



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

Christmas 2024

We wish you joy and peace this