

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
**Michael Caslin, Monsignor Peter Walton,
Michele Zito, Imelda Atherton & John Ritchie**
who have recently died. May their souls rest in peace.

Michael Casely's Funeral Service will be held at
Landican Cemetery on
Monday 18th November at 10:30 am

Monsignor Peter Walton's Funeral Mass will be
held at **St Alban's, Wallasey** on
Tuesday 19th November at 11:30 am

Michele Zito's Funeral Mass will be held at
Holy Family on
Wednesday 20th November at 12 noon

Imelda Atherton's Funeral Mass will be held at
Our Lady and St John on
Thursday 21st November at 12 noon

John Ritchie's Funeral Mass will be held at
Our Lady and St John on
Friday 6th December at 12 noon

*Please remember to pray for their families at this difficult
time and all those who have lost loved ones recently.*



Mass for the Deceased of the Parish

At Our Lady and St John, a Mass to
remember the Deceased of the Parish of
the previous year will take place on
Thursday 21st November at 7pm.
Refreshments will be served after Mass.



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
- Ken & Sara Bull
- David Johnston
- Phil Shaw
- Frances Ford
- John McNulty
- John Charles Smith
- Peter Ryan
- Bernard Davies
- Gerald Sanderson
- Molly Turner
- Joe Hemington
- Gary & Alan
- Phyllis Driscoll & Family
- Moira Griffiths-Parr
- Ian Butler
- Pat Lord
- Victoria Interi
- Ann Parsons
- Peter Davies
- Frances O'Boyle
- Mary Reilly
- Margaret Heery
- Steve Burke
- Carol Braden
- Mark



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

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|--------------------------------|---|----------|-------------|---|
| Sunday 17th November | 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week I</i> World Day of Prayer for the Poor | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Holy Souls |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Damian Mills Anniversary |
| Monday 18th November | Ferial | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Mass - Peggy Walker R.I.P. |
| Tuesday 19th November | Ferial | 9:00 am | OLSJ | Mass - Elaine Patton Birthday Thanksgiving |
| | | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Wednesday 20th November | Ferial | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Holy Souls |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Family | Michele Zito Funeral Mass |
| Thursday 21st November | The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 12 noon | OLSJ | Imelda Atherton Funeral Mass |
| | | 7:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass for the Deceased of the Parish |
| Friday 22nd November | St Cecilia | 9:00 am | Holy Family | Mass - Steve Burke Sick |
| Saturday 23rd November | Ss Clement & Columban | 9:30 am | OLSJ | Come pray the rosary |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Family | Mass - Susan Special Intention |
| | | 6:00 pm | OLSJ | Mass - Michael Wright R.I.P. |
| Sunday 24th November | Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe <i>Psalter Week II</i> <i>Day of Special Prayer for Young People</i> | 9:30 am | Holy Family | Mass - Anne & Jeff & Family |
| | | 11:15 am | OLSJ | Mass - Rona Mills Birthday Anniversary |



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Mark offers a vision of hope to a persecuted community: Wars, natural disasters, betrayal by family members will be overcome when the Son of Man returns to gather in his chosen ones. This is not simply a palliative for human suffering. It is a way of stating that those who suffer and die are not forgotten in God's eyes. The last 120 years have witnessed unprecedented evil and suffering in the two World Wars, many regional wars and in massive slaughters of whole populations, as well as the spread of famine and disease.

The view of history from the end presents a counter-vision. This vision includes images of abundant food, vindication of innocent sufferers and a reign of peace. The reigning of God, that Jesus hopes for, as his own ministry draws to a close, points back to his very first words in Mark's Gospel, "Repent, change your hearts for the Kingdom of God is close at hand." The apocalyptic readings we have today are a sign that our lives can be formed by the kind of world we envision, while we face a world we grieve over. Our hopes should shape our lives as powerfully as our faith and our love.

World Day of the Poor 2024 - Sunday 17th November 2024

Sunday 17th November is World Day of the Poor. This special day was instituted by Pope Francis in 2017 when he encouraged the Church to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world."

This year's theme is "The prayer of the poor rises up to God" (Sirach 21,5). In his message for this World Day of the Poor, the Holy Father reiterates that "*the poor hold a privileged place in God's heart*" and invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust.

In his message Pope Francis criticises policies that promote wars. He writes:

"The violence caused by wars clearly shows the arrogance of those who consider themselves to be powerful before men and women, but they are poor in the eyes of God. *How many more people are impoverished by misguided policies involving weapons!* How many innocent victims! Yet we cannot turn our backs to this reality."

