



# 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  
**Dolores Carter** and **Tom Fishwick**  
who have recently died. May their souls rest in  
peace.

**Dolores' Funeral Mass** will be held at **Our Lady  
& St John on Wednesday 13th December**  
**at 1:15 pm**

**Tom's Funeral Mass** will be held at **Our Lady &  
St John on Thursday 21st December**  
**at 9:30 am.** Everyone is welcome to come  
through to the Meeting Room afterwards for  
coffee and cake.

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



## 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.

## 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.



## 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
- Ken & Sara Bull
- David Johnston
- Phil Shaw
- 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
- Claire Roddick
- Helen Boyd
- Moira Griffiths-Parr
- Frances Firth
- Gerry Smith
- Ian Butler
- Pat Lord

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

**Masses for week commencing Sunday 10th December 2023**

<b>Sunday</b> 10th December	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mrs S. Darlington (sick)
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Christopher & Deirdre Romaniuk 40th Wedding Anniversary
Monday 11th December	St Damasus	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Jessica Baker R.I.P.
Tuesday 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Josephine Burbridge Anniversary
Wednesday 13th December	St Lucy	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Holy Souls
		1:15 pm	OLSJ	<b>Dolores Carter Funeral Mass</b>
Thursday 14th December	St John of the Cross	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - In Thanksgiving
Friday 15th December	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Joyce Helme R.I.P.
Saturday 16th December	Ferial	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Helen Ryan (Keenan) Anniversary
		1:00 pm	OLSJ	<b>Eve Milosovic &amp; Dominic White Wedding</b>
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b> 17th December	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Week III</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Stephen, David & Richard Cantillon & Family
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Philip Neary R.I.P.
		5:00 pm	OLSJ	<b>Avent Carol Service</b>

**Reflection on the Sunday Gospel**

*By Father Stephen*

John the Baptist's location in the desert, the barren wilderness southeast of Jerusalem near the Dead Sea, recalls the years of wilderness wandering of God's people between the Exodus and entry into the promised Land, and the place of the covenant at Sinai. The wilderness is seen positively as the place of God's saving acts and negatively as the site of testing and rebellion. Jesus is tested there, retreats there to pray and to avoid crowds, feeds the people there. His final test comes when he is "deserted" by his followers and accepts the chalice of suffering.

Today John summons the people to a baptism of repentance, a symbolic washing that signifies a new way of thinking. "Repentance," with its overtones of sorrow, contrition and a firm purpose of amendment, disguises the rich meaning of the Greek term *metanoia*, which rather suggests a second look, taking stock, recollection and renewal. Such repentance leads to forgiveness of sin, release from captivity and cancellation of punishment. Jesus himself will leave the desert to begin his ministry by joining a call for *metanoia* to the joyful proclamation of the Good News and the closeness of God's reign. Let us stand in the desert among the crowds and listen to John's words to think again, take stock and prepare the way of the Lord.



## Advent Carol Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

5pm at Our Lady and St John

No booking necessary. Everyone welcome. There will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the Meeting Room afterwards.

## Christmas Mass Times 2023

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9:30am 4th Sunday of Advent - Holy Family

11:15am 4th Sunday of Advent - Our Lady & St. John

6pm Christmas Vigil Mass - Our Lady & St. John

11:30pm Carols - Our Lady & St. John

Midnight Mass - Our Lady & St. John

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

9:30am The Nativity of the Lord - Holy Family

11:15am The Nativity of the Lord - Our Lady & St. John



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

### Retreat Day on Prayer – Saturday 9th December

The year 2025 is the next Jubilee Year in the Church. Pope Francis has asked the Church to prepare well. To help us do so, (beginning from Advent 2023), the Holy Father has called 2023/2024 "A Year of Prayer." In response, the Shrewsbury Diocese Team for Evangelisation and Mission will be running a **Retreat Day on Prayer** for our parishes: **Date: Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2023. Time: 10.00am-3.00pm. Place: Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Joseph, Parish Room, Wheatland Lane, Seacombe CH44 7ED. All welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.** For more information contact: [natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

**WEST KIRBY MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY** will be performing a Christmas Concert 'Voices at Christmas' at St Agnes on **Wednesday 13th December, 7.30pm-8.45pm**. Tickets are £10 and include a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie. Tickets are available from John Phipps on 0151 625 4985 / Fran Allen on 0151 625 2492 (between hours of 9am and 6pm) or book online at [www.wkmt.co.uk](http://www.wkmt.co.uk).

Churches Together Heswall  
invite you to join us for  
**Christmas Carols**



16<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
In front of Heswall Library



**Scouts Christmas Fayre**  
**10th December 12-4pm**



3rd Heswall Scouts are holding a Christmas Fayre in the Scout Hut at Marksway, Pensby on Sunday 10th December from 12-4pm refreshments available, please pop in and help us to raise funds for the group to support our work with the young people.

### Lourdes Hospitality Update

Further to the recent AGM, the officers have been meeting monthly to discuss the issues raised and future plans. **A face-to-face meeting for all members will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (venue and time to be confirmed).** In the meantime, if you have any questions for us, please send an email to : [secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk](mailto:secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk)





### Who is my neighbour?

There is no problem here. We don't have to look far. My neighbour is easily found everywhere in the world. The poor; the victims of violence and war; the sick and the abused; and the homeless. At this time of the year it is the homeless who are close to our thoughts and who are often also poor/ sick or abused. Two local charities deal with the homeless who are closest to us. Wirral Ark and Crisis [Merseyside Branch]. There is no need to say more.

### Please Help!

We are asking all parishioners over the next couple of weekends, if they could let us know which of the Christmas Masses they are intending to attend. Please could you let us know the number in your party attending Christmas Mass (even if you don't know exact numbers). This will help us gauge how many stewards we need to ensure that the Christmas Masses are adequately stewarded. No names are needed, we just need help trying to gauge likely attendance at each Mass. Thank you.



**Tuesday  
12th December**

**The Feast of Our Lady  
of Guadalupe**

Please join us at 9am for Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Virgin of Guadalupe refers to the Virgin Mary when she appeared to a man named Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She holds a special place in the culture and religious life of Mexico. The pagan Indians recognised by Mary's dress that she was a **pregnant virgin** and that she **came from Heaven, of noble birth but was not God**. As a result, 9 million Indians became Christians in a matter of about 3 years.

Mary gives a message of love and compassion. She said "Do I not care for you? Am I not your Mother?" Ours too. Please come and thank Jesus for the gift to us of His Blessed Mother.



**CARITAS**  
DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY  
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

**Caritas at Christmas  
Appeal 2023**

**"Without the support,  
I simply wouldn't still be here."**

There will be a retiring collection in both our parish churches on the weekend of **16th/17th December**. Thank you for your generosity and support. 100% of your donations will go to those in the most vulnerable situations within the diocese ensuring they receive crisis food vouchers and practical support as quickly as possible when it is most needed. You can also donate online at: [www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](http://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk). If you are aware of someone in need of assistance, please speak to Trish Spencer, DCEO.

# RNIB

**RNIB Used Stamps**

**See differently**



There is a collection box at the back of Our Lady and St John (next to the battery recycling box) for all your old used stamps. Once the box is full it will be sent to the Royal National Institute for the Blind, where they are able to use them to raise vital funds for the charity.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)

