

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

## A Prayer for Peace this January 2024

**Churches and Christian organisations are responding with prayers and statements to the violence in Israel and Gaza:**

O God of all  
Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:  
Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.  
Our voices cry for peace and for justice.  
Comfort those who grieve,  
Console and heal the injured,  
Be close to those in fear,  
Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.  
Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,  
That our voice may always seek justice, peace and security for all.  
Amen.

*Rev'd Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*



## 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 14th January 2024					
Sunday 14th January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week II</i> <b>Special Day of Prayer for World Peace</b>		9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Devereaux Family
			11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Ken Davies R.I.P.
Monday 15th January	Ferial		9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Cecilia Hiepko Birthday Anniversary
Tuesday 16th January	Ferial		9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Ian Butler
Wednesday 17th January	St Anthony		9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mr & Mrs P. Bessant & Family
Thursday 18th January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Marie Hegarty Anniversary
Friday 19th January		St Wulstan	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mr P. Sutton & Family
Saturday 20th January		Ss Fabian & Sebastian	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
			12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Mr & Mrs C. Jones & Family
			6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Thomas Bernard McGuk R.I.P. Anniversary
Sunday 21st January		3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week III</i> <b>Special Day of Prayer for Openess to the Word of God</b>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Vera Oates R.I.P.
	11:15 am		OLSJ	Mass - Charles Mills R.I.P.	

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Today’s gospel from John depicts the call and response of Jesus’ first followers as part of a series of initial revelations of Jesus that culminate at the wedding feast of Cana where Jesus “let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him.” John the Baptist is the witness who points out Jesus as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,” evoking the Suffering Servant of Isaiah and the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb. The two disciples follow Jesus, but, unlike in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus asks, “What do you want?” They answer “Rabbi” –which means Teacher – “Where do you live?” Jesus invites them to come and see and they stay with him for the rest of the day. The following day Andrew finds his brother Simon and tells him, “We have found the Messiah” –which means the Christ or Anointed One- and takes Simon to Jesus who gives him the name Cephas (meaning Peter or Rock).

This narrative is a “coming to faith” story not only for John’s original hearers or readers, but for Christians today. The questions and commands highlight the process, “What do you want?”, “Where do you live?”, “Come and see.” People come to Jesus on the testimony of others. Jesus enters their lives as a response to their deepest longing, and only after “staying” with him can they confess him as “Christ.”



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 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: 21<sup>st</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, Fri 19<sup>th</sup>, Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wed 24<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>.



## 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.



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

We will start again **THIS Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**, with the next Lego Church being **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**.



Heswall  
Disabled Children's  
Holiday Fund



HESWALL DISABLED CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FUND are having an Easter Raffle. Tickets are £2.00 each or a book of 5 for £10.00. First prize is £200 cash with lots more prizes to be won.

Once again we will be holding our annual Camp in August 2024 at Barnstondale and all the money raised from the Raffle go to support the Camp and enable us to bring as many children as possible for a week long holiday.

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. At the Fair we have the SingMe Merseyside Choir coming to entertain us, lots of stalls and refreshments.

If you would like any tickets please get in touch with Joan Larkin either at Church or contact her on 07542213158 or 342 5517.

**First Holy Communion Classes**

Preparation classes for children who do not attend a Catholic primary school but who wish to make their First Holy Communion this summer have started this week. If you have a child who would like to join, please contact Father Stephen as soon as you can.



**Printer Cartridge  
Recycling Reminder**

As part of our LiveSimply 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.



**Society for the Protection  
of Unborn Children**

**White Flower Appeal 2024**

There will be a retiring collection after all weekend

Masses this weekend for the White Flower Appeal. SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the Pills-By-Post DIY abortion policy. This policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Thank you for your generosity.



### A NEW WAY TO PAY!

How many times have you come to church and realised that you don't have any cash with you for the Sunday collection or a retiring collection?

You may have noticed a new addition to the back of Our Lady and St John's church by the main doors in the porch. We have decided following on from trials in other Diocesan Parish Churches, to install a Digital Donation Plate. This will allow our parishioners to pay for things without the need of cash. It is simple and quick to use.

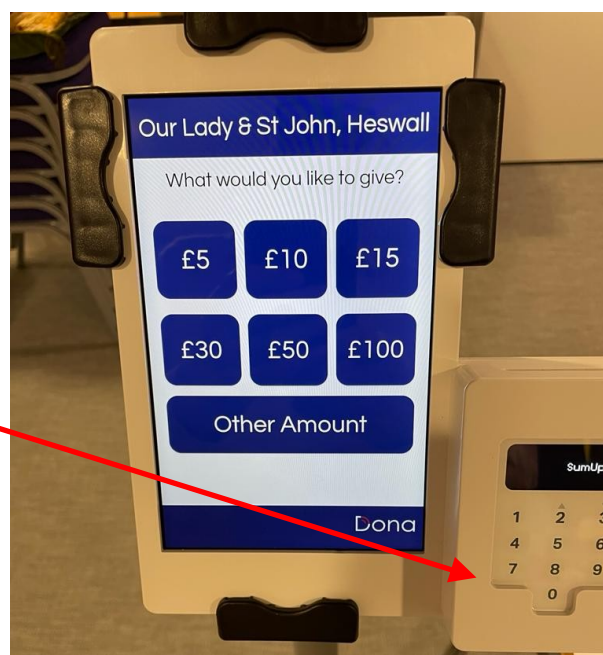
Tap on the screen of the tablet to bring it to life.

Tap on the amount you wish to donate or select the **Other Amount** button to enter your own amount in.

Once you have selected the amount, tap your card on the top of the pin pad to the righthand side of the tablet (or insert your card into the reader at the top).

Your card will only be debited for the exact money you select.

All done!



If you are a UK taxpayer, you will have the option to Gift Aid your donation. Simply enter your name, house number, postcode and email address and it will automatically register your donation for Gift Aid.

Please be reassured that this is NOT replacing the usual collection plates or the ability to put cash into the wall safes for candles, Saint Anthony or the piety stall, but rather a helpful alternative.

Any problems using it, please do not hesitate to speak to Bernard Larkin or Victoria Hanlon on how to use it.

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)

**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](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)

