

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
Hilary Clarke & Eric Jones
who have recently died. May their souls rest in
peace.

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



Eric's Funeral Service will be held at
Landican Crematorium on
Monday 25th March at 12 noon

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
- Victoria Interi



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
someone from the list.*

| Masses for week commencing Sunday 3rd March 2024 | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3rd March | 3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week III</i> | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Family Thanksgiving |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Josephine Burbridge Anniversary |
| Monday 4th March | Ferial | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Mass - Pat Cravan Birthday |
| Tuesday 5th March | Ferial | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Mass - .Gina Ferrera R.I.P. <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross ☩</i> |
| Wednesday 6th march | Ferial | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Rose Whelan |
| Thursday 29th February | Ss Perpetua & Felicity | 11:30 am | OLSJ | Mass - Funeral Mass of Hilary Clark |
| | | 7:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Christine Wells R.I.P. |
| Friday 1st March | St John of God | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Sarah Davies Anniversary <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross ☩</i> |
| Saturday 2nd March | St Frances of Rome | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Come pray the rosary |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Family | Mass - A. L. Birthday Thanks |
| | | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Fred & Janine Overton Anniversary |
| Sunday 3rd March | 4th Sunday of Lent <i>Psalter Week IV</i> | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Tony Goff R.I.P. |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Winifred Lewis Birthday Anniversary |

Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

King Herod the Great rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem to such a high specification that the saying went round, “He who has not seen the temple of Herod has never known what beauty is!” This striking edifice of brilliant white marble and glittering gold rising terrace upon terrace was reduced to rubble by the Roman army led by Titus. Flavius Josephus the former Jewish governor of Galilee, who had gone over to the Romans, described the setting fire to the colonnades and went on to tell how a soldier snatched a burning torch and lifting himself up on the shoulders of a comrade thrust the fire through a golden window and the flames ran through the holy sanctuary of God.

Jesus says in today’s gospel: “Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it up again.” He was talking of the temple that was his body. This temple too was destroyed and desecrated by unholy hands. This temple lay as a corpse on a cross facing the Jerusalem temple which it was to replace. As this divine temple was being profaned, the veil in Herod’s temple was rent in two as a sign of a new era begun in Christ where we too become temples of God, dwelling places of the Holy Spirit.



Monthly Assam Collection

This is a reminder that the usual monthly Assam collection will take place after Sunday Mass at Holy Family, **THIS SUNDAY, 3rd March.**

Assam Latest News

Fr, Purty has sent thanks for our latest donation of £1,000 sent to support the Adivasi boys' education. But extracts from his messages tell us of the increasing hostility and the threats experienced by Christians in this remote part of India.

'I am grateful to you for your generous support which got credited in our FCRA account. Boniface Apostolic Boys are busy with their exams. Tenth standard boys are writing their final exams. After the exams , they have short holidays and then they will join the minor seminary.

Please continue to support us with your prayers as we are going through a tough time in our life.

We have been receiving threats to remove crucifixes, statues of Our Lady from our educational institutions. In case we fail to do, dire consequences will be meted out to us for which they will not be responsible for. As a whole, our Christians are undergoing agonising time from the time of announcement of election. We are hardly 1.87% but we are at the receiving end all the time.

Some 40 to 50 families faced intimidation from Hindu radicals and returned to their former religion. Fr.Cyprian is also threatened with dire consequences in his school. He has been asked to remove the religious symbols.

Our priests, sisters are continually threatened in our North Eastern Region. The other day a religious sister was travelling in a bus but because of her religious habit , she was offloaded from the bus in a lonely area. . This happened because we are threatened not to wear such religious dresses.

A law is being proposed against Evangelism. This is to prevent us from conducting prayer meetings and healings.

I do not know where we are heading. As I mentioned earlier, a few families who were not strong in Catholic faith returned to Hindu fold because of the allurements. In another village, we lost a good number of Christians because of the threats.

We rely on the strength of God to deliver us. Please do continue to remember us.'



Cafod Big Lent Walk

Parishioner Ronnie Buckley is taking part in the Cafod Big Lent Walk. If you would like to sponsor her, please click on the link below to go to her sponsorship page.

[Ronnie Buckley - Big Lent Walk - Sponsorship Page](#)



If you would like more information on the Big Lent Walk, head to the Cafod website:

[The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://cafod.org.uk)



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

LEGO CHURCH - THIS Sunday 3rd March

At Lego Church we explore the themes of the Gospel in a child-friendly way by building models from Lego to better understand the message. There is no need to book, to attend, just come along.



Heswall
Disabled Children's
Holiday Fund

DONATIONS REQUEST

There is a box in the Porch for any donations for the Spring Fair in aid of Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund. Items for a tombola, children's toys, crafts. The box will be in the porch up to **Wednesday 13th March**. If you have any queries, please give Joan a call on 07542213158. Thank you



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Please don't forget to return your CAFOD Family Fast envelope.

Please put them in the collection plate or hand them to a steward.

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



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.

Children from Year 8 onwards are eligible for Confirmation.

SingMe Merseyside

Come and listen to them perform on **SATURDAY 16th MARCH** at the SPRING FAIR in aid of Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund.

The Fair is open from 10.00am at The Lighthouse Church, Telegraph Road and SingMe Merseyside will be performing from 11.00am - 12.30pm

Free entrance, homemade cakes on sale, toys, tombola, refreshments etc.

All the money raised goes towards taking children with a disability away for a holiday during the month of August. Please come and support us. Thank you.



Lenten Reflection

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

*Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life,
let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light.
And where there's sadness ever joy.*

*'Nobody cares'.
'Nobody listens to me'.
'Nobody understands me'.*

Who at some time has not said or felt something like that? When did we last reach out to someone else who had such feelings? When did we last really listen to someone's grievance? Can we give up 5 minutes of our time to phone someone who we know might be sad, neglected or lonely?



Why not try and Live Simply for Lent . .

Lent Actions 2024 – **Prayer** **Fasting** **Almsgiving**

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

Why not try a Fast from PLASTIC in Lent?

- ★ Try to buy produce that isn't wrapped in plastic.
- ★ Avoid single use plastic.
- ★ Use re-useable cups.
- ★ Use a refill shop to refill with cleaning products, hygiene products etc.
- ★ Try cleaning products that could [reduce plastic waste](#).



.....or a Fast from TRANSPORT?

- ★ Have a car free day each week walk or cycle more or use public transport.
- ★ Combine tasks that require car use.
- ★ Share lifts.
- ★ When safe to do so, if you are stationary, switch off your engine.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/breathebetter>

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

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

STOP PRESS:

Empty Blister Pack Recycling Suspended

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend the drop-off box at Our Lady & St John as the collection facilities at the pharmacies in Superdrug in Birkenhead and Liverpool have been removed.

As far as we know there are no other stores accepting empty blister packs in our area. We will keep looking!

N.B. Please do not stockpile the packs at home, sadly they should now be disposed of as General Waste.



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

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)