The Holy Father highlighted the example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who spent her life working for the poor and who described herself as "only a poor sister who prays."

"We are called in every circumstance to be friends of the poor, following in the footsteps of Jesus who always began by showing solidarity when dealing with the least among us," the pope said.

One way we all can help the world's poor is through supporting CAFOD's work and especially at Christmas. CAFOD's World Gifts are a totally ethical way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Every single World Gifts purchase helps fund CAFOD's work around the world.



In this year's catalogue there is a wide range of things you can purchase to help the poor, such as;

- provision of emergency water for £5,
- teaching someone to read for £10,
- a chirpy chicken to provide eggs to eat for £20,
- a winter survival kit for £30,
- through to more expensive items such as a toilet for £85 or a cow for £150.

Gifts to help the poor can be purchased on line at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or please take a catalogue from the porch at Our Lady and St. John.



First Forgiveness & First Holy Communion 2025

If you have a child who is in Year 3 or above, he or she will be eligible to celebrate these important sacraments in 2025.

Children in Year 3 at Ladymount will follow a programme of preparation there. For children who are in other schools, there will be a parish programme of preparation taking place in the parish room at Our Lady and St John.

If you wish your child to take part in the parish programme, please contact Father Stephen on 342 6581 or email ste-phen.coonan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

New Lectionaries

As decreed by the Bishops of England and Wales, from the first Sunday of Advent (1st December 2024), we will start using the new Lectionary. The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations.

The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts. The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter.

The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting that is more proclaimable and, where appropriate, more inclusive.

Parish Readers' Familiarisation Sessions

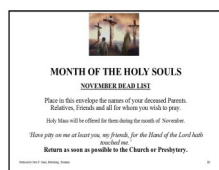
As the readings will now use the English Standard Version translation and the layout of the books will both change, it would be a good opportunity for all our readers at Mass, to gather together for a 'refresher' session, as well as some sharing and guidance on proclaiming the Word of God during our celebrations.

For this purpose we are inviting all our current and any new readers to attend one of our 3 sessions:

- **Saturday 9th November at 17:15 at OLSJ**
- **Sunday 24th November at 10:30 at OLSJ**
- **Saturday 23rd November at 11:00 am at HF**

If you are not able to attend any of these sessions, please let any of our Deacons or Fr. Stephen know.

This is also a very good opportunity to call out for new readers. Please let us know if you wish to be involved in this wonderful ministry and you are very welcome to join any of those sessions. Either speak to one of the Deacons or Father Stephen.



November is the Month of The Holy Souls

The envelopes for the Remembrance of your Loved Ones and Offerings are now available in the porch at both churches.

- **At Holy Family**, please place your completed envelopes in the basket by the Sacred Heart Statue.
- **At OLSJ**, please place your completed envelopes in the basket by the altar.
- **Alternatively**, you can post the envelope through the presbytery letterbox.

May we take this opportunity to remind you, because we receive so many Intentions during this month that it's simply not possible to say an Individual Mass for each and every intention. The Mass is simply styled as "Holy Souls", please rest assured however that Masses will be said regularly throughout November and in the coming months, and all your intentions are remembered at those Masses.



Holy Family Gardening Gang

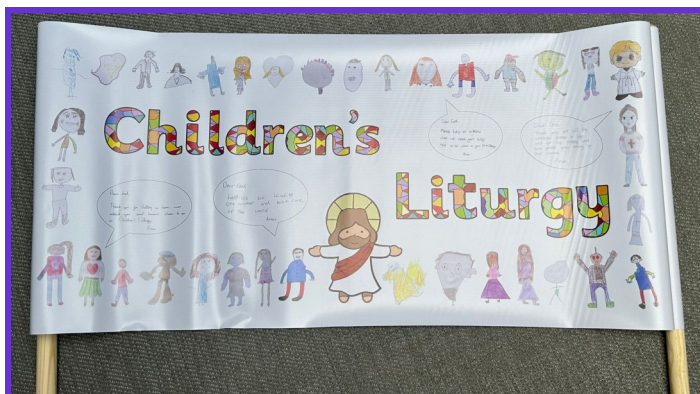
Our last session for the season will be on Saturday 23rd November from 9:30 to 11:30. New volunteers are always welcome to help in keeping the gardens and outside area clean and tidy. Just drop in, bring stout shoes and gloves, we will provide tea, biscuits and a chat.

