

# 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 **Janet Smith, Jean Edwards & Kevin Doyle** who have recently died. May their souls rest in peace.



**Janet Smith's** Funeral Service will be held at **Holy Family** on **Tuesday 30th April at 12:15 pm**

**Jean Edward's** Funeral Mass will be held at **Our Lady & St. John** on **Thursday 2nd May at 10:00 am**

**Kevin Doyle's** Funeral Mass will be held at **Holy Family** on **Tuesday 14th May at 2:00 pm**

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 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
- Molly Turner
- Joe Hemington
- Fred McCloud
- Lin Thompson
- Gary & Alan
- Phyllis Driscoll & Family
- Koumar Ray
- Claire Roddick
- Helen Boyd
- Moira Griffiths-Parr
- Gerry Smith
- Ian Butler
- Pat Lord
- Mike Robb
- Grant Adonis
- Victoria Interi
- Ann Parsons
- Peter Davies



## 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

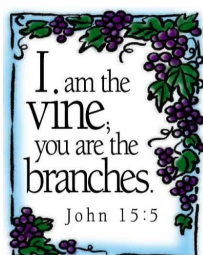
**Our Lady & St John:** 5:15pm - 5:45pm on Saturdays



*Please get in touch if you would like to add or remove someone from the list.*

**Masses for week commencing Sunday 28th April 2024**

<b>Sunday</b> 28th April	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Stan Orton R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Andrew Deacon R.I.P.
Monday 29th April	St Catherine of Siena <i>Day of Special Prayer for Europe</i>	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Elizabeth McAleese R.I.P.
Tuesday 30th April	St Pius <i>Day of Special Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse</i>	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Michael Jackson R.I.P.
		12:15 pm	Holy Family	Janet Smith Funeral Service
Wednesday 1st May	St Joseph the Worker <i>Day of Special Prayer for Human Work</i>	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Joan Foster R.I.P.
Thursday 2nd May	St Athanasius	10:00 am	OLSJ	Jean Edwards Funeral Mass
		7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - David Burke (Thanksgiving)
Friday 3rd May	Ss Philip & James	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mrs P Sudlow
Saturday 4th May	The English Martyrs	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Mr Alan Chaliner Sick
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Rose Glynn 70th Birthday
<b>Sunday</b> 5th May	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - David Noonan R.I.P. Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Vincenzo & Lucia Interi Anniversary



## Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

*By Father Stephen*

The Easter season celebrates the abiding presence of the Risen Christ. St John's image of the vine and its branches is about dwelling on the vine and staying with Jesus. Yet to us that may seem unrealistic. We are do-ers and we like quickly to translate the gospel vision into deeds. St John presents us with a profound challenge – to stop, to remain with Jesus, to realise God's presence. Often I think of two human comparisons to John's "remain in Jesus," one from life in its fullness and one from early life on the brink of growth. For people in a long, living, loving, fruitful marriage, often merely being in each other's presence is enough; few words are needed, but when one leaves, even for a short time, the other's eyes turn frequently to the door. The two have become one flesh and one heart and spirit. This is St John's 'remaining'. The other comparison concerns the young teenage daughter of friends. She is a young woman of boundless energy and full of life, yet she can hang out with her best friend, spending hours together, often listening to music, sometimes chatting, other times just sitting in companionable silence. Perhaps we should all learn to "hang out" with Jesus.

**Red Missio Boxes**

Would all box holders bring them to church for emptying/counting? Boxes can be left in Sacristy or handed to Ian Butler (Our Lady and St. John) or John Wrigley (Holy Family)



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**Chinese Catholic  
Community Mass**

Bishop Mark will celebrate a bilingual Mass for **all** members of the Chinese Catholic community on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm**, at St Hugh's & St John's, Timperley. During the Mass, which will be concelebrated with Father Bruno Lepeu who is chaplain to the Chinese community, the Bishop will welcome members of the Chinese community who have been baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2024. Everyone welcome.



