

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

☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

A Mass in celebration of the life of **Denise Thompson (nee Reynolds)** who died recently of a brain tumour will be held at **Our Lady and St John on Saturday 15th July at 1pm**. Some parishioners may remember Denise, her sister, Michelle, or her mother, Anita Reynolds. Denise grew up in Heswall and attended Upton Hall Convent and Upton Manor Prep School; her family were parishioners of OLSJ.

Please remember to pray for her family at this difficult time.

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
- Ken & Sara Bull
- David Johnston
- Phil Shaw
- Irene Fitzpatrick
- Frances Ford
- John McNulty
- John Charles Smith
- Peter Ryan
- Bernard Davies
- Gerald Sanderson
- Carol Ross
- Kevin Doyle
- Molly Turner
- Joe Hemington
- Fred McCloud
- Lin Thompson
- Gary & Alan
- Phyllis Driscoll & Family
- Koumar Ray



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



Confession



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

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



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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE for Parishioners of Holy Family

We are undertaking a window replacement programme at Holy Family from 3rd-14th July

This means that the contractors will be on site weekdays from 8.30- 16.00 and there will be **NO ACCESS** to parishioners to church during that time. Weekends will be as normal with usual Masses, however, funerals and other services on weekdays will need to be re-located to OLSJ during the duration of the work. Please ensure that you check the weekly newsletter for location and times of Masses during July.



Masses for the Week Commencing Sunday 2nd July 2023

Sunday 2nd July	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Kay Guy R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Sr. Joan Mary 80th Birthday
Monday 3rd July	St Thomas	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Ted Fleming Anniversary
Tuesday 4th July	St Elizabeth of Portugal	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Deceased Members of the Campbell Family
Wednesday 5th July	St Anthony Mary Saccaria	9:00 am	OLSJ	Celebration of Word and Communion
Thursday 6th July	St Maria Goretti	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Lucia Interi R.I.P.
Friday 7th July	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Selene O'Kane Anniversary
Saturday 8th July	BVM on Saturday	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Pauline Burke Birthday
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Margaret Mary
Sunday 9th July	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week II</i> <i>Day of Special Prayer for Seafarers</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Len Caley R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - David Holgate Anniversary

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Following Jesus is a commitment to companionship and mission that can surpass even the most precious things in life including relations with loved ones, and bring about suffering and even loss of life. Generations of Christians have struggled with St Luke's version of today's saying, where would-be disciples are told they must 'hate' parents and relatives which is not only contrary to the Ten Commandments but shocking on the lips of Jesus. Matthew gives the proper interpretation of the word 'hate' by writing that the one who loves family more than Jesus cannot be a true disciple. Family love is not abandoned but enhanced. Matthew also alters the harshness of the tradition by adding the sayings on hospitality, where everyone who gives one of the little ones even a cup of water will be rewarded. Today when people live on average twice as long as in the time of Jesus, the love of Jesus which transcends even natural affection, can be expressed in paradoxical ways. Often young people seeking their own way in the world or responding to a particular call from God can enter into conflict with parents. Later in life care for parents and friends who are aged and infirm can be a manifestation of care for the 'little ones' praised by Jesus.



St John Plessington Catholic College Foundation Governors

St John Plessington Catholic College is looking to recruit Foundation Governors. If you are interested in playing a key role in ensuring that the best possible education is provided for pupils please get in touch with Peadar McLoughlin - 0151 645 5049.



Monthly Assam Collection

Reminder that the monthly Assam collection will be taking place after Mass on **Sunday 2nd July**.

ITEMS LEFT IN THE MEETING ROOM at OLSJ

A number of items have been left in the cupboards in the meeting room. Please can they be collected. I am sure food/drinks are left with good intentions but unfortunately we cannot accept them. Thank you for your understanding. There are also two small blue trays.



You may have noticed that we have started a refresh of the library at the back of Our Lady and St John's. The books that have been removed will be put in the Meeting Room over the next couple of weeks. Please do take a look and feel free to take one or please do tell us if you wish any to be reinstated. Please be reassured that any books that are not claimed from the Meeting Room, will be donated to charity and not thrown away.



Ladymount School, Foundation Governor Vacancy

A vacancy for a Foundation Governor has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the role.

Being a Governor is an enjoyable and rewarding role supporting the education of our children.

Governors have key roles in ensuring clarity of vision, holding the school to account, and financial oversight.

Foundation Governors are appointed by Bishop Mark, to represent his and the catholic communities interests, to ensure that the religious character of the school is preserved, and religious education is delivered in accordance with the Bishop's policy.

If you are interested in the role, further information is available from Fr Stephen, or Brian Sharp the current chair of the Governing Board who can be contacted on 07920849388.



Here is the latest list of items that the our local Food Bank is asking for:

SHOPPING LIST

TINNED MEAT

TINNED FISH

TINNED VEGETABLES (PEAS, CARROTS, SWEETCORN)

TINNED CUSTARD

TINNED FRUIT

JAM

SHAMPOO

FEMALE HYGIENE

TOOTHBRUSHES/PASTE

DEODORANT

DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY**Lumen Gentium****Reflections on Vatican II -****Part Three****"Why is the Church?"**

We continue our reflections on **Vatican II, in Part III On The Church**. This time, we ask the question: **'Why is the Church?'** Why does she exist...? The Council's answer is that her mission is to call all people of all times to holiness, which is why she must evangelise. What this means for us is given in **Lumen Gentium Chaps 5 and 6, taken together. Podcast 9** and its **handout** are now available on the diocesan website at dioceseofshrewsbury.org in the section on **'News and Events'**. A leaflet outlining the content of all of the podcasts is available in the parish. If you have difficulty accessing this material or have questions and reflections, please don't hesitate to contact Barbara via E: barbara.davies@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or T: 07730 526821.