Ridgewood Court Sunday Church



A group of parishioners have been going to Ridgewood Court in Pensby to provide a Sunday Service for the residents. We go on Sunday @ 11.00 am and the service lasts about half an hour. This is much appreciated by the residents, who enjoy singing and playing the tambourine etc and interacting with the group. The next one is taking place **on Sunday 24th November**. If you can come along to support us it would be much appreciated. Contact Jean Jenkins on 07966295388 for further information. Other dates include:

- **Sunday 8th December**
- **Sunday 22nd December**



New Children's Liturgy Banner

Thank you to Laura for gathering all of the children's lovely self-portraits and the design of the banner. Thank you too, to Charles and Mark at KCTS for making it.



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

DIOCESAN
JOB VACANCIES

IFM ADMINISTRATOR ROLE x 2

Two Administrator vacancies, (full time: 35 hours and part time: 25 hours) have arisen within our Inter-Diocesan Fuel Management Department, which is a Catholic organisation purchasing gas, electricity, fuel oil and biomass for all Catholic Dioceses in England and Wales. **Salary: £23K to £25K** (pro rata) depending on experience. Further details can be found via our Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Completed application should be sent to Pauline McCulloch, recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org **Closing date Friday 29 November 2024.**

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS ROLE

Recruitment process for the Diocesan Director of Schools role is now underway, further details of which can be found at <https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/director-of-schools-birkenhead-2130729> .If you would like further information or candidate pack and application form please contact Liam Dowds, Emmaus Advising Consultant, on 01737 652 043 or email at ldowds@emmausleadership.me



Sacrament of Confirmation

There will be no Confirmation Preparation Programme this year in our Parish, due to numbers and the Bishop's availability. We will however be offering the programme in 2026, with the Confirmation Mass in June 2026.



RAFFLE: Heswall Disabled Children's Holiday Fund are holding a Raffle to raise funds for Heswall Camp 2025. There are 100 tickets in the draw and the draw will take place on 15th December 2024

Tickets cost £10 each and the prizes are:

1. £100 voucher for COOK to use in store or online
2. Fabulous Christmas Hamper - full of festive treats
3. Handbag and purse
4. 6 bottles of Wine

Please contact Joan on 07542213158 or email: raffle@heswallcamp.org.uk or at Church.
Thank you and good luck



Please ask our MP, Matthew Patrick, to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.

It only takes 30 seconds using the RightToLife easy-to-use tool, to contact our local MP, Matthew Patrick. Simply enter your postcode to get the details of our local MP and enter your details. It will send Matthew Patrick a generic letter (which you can edit should you wish) asking him to speak and vote in opposition to Kim Leadbetter's assisted suicide Bill. Click on the link below or visit the RightToLife website:

[STOP THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL](#)

Thank you to all those who have already emailed him. In response to this, Matthew Patrick is inviting everyone who has contacted him to date to a community discussion event about Assisted Dying in Hoylake this Friday.

*** Tuesday Games Club - Cancelled ***

WHAT A SHAME: due to lack of support it has been decided not to continue with the Tuesday afternoon games and chat.

However, we are going to have an Afternoon Cream Tea and Bingo on Tuesday 3rd December from 2 - 4pm



Please come and have Tea, Cake and a lot of fun. There will be a charge of £3 and this includes your Bingo cards.

We need you to let us know if you are coming so we can cater etc. There will be a sign up sheet coming soon.

Confession

Holy Family: 11:30am - 11:50am on Saturdays

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

**Wirral Foodbank
November 2024**



These are the items that the FoodBank is particularly short of at the moment. Please help by donating 1 or 2 of the following items:

- **Tinned Fruit**
- **Tinned Potatoes**
- **Tinned Spaghetti**
- **Treats (chocolate etc)**

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

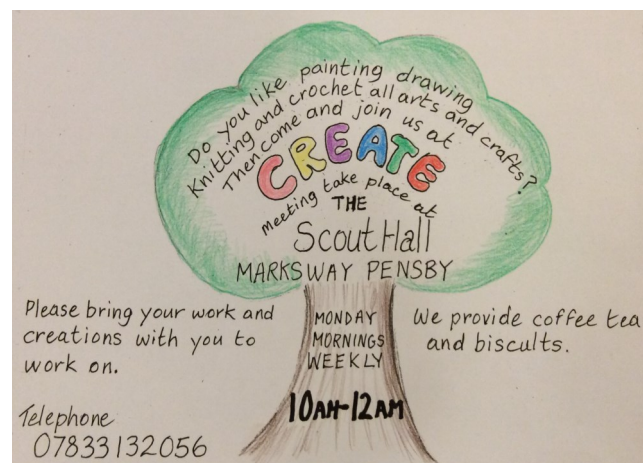
Don't forget that you can download the **BankTheFood** app for free....it'll tell you the items that are currently most needed and your nearest drop off points.



