

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



HOUR OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

You're warmly invited to come and pray with us on the first Friday of every month at Our Lady and St John's, for an **hour of prayer for Peace in Reparation to The Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

**Our next prayer gathering will take place on
Friday 5th January 2024 at 2:30pm.**

If you can't be with us in person, please join us in private prayer wherever you are that day. We especially invite the sick and housebound to be with us in spirit and prayers. Following the Hour of Prayer for Peace we'll have tea and coffee in the Meeting Room.



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.
Everyone welcome.

Confession

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

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



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.



Parishioners who need our Prayers

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

- 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 7th January 2024

Sunday 7th January	The Epiphany of the Lord <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Margaret Geddes R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Pat Fishwick In Sympathy
Monday 8th January	The Baptism of the Lord	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Sheila Andrews R.I.P.
Tuesday 9th January	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Bob Moore R.I.P.
Wednesday 10th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Celebration of Word and Communion
Thursday 11th January	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Stan Orton R.I.P.
Friday 12th January	St Aelred of Rievaulx	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen Cantillon R.I.P.
Saturday 13th January	St Hilary	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen & Gerard Kavanagh & Michael
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - John Roberts 90th Birthday
Sunday 14th January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week II</i> Special Day of Prayer for World Peace	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Devereaux Family
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Ken Davies R.I.P.



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

The Epiphany of the “infant king of the Jews” to wise men from the East is the celebration of the gift of the Word made flesh for all peoples. The first reading from Isaiah expresses the hope of the pilgrimage of the nations to the one God of Israel, and the author of Ephesians who had earlier spoke of Christ breaking down the wall of

enmity between Jew and pagan speaks of both groups as sharing the same inheritance, being parts of the same body and copartners in the promise in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Matthew’s main focus is on the universal benefits of the coming of the Messiah. The visit of Gentiles (non-Jews) to the infant King anchors an arch over the whole Gospel, which ends with the risen Jesus commissioning his disciples to make disciples of all nations. As Gentiles, they receive their revelation through natural creation – a symbol of the innate quest for God. Matthew’s night visitors are developed in Christian art and literature. They become three kings and later one becomes a person of colour. The bounds of inclusiveness are extended. As the Church becomes a world culture, one of its major challenges is to be inclusive, to welcome “the other,” and to break down various destructive walls of hostility: ethnic, religious, national and socio-economic.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January

**You shall love the Lord your God...
and your neighbour as yourself**
Reflections on the story of the Good Samaritan.

Ecumenical Service

Please join our Christian neighbours during this important week. The service is provided by the ecumenical team in Burkina Faso.

Venue: The Lighthouse Church, Heswall

Time: 4pm

Date: 21st January

Daily Groups

You are invited to join us for discussion and prayer on weekdays during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Each session is led by a representative from one of the Heswall Churches and is based on the literature produced by an ecumenical team in Burkina Faso.

Venue: The Lighthouse Church, Heswall

Time: 11am to midday

Dates: Thurs 18th, Fri 19th, Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd, Wed 24th & Thurs 25th.



WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! [Read more about us](#) and our decision to join forces. Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty.

So, [sign up](#) to do the Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your [parish](#). Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a growing number of lost property items found at both of our parish churches. Next time you are in church, please could you take a look and see if you recognise any of the items?



HOLY FAMILY

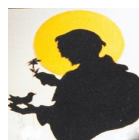
There are 5 pairs of specs and some other items. They will be on a table outside church for next 2 weeks, then disposed of.

OUR LADY & ST JOHN

Some glasses and other items are at the back of church by the side door.

Stitchcraft Group

The Stitchcraft group will restart on **9th January 2024**. New members are always welcome. The group meets each week on Tuesday at 10 am until 12:30 pm in the meeting room at Our Lady and St John.



St Francis' Corner

St Francis wrote his "Letter to all the Faithful" around the year 1224 during a period of serious illness. It is an earnest appeal to all the faithful to sanctify themselves by prayer, penance, and good works, observing the commandments and precepts of Christ. This short-abridged extract from the beginning of the letter touches upon the mystery of Christmas and the sanctity of Christ's poverty.

To everyone in the whole world. I (Brother Francis) am the servant of all and so I am bound to wait upon everyone... Realising, however, that because of my sickness and ill-health I cannot personally visit each one individually, I decided to send you a letter ...

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the glorious Word of the Father so holy and exalted whose coming the Father made known by St Gabriel the Archangel to the glorious and blessed Virgin Mary in whose womb He took on our weak human nature. He was rich beyond measure and yet He and his Holy Mother chose poverty.

In his address to the Secular Franciscan Order in November 2021, Pope Francis urged them "to embrace the gospel as you embrace Jesus. Let the gospel, that is, Jesus himself, shape your life. In this way, you will take on poverty, littleness, and simplicity as your distinguishing marks before all."



Monthly Assam Collection

This is a reminder that the usual monthly Assam collection will take place after Sunday Mass at Holy Family, on **SUNDAY, 7th January 2024**.



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

We will start again on **Sunday 14th January**, with the next Lego Church being **Sunday 4th February**.



CARITAS
DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

Caritas at Christmas Appeal 2023 - THANK YOU

Many thanks for your generous donations to Caritas. As a parish, we were able to send a donation of £461.47 (HF - £241 and OLSJ - £220.47) to Caritas. Thank you.

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