**Notice for Members of
the Stitchcraft Group at OLSJ**

The Stitchcraft Group will close for the summer holidays on **Tuesday 18th July** and reopen on **Tuesday 5th September at 10 am** in the meeting room any new members will be welcomed.

**Debt Justice**

This organisation is concerned with seeking justice for the poorer countries of this world who have become indebted to richer countries, banks and institutions. Most of these countries are suffering from Climate Change brought about by these richer countries. Most of their reduced income now goes to simply paying interest on their debts.

Right now, lower-income countries are spending five times more on servicing their debts, than they are on dealing with the climate crisis.

The problem was recently discussed at a world summit of financial leaders in Paris. Of the 54 countries needing help only one [Zambia] was given a part reduction of its debt. The other 53 were offered delays or further loans, with extra interest, making the problem for the future even worse.

These lenders are acting like cowboys - making millions in interest payments while lower income countries are left without enough money to pay for health, education or to respond to the climate crisis. Over 54 countries are in debt crisis.

But your MP can help stop this.

UK law plays a key role in enforcing debt contracts. **90% of the lending for low income countries is enforced through UK courts.** That means we can push for a new law to make cowboy lenders cancel debt.

And an influential committee of MPs has just come out and recommended just that. **It's crucial we take this chance to push for action.**

To take part you can contact **Debt Justice** at <https://act.debtjustice.org.uk/write-your-mp>

SAUSAGE BUTTY MORNING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Last Sunday we tried for the first time a Sausage Butty after the 11.15am Mass and it turned out to be a roaring success. We sold out which was great. Keep watching for the next date which maybe September time.

Green Energy and Carbon Footprint***Did you know that the Diocese of Shrewsbury are changing their energy supplier next month?***

Our new Diocesan electricity supplier sources it's electricity from wholly renewable sources, namely wind, wave and solar. This means that we are living out what Pope Francis called us to in *Laudato Si'*, in minimising our impact on the Earth's resources in how our power is generated, and contributes significantly to lowering the carbon footprint of our Diocese.



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

As you will be aware, our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is fast approaching and the theme this year is "tell the priests to build chapel here" a reminder of Our Lady's request to Saint Bernadette, and our response to that invitation. Please keep the organisation of the pilgrimage in your prayers.

Bookings have been coming into the Pilgrimage Office steadily over the last months, but there are still spaces available with a few seats left on the pilgrimage coach and more available on the plane. Booking details can be found on the pilgrimage website

www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk

**Children's Liturgy at
Our Lady and St John's****LEGO CHURCH - June**

At Lego Church we explore the themes of the Gospel in a child-friendly way by building models from Lego to better understand the message. If you would like to join us for the next session, it will be **THIS Sunday 2nd July**. There is no need to book, to attend, just come along.

**Irish Ceili Dancing
Keep Fit, Have Fun!****FREE EXERCISE CLASS DANCING TO IRISH MUSIC**

Come along every Friday from 12 noon to 1.30pm when you can have a free class keeping fit with some dancing.

Where: Wirral Change, Birkenhead. This used to be St Laurence's Primary School, 12-14 St Laurence Drive, Birkenhead CH41 3JD

Very easy to get there by bus, train or car. Why not come along and see?

For more information contact : Joan on 07542213158



Newsletter July 2023



Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution - so we can all have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities.

Did you know that the top plastic polluters are single use bags, bottles, drinking straws and food wrappers & containers but there are lots more in our everyday life. So, will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to make a difference?

REMOVE - try to buy produce that isn't wrapped in plastic

REDUCE - use reusable shopping bags rather than single use plastic bags

REUSE - donate strong plastic bags to the Foodbank

RECYCLE - soft plastic such as bread wrapping and single use plastic bags can't be recycled through grey bins BUT can be recycled at drop off points at Tesco's Heswall, Sainsbury's Upton and Co-op Pensby.



For more information on going plastic free, visit <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org>

Live Simply group

The Live Simply Group is made up of parishioners who were inspired by Laudato Si', the encyclical letter from Pope Francis, on care for our common home and in particular, the effects of pollution and climate change, issues of water and biodiversity, the decline in quality of human life and global inequality.

Our aim is to share initiatives from CAFOD, who have a LiveSimply award scheme designed to support Catholic parishes, schools and communities, to respond to the invitation from Pope Francis in Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world that God has entrusted to us".

The CAFOD initiatives cover:

- living simply
- living sustainably with creation
- living in solidarity with people who are poor

We plan to publish a newsletter like this edition every few months to share ideas for living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people who are poor. We hope you will find them helpful.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Kevin Lloyd on 07907 382449



Shop Fair Trade whenever you can

A Prayer for Our Earth - Pope Francis

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Coming soon . . .

1 September - 4 October 2023



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Season of Creation

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
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To join send an email to
Victoria Hanlon
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