Printer Cartridge Recycling

THANK YOU

We have now sent off 3 boxes of cartridges and have raised £30 for CAFOD. Please do continue to place your used printer cartridges into the box which is situated in the porch of Our Lady & St. John so that we can keep supporting CAFOD.





SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This is our annual collection of items for our Seafarers which will be distributed to crew members who will dock in Liverpool during the Christmas period. Here is a list of items which would be appreciated for our Seafarers:

- Chocolate, Sweets, Toblerone
- Shower Gel (Men & Women)
- Deodorant (Men & Women) - *Roll-On Only*
- Toothpaste & Toothbrush
- Woolly hats, Scarves & Gloves
- Socks
- Playing Cards and Dice
- Pocket games (chess, dominoes, backgammon etc)
- Mini Jigsaws

Any of the above can be put into the box in the **Church Porch at OLSJ** or deliver to **Joan Larkin at 14 Speedwell Drive, Barnston CH60 2SZ**. Last day for donations is **Saturday 7th December**. If you need any further information please contact Joan on 0151 342 5517. Thank you.



RNIB Used Stamps

Please donate any stamps to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

R N I B

See differently

There is a collection box at the back of Our Lady and St John. Once the box is full it will be sent to the RNIB, where they are able to use them to raise vital funds for the charity. The RNIB raise **£20 for every kilogramme of stamps that they receive** and accept all stamps: new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, presentation packs or albums.

Please ensure stamps are trimmed with approximately one centimetre of paper around the edge, with no large gold Post Office labels or pre-printed postage marks - these have no value to the RNIB.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 17th November - 11:15 am Mass at OLSJ

Celebration for Fr. Stephen 10th Anniversary serving in our Parish

Thursday 21st November - 7pm Mass at OLSJ

Mass for the Deceased of the Parish

Sunday 15th December - 5 - 6pm at OLSJ

Advent Service

THANK YOU



Many thanks to everyone who generously gave to our retiring collection last Sunday, for improved toilet facilities at the Scout Hut in Marksway, Pensby. A grand total of £611.40 was raised. Thank you.

Red Missio Boxes

MISSIO Would all box holders bring them to church for emptying/counting? Boxes can be left in the Sacristy or handed to:

- Ian Butler (Our Lady and St. John)
- John Wrigley (Holy Family)

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

The Presbytery, 1 Boundary Lane, Heswall, CH60 5RP
0151 342 6581

Parish Priest: stephen.coonan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Parish Secretary & General Enquiries:
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk

Parish Mass YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyzzNjNscAoxuWubVYv04Lw>

Holy Family FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/holyfamily.pensby/

Parish Website: www.rcchp.org.uk



COP 29 – 11th to 22nd November 2024

Azerbaijan is hosting the 29th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP29) from 11th to 22nd November. The aim will be to build on the outcomes of COP28 to deliver action on an array of issues critical to tackling the climate emergency – from urgently reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience and adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change, to delivering on the commitments to finance climate action in developing countries. The focus of the world during this time will be on COP29 and the Climate Emergency.

On Wirral, Faiths4Change of which the Live Simply Group is a member, are hosting an event at **Birkenhead Town Hall on Friday 15th November** to provide an opportunity for people to learn, discuss & explore how we can make a difference in our faith communities, working together, and supporting each other to address climate change. (See posters at the back of church for further details).



Pope Francis has expressed his frustrations with the slowness of the COP process, saying: *'international negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good'*. For COP 29 He has written *'To say that there is nothing to hope for would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change'*.

So, at this critical time for Our Common Home, we pray for world leaders.....



Prayer for the COP29 climate summit

*God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory.
 Deepen our gratitude for all you have made and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care for the earth and each other.
 Inspire world leaders at COP29, with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and to speak up for those being oppressed around the world.
 Gift them the openness to listen to those most affected by climate change and ravaged by war.
 Give them the courage to act urgently and wisely, so that our common home may be healed and restored and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.
 Amen.*

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



Sign up for the weekly parish newsletter via email
To join send an email to Victoria Hanlon contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk



Have your contact details changed recently?
If they have, please let the Parish Secretary know.
contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk