

# 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 soul of  
**Mario Martinez**  
who has recently died. May his soul rest in peace.

**Mario's** Funeral Service will be held at  
**Our Lady & St John on**  
**Friday 1st March at 11:30 am**

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

## Refreshments after Sunday Mass



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.



## 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

## 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
- Mike Robb
- Grant Adonis



*Please get in touch if you would like to add or remove*

Masses for week commencing Sunday 11th February 2024				
Sunday 11th February	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week II</i> <i>Day of Prayer for the sick and for the unemployed</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Tony Walsh R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Joan Gibson 50 years in the choir
Monday 12th February	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Leonora Williams 3rd Anniversary
Tuesday 13th February	Shrove Tuesday	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - For the safe return to health of Ian Butler
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Debbie Devine Sick
		7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Pater Larkin
Thursday 15th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Simone Barnish Birthday
Friday 16th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Fr Paul Lomas R.I.P.
Saturday 17th February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Ann Newby Birthday Thanks
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Mary Brownrigg R.I.P.
Sunday 19th February	1st Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen Cantillon R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Tom Fishwick R.I.P.



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Leprosy in New Testament times was not just the modern Hansen’s disease but covered a large number of scaly skin infections. Still these did make people afraid and today’s Reading from Leviticus describes the social stigma attached to lepers, forcing them to live at the edge of society. Despite his social isolation the leper in the gospel approaches Jesus, kneels and utters words of courage and faith, “Lord, if you want to, you can cure me.” Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretches out his hand and touches him saying, “Of course I want to. Be cured!” The leprosy leaves the man and he is cured. Jesus then warns him sternly to keep quiet about it and show himself to the priest to have the cure verified and make the requisite offering for his healing. To-day’s readings are challenging in our culture that is obsessed with health and in which the ancient attribution of illness to sin is now modernised by attributing illness to a faulty lifestyle. Also today people approach Jesus in courage and prayer for healing like the leper but still remain sick. The presence of a Jesus who acts with compassionate words and touch is critical today. Contemporary miracles of healing are often a compassionate word or touch and the gift of continued presence and welcome to sufferers by the community of family and Church.



## 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



### 2024 - YEAR OF PRAYER

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year "Pilgrims of Hope", 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. He asks us all to join in a great "symphony" of prayer, "to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him."

***"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."***

**Pope Francis**

As well as our monthly Prayer for Peace and our weekly Rosary Prayer groups in our Parish churches, CAFOD run a weekly Community Online Rosary Prayer Group. If you would like to join CAFOD's online community to pray the rosary via Zoom every Thursday morning at 9am, click on the link below to register your interest. They will then send you a link every week to join the Zoom call.

<https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/rosary>





**HELP NEEDED!** We are very lucky to have a dedicated team of volunteers from Holy Family and Our Lady and St John, who take communion to those parishioners who are unable to come to Mass themselves. They visit people in Care Homes as well as those in their own homes. They are desperately short of helpers and would greatly welcome anyone who can give just an hour of their time a week. If you would like to help, please do let Father Stephen, Father Patrick or Deacon Jeff or Deacon Paul know. You will need to be DBS checked before you can commence and if you are not already a Eucharistic Minister, receive some training. All offers of help will be greatly received. Thank you.



### Confirmation Preparation Classes 2024

We will be shortly starting a programme of preparation for children of the Parish wishing to make their confirmation this summer. Preparation classes will begin around April time (dates to be confirmed nearer the time) and the Confirmation Mass will take place on **Wednesday 19th June at 7pm** at St Winefride's church, Neston, presided by Bishop Mark.

If you would like to enrol your child onto this programme, please either let Father Stephen know, or email the parish secretary at

[contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk).

Children from Year 8 onwards are eligible for Confirmation.



### Stations of the Cross

During Lent the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at Our Lady and St John's church following each weekday morning Mass. If you wish to join the rota to lead this devotion, please contact Joan Gibson on 342 3787.



Heswall  
Disabled Children's  
Holiday Fund



HESWALL DISABLED CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND are having an Easter Raffle. Tickets are £2 each or a book of 5 for £10. First prize is £200 cash with lots more prizes to be won. The draw will take place at our Spring Fair which is being held on **Saturday 16th March 2024** at the Lighthouse Church, Heswall from 10.00am-1.00pm. **Tickets are also available from Joan Larkin on 07542213158 or 342 5517.**



**Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Walk of Witness for Peace,**

**Repentance and Reconciliation**

Assemble from 1.15pm on steps of St Luke's 'bombed out church' at the top of Bold St, Liverpool L1 2TR. The walk starts at 1.30pm, with Stations of the Cross at the Statue of Reconciliation, in Church St (where ashes will be distributed) Lord St and the Town Hall. We walk in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and for peace in Ukraine /Russia, Palestine/ Israel and in our City.

Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi.

Contact: Jan Harper

07591082195 email [janharper20211@outlook.com](mailto:janharper20211@outlook.com)



### Holy Family Gardening Gang

Calling all parishioners. Would anyone be willing to join the Gardening Gang at Holy Family to help maintain the gardens around the church? If you are interested please get in touch with Sean Purcell or Brian Sharp.

Their next session will take place on **Saturday 10th February 9:30 to 11:30**, gardening, chat and a cup of tea.



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

**Diocesan Choir Festival – 'Sing a New Song'**  
**Sunday 24th February 10:30am - 4:30pm**

You are invited to come along and sing as part of a diocesan choir. Learn music throughout the day and lead the singing for Mass at 5pm. We will learn Schutz: Praise to you Lord Jesus, Schubert: Mass in G and more, on Saturday 24th February, 10.30am-4.30pm with Mass beginning at 5pm. At St Anthony's, Dunkery Road, Woodhouse Park, Wythenshawe, M22 0WR.

Refreshments and registration from 10.30am, rehearsals begin at 11am. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a packed lunch. The cost is £5 per person, payable on the day.

Book by completing the form at [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/DIOCESANCHOIRFESTIVAL](http://tinyurl.com/diocesanchoirfestival)

The deadline for bookings is Friday 16th February.

For more information contact [reception@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:reception@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)



DIOCESE OF  
SHREWSBURY

**Diocesan Pilgrimage  
to Lourdes 2024**

Brochures and booking forms are now available on the pilgrimage website [www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk) or by ringing 07773 324264, or if you are aged 16 – 22 please email [youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) for an application form to join the youth section of our pilgrimage. This year our pilgrimage dates are: by air is from Friday 26 July to Thursday 1 August, by coach Thursday 25 July to Friday 2 August and for our young people Wednesday 24 July to Friday 2 August. If you are a first time pilgrim or a returning pilgrim we look forward to you joining us in Lourdes this year.



**Lourdes by Jumbulance**

There are two pilgrimages to Lourdes by Jumbulance in 2024 departing from Wirral and Chester. A Jumbulance is literally a Jumbo-Ambulance. It has seven beds on board, spacious seating, an accessible toilet and kitchen. We can take very sick or disabled pilgrims including those needing palliative care including cancer, MND, MS, stroke, etc. We stay in a four star hotel with excellent facilities to care for them and recruit a team of nurses and helpers to do so. The experience for younger helpers is good for the CV, especially those considering a career in health or social care. We all do a DBS. Everyone must be COVID vaccinated. The dates are Thu 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June and Thu 15<sup>th</sup> to Sat 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The cost is £1,095 and, as a charity, we are all asked to pay. However, nurses and young helpers under 25 in FTE, pay half. We do fund raising to help support those who cannot afford the full amount. Travel Insurance is available at just £70, which is a snip for those with multiple health problems! Visit our website and read Bev's story. [www.across.org.uk/?s=AJ](http://www.across.org.uk/?s=AJ)

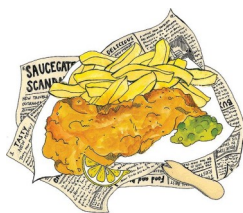
For further information contact Tony Murphy on 07881-656-974 or [tonymurphy2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonymurphy2002@yahoo.co.uk)



**3rd Heswall Beavers/Cubs/Scouts  
Quiz Night - 1st March**

We are hosting a quiz night with fish and chip supper at our scout hut on Marksway, Pensby on 1st March. Arrival from 7pm with the quiz beginning around 7.15.

Tickets are £10 and include a drink and your fish and chips! Drinks and raffle tickets are available for purchase on the night.



Tickets are available from Pauline on 07776308883

## Why can't you throw small batteries into the household bin?

When throwing rubbish away at your home, there are some things that shouldn't go into your household bin. Batteries are a prime example of this but why is this?

Batteries can be either primary (a one-time use battery) or secondary (rechargeable, reusable batteries). The majority of batteries contain the following harmful heavy metals:

- lead
- mercury
- copper
- zinc
- cadmium
- manganese
- lithium
- Potassium



All of these elements are extremely hazardous to both the environment and human health, and are able to permeate into the ground soil and thus water supplies when they are placed into landfill. For this reason, placing them in your household bin to dispose of them is not a safe option, as their harmful chemical content will ultimately make its way back into our water supplies.

Many of our local supermarkets and shops have battery recycling banks, here are a few:

- ★ Tesco, Heswall
- ★ Any Cancer Research Charity Shops
- ★ Boots, Heswall

Simply take any batteries which you need to dispose of and place them into the battery bank. They will then be safely removed and taken away to be recycled by local authorities.

### RNIB Used Stamps

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.



On this page there are a few ways in which we can help to live our lives

- simply
- sustainably with creation
- in solidarity with people living in poverty



### Wirral Foodbank

The **Wirral Foodbank** is the busiest it has ever been at the moment, with demand for our services up by almost 60% on this time last year. Please help by donating 1 or 2 of the following items that they urgently need:

**Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Fruit Squash, Jam, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Potatoes, Deodorant**

*We have plenty of BEANS & TEA thank you.*

**MANY THANKS**

*There are large collection boxes in the porch area of both our Parish churches.*



### Printer Cartridge Recycling Reminder

As part of our Live Simply drive, we have a recycling box for used printer cartridges at the back of Our Lady & St John's church porch next to the piety stall.

Once there are 50+ used cartridges in the box then we shall send it to The Recycling Factory. They will then recycle them and give a donation CAFOD. The Recycling Factory has already donated over £68,000 to CAFOD and we should like help with this good cause.

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 Par-  
ish Secretary  
know.

[con-  
tact@ourladyandstjo  
hn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)

 Sign up for the  
weekly parish  
newsletter via email  
To join send an email to Vic-  
toria Hanlon [con-  
tact@ourladyand  
stjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)