**CAFOD**  
Just one world

Please join CAFOD in praying for peace in Israel and Gaza

**A prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza**

Christ, Prince of Peace,  
hear our prayer and lament,  
for our suffering sisters and brothers.  
Our hearts are heavy as we witness lives torn apart,  
as we see the faces of frightened children  
and hear the pleas of those without water or food.  
We pray for the dead and the grieving,  
for the injured and the afraid.  
We pray for courage and perseverance,  
for those working for healing and to bring aid.  
We pray for world leaders,  
that they may strive for a just and lasting peace.

God of new beginnings,  
in your ways are compassion and hope.  
Open our hearts to dialogue and understanding.  
Lead us all to answer your call  
to become peacemakers  
today, and all the days of our life.

Amen.



**Year of Prayer 2024** Come and join our online webinar with Sycamore. Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a 'Year of Prayer', as a preparatory year for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most out of the prayer pathway on Sycamore! **On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 7pm-8pm**. Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join:

[Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)



*The  
Month  
of  
Mary*

**May the Month of  
Mary**

The Crowning of Our Lady will take place at **6 pm Mass on**

**Saturday 4th May and at 11:15am Mass on Sunday 5th Mass** at Our Lady and St John. Parishioners are asked to bring flowers with them to Mass, to place before Our Lady. Wild flowers or shop-bought, doesn't matter, so long as they are brought with love.



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SHREWSBURY

**DIOCESAN JOB VACANCY  
Director of Schools**

The Diocese is seeking to recruit a Director of Schools and applications are now open. Details of the role and the application process can be found at <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2040730>

Closing date: 13th May 2024

**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 3rd May 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.



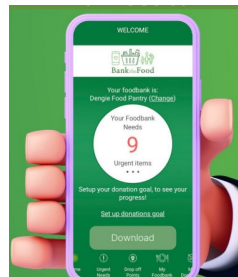
**Wirral Foodbank  
April - June 2024**

We are quite short of food donations at the moment and are having to spend up to £10k a month on food. Please help by donating 1 or 2 of the following items that they urgently need:

- **Tinned Custard**
- **Tinned Fish**
- **Tinned Meat**
- **Tinned Vegetables**
- **UHT Milk**
- **Tinned Fruit**
- **Tinned Rice Pudding**
- **Tinned Potatoes**
- **Deodorant**

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

**New Smartphone App!**



Did you know that there is a new Smartphone app for up-to-date LOCAL Foodbank needs and reminders when you are doing your own shopping? The Foodbank has collaborated with

the charity **BanktheFood** and now has an App for smart phone users.

The App is free to download, and is a great reference for your donations. Simply download the BanktheFood app for FREE using the QR code below. Search for the Wirral Foodbank using the postcode finder and follow them. You'll get regular updates of the items that they urgently require.

**EMERGENCY**  
Sudan Crisis Appeal 2024



**CAFOD Emergency Appeal for Sudan**

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at [cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal](http://cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal). Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

You can scan this QR Code for more information or text **CAFODSUDAN to 70450** to donate £10. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us.



*If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text **CAFODSUDAN-NOINFO** instead.*



**FIND OUT MORE!** BanktheFood  
[WWW.BANKTHEFOOD.ORG](http://WWW.BANKTHEFOOD.ORG)



**Monthly Assam Collection Reminder**

The monthly Assam collection will take place after 9:30 am Mass at Holy Family next **Sunday, 5th May**.

**News from Assam**

Fr. Purty has written to tell us that:

*“Boniface Apostolic Home [the Boys School that we support] is thriving with 120 students. 9 children wrote 10th standard exams . 7 passed with flying colours while 2 were unsuccessful. The other children are busy with their regular studies. Academic session has just begun.”*

Attacks on Christians and other minority groups, mainly triggered by the General Election in India, are continuing.

Fr Purty says:

*“The first phase of the election is over. This time the Church has played an active role in the political process. We animated the people to choose the right leaders. The Church is going through tremendous pressure from the anti-social elements. Attacks on the Church personnel are rampant and the churches are desecrated at their whims and fancies. In Manipur [an adjoining state] the situation is still burning.”*

Please include these poor people in your prayers.

**ANNUAL MISSIO PLANT SALE**  
 now open

Mature heritage tomato varieties:  
 Grown in our own greenhouse over winter and now up to 80cm tall. Also, limited supply of green beans and strawberries available for immediate outdoor planting.

The Pines, 18, Baskervyle Road Gayton  
 Contact: Mary Scott 07754358546/01513421277

All proceeds to MISSIO Ukraine & Gaza appeals

**CAFOD** **A Year of Encounter**  
*Just one world*

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online sessions on **Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May** to learn more.

Happy Birthday to parishioner, Bill Murray who turned 90 last week.  
 Blessings to you on your special day with love from your fellow parishioners.

**Scouts** **3rd Heswall Scouts** **TESCO**  
**Needs Your Help!**

3rd Heswall Scout Group has been awarded a shot at the Tesco Stronger Starts Blue Token scheme!!! Please, please, please can we ask you all to spread the news among family and friends and to vote for us every time you go to Tesco. We are in the Big Tesco in Heswall and the Little Tesco in Pensby and a number of other stores. Thanks everyone!!!!

**Medjugorje Pilgrimage**  
**5 day option** 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024  
 £549 per person sharing / £635 single room OR **8 Day option** 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024 £ 715 per person sharing / £835 single room. Flying from Manchester airport.  
 Be there for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary. For more info, contact Maria 07576243343 St Ann's Rock Ferry.



## GROWTH IN HOLINESS: PRAYER AND THE SPIRITUAL LIFE WORKSHOP

Pope Francis has designated 2024 a Year of Prayer. He urges us to embrace prayer 'as the royal road to holiness.' As part of your journey to deepen your prayer life, we invite you to access a workshop entitled **Growth in Holiness: Prayer and the Spiritual Life** offered to you freely by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, in conjunction with the Franciscan Catechetical Institute.



The approach offered by these workshops is gentle, inspiring, nourishing, and encouraging. They are concerned not with academic study but with formation for prayer and spiritual growth. Here is a quote from a parishioner who has made use of the Franciscan Catechetical Institute workshops and materials:

"To really understand the Faith, you need a reliable guide. The Franciscan Catechetical Institute materials have been my guide. Their engaging and thought-provoking workshops have given me a pathway through the Bible and the Catechism and have helped me to get to know God: his mercy, his love, and his plan for us. The experience has enriched my understanding, deepened my faith, and led me into a more personal relationship with God in prayer" (Parishioner at Shrewsbury Cathedral).



If you are interested of accessing the workshops, and wish to know more or how to sign up to the platform, please contact:

Jane Deegan [jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:jane.deegan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org) or  
 Stephen Yates [stephen.yates@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:stephen.yates@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)  
 Natalie Orefice [natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org)

# Anointing & Healing Service

**Friday 3 May 2024**  
 7pm  
 St John's Church  
 Bebington Road,  
 New Ferry, Wirral  
 CH62 5BJ

'What matters is faith that makes its power felt through love'  
 (Gal 3: 6)

With Fr Pat Collins  
 Author, Retreat Director & Conference Speaker.

**Caritas (Children's Society)**

Would all box holders in Holy Family please bring them to church for emptying/counting? Boxes can be left in Sacristy or handed to John Wrigley. Donations also gratefully received.

**Diocesan Mass for the Celebration of Marriage**  
**8th June 2024**

The annual Marriage Mass will take place on **Saturday June 8th, 12 noon** at **Saint Columba's Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA**, and will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Couples who are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries this year: Silver, Pearl, Ruby, Golden, Diamond or Platinum and also newly married couples are warmly invited to attend.

If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Secretary at [contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk) to reserve your place.



## 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



 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)

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)