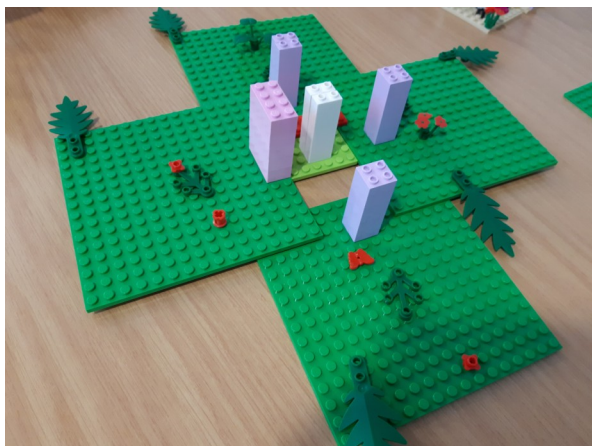
Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

Children's Liturgy at Our Lady and St John's - Lego Church

Here are some photos of the Children's Liturgy last Lego Church activity.

During Lego Church, we will be exploring the themes of the Gospel in a child-friendly way, but will be building models from Lego to better understand the message. These special Lego activities will be on the first Sunday of each month. There is no need to book, to attend, just come along.

NEXT LEGO CHURCH WILL BE ON SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023



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

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

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
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

