

# 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  
**Mario Martinez & Hilary Clarke**  
who have recently died. May their souls rest in  
peace.

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



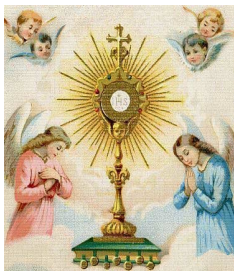
**Hilary's** Funeral Mass will be held at  
**Our Lady & St John on**  
**Thursday 7th March at 11:30 am**

Please remember to pray for their families 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 hos-  
pital, 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



## Exposition of the Blessed Sacra- ment with Adoration

Every Tuesday morning from  
9:30am - 10:30am after the Cel-  
ebration of Word and Commun-  
ion 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 Sat-  
urdays



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

**Masses for week commencing Sunday 18th February 2024**

<b>Sunday</b> 18th February	<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> <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.
Monday 19th February	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Dolores Carter
Tuesday 20th February	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Frances Cassidy <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i> ✠
Wednesday 21st February	St Peter Damian	9:00 am	Holy Family	Celebration of Word and Communion
Thursday 22nd February	Chair of St Peter	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - For a Benefactor (Walsingham)
Friday 23rd February	St Polycarp <i>Family Fast Day</i>	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Winifred Lewis Anniversary <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i> ✠
<b>Saturday</b> 24th February	Ferial	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Melissa Callaghan Anniversary
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Hannah O'Brien R.I.P.
<b>Sunday</b> 25th February	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Bill & Eileen Davies
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Frank Whitehead Anniversary



## Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

*By Father Stephen*

Today we have Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus. The term "temptation" is inaccurate, since the original Greek means "tested" or "subjected to a trial." This evokes the wider theme of God's testing of the people of Israel, like Jesus in the wilderness, the suffering servant of Isaiah and the suffering just person of the Book of Wisdom who, though tested by God remains faithful and is called a child of God. In this first Lenten Sunday gospel the Church portrays a Jesus who "because he himself was tested through what he suffered is able to help those who are being tested." Jesus leaves the wilderness to proclaim the Good News from God. The news is good because the kingdom of God, God's reign is at hand. God is a king who protects an endangered people, has special concern for the vulnerable and judges violence and injustice. Only by following the way of Jesus through the Gospel, hearing his word and adopting his values can we understand more deeply the mystery of God's reign. The beginning of this journey through Lent calls for repentance or a second look at life and belief, an act of trust in God who guides the unfolding journey.



**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.



### 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 1st March 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### Happy 90th Birthday Marjorie

The Stitchcraft group all had a wonderful time helping to celebrate parishioner, Marjorie Barbers' 90th birthday at the Fox and Hounds last week.



**Congratulations and best wishes Marjorie from your friends at Stitchcraft and all your fellow parishioners.**



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.**

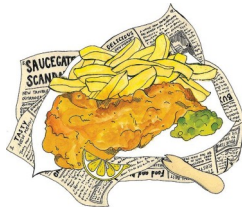
Joan is also looking for donations for the Tombola Stall. If you have any unwanted gifts please leave them in the box at the back of Our Lady and St John for Joan to collect. All the money raised from the Spring Fair will all go to the Heswall Disable Children's Holiday Fund.



### 3rd Heswall Beavers/Cubs/Scouts Quiz Night - Friday 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 7.15pm.

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

### Holy Family Gardening Gang

If anyone is interested in helping to maintain the gardens around Holy Family church, the Gardening Gang will be meeting up again on **Saturday 2nd March 9:30 to 11:30.**



**LOST & FOUND**

A bank card was found at the back of Our Lady and St John's church last Sunday (11th February). If you think that this is yours, please get in touch with Father Stephen or Father Patrick.

As many of you know, Father Stephen has a big birthday coming up. Celebrations will take place at both parishes after Sunday Mass on 3rd March. At Holy Family there will be cake and coffee after 9:30am Mass and at Our Lady and St John's there will be sandwiches and more cake! Could we please ask for catering purposes, if you intend to come to the sandwich lunch celebration, to sign up in the porch at Our Lady and St John. We just need an idea of the number of guests attending so we can make sure that we have enough to go around. Thank you.





CAFOD

**FAMILY FAST DAY - Friday 23rd February**

As we know, CAFOD is helping in all the major crises in the world, Ukraine and Gaza especially. But they also raise awareness of the difficulties and hardships faced by otherwise overlooked people in poverty. This year it is the fishermen in Liberia. They risk their lives every day and often return home with little or no fish to feed



their families. Improvements in their tools and equipment can make all the difference and at just a small cost. CAFOD envelopes can be found at the back of church and will be collected each Sunday

during Lent.

[Family Fast Day \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://cafod.org.uk)

**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.**

**Self-Denial in Lent**

Pope Francis has asked us to dedicate this year, 2024, to be a Year of Prayer.

To comply with this, we are suggesting that during this Lent we should make a special effort to say the Lord's Prayer every day. In addition to this we could reflect on the words of St Francis's Prayer, which is printed on the back page of our Mass books but is also familiar in our hymn version 'Make me a channel of your Peace'. Each Sunday in Lent our Justice & Peace Group will offer a reflection on some aspects of St Francis's Prayer with a suggestion of related action.

**Lenten Reflection*****Make me a channel of your peace***

We must first pray to receive Peace ourselves before we can share Peace with others. Lent is a wonderful opportunity for receiving or returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can channel the Peace we receive to others by neither initiating hatred nor joining in the hatred of others. Often we are invited to join in hatred on one side or the other. Dare you take the risk of suggesting that there may be a misunderstanding or a middle way? Is now the time for you to take that first step to heal a broken relationship?

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is darkness, light,

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much

seek to be consoled as to console,

not so much to be understood as to understand,

not so much to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

# why not try and Live Simply for Lent . .

## Lent Actions 2024 – Prayer, fasting and almsgiving

*Ideas to care for creation during Lent and to live more sustainably.*

*could you make a pledge for prayer in Lent?*

- ★ Visit Stations of the Cross: following Mass every Tuesday during Lent at Our Lady and St John and following Mass on Saturday at Holy Family
- ★ Walk and pray in solidarity with the poor on [The Big Lent Walk 2024](#)
- ★ Use the [CAFOD Family Lent Calendar](#) - journey through the season of Lent with a daily reflection and free activity for children.
- ★ Recite the Lent prayer 2024 – Come, follow me:

Loving God,  
when our boat is rocked on the sea of life,  
by poverty, illness or disaster,  
you quiet the waves,  
calm the storm,  
and lead us safely to shore.

When we work hard,  
for our daily bread,  
but at the end of the day go hungry,  
you walk alongside us,  
calling, "cast out your nets",  
knowing there is enough for all.

When we are lost,  
and uncertain of how to make a change in our world,  
your words ring out: "Come, follow me",  
guiding us to new life with you.  
Lead us then, Lord, to play our part in calming the storm  
and sharing your gifts with each other,  
so that all people throughout the world may look to the future with hope.

Amen.



**Next week – ideas for alternative ways of fasting in Lent and through the year.**

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>



## Community Groups



Our community groups empower members to address daily life challenges in a supportive environment.

Pop in and join us for a cuppa



- \* Monday mornings, 9.30am – 12pm, St. Joseph's Centre, Birkenhead, CH42 7JY
- \* Tuesday mornings, 9.30am – 12pm, The Quiet Space, Hoylake Community Centre, CH47 3AG
- \* Tuesday mornings, 9.30am – 12pm, St. Barnabas Centre, Bromborough, CH62 7AA

CALL LISA 07394 568 254  
OR LINDA 07824 329 340



@CaritasWirral



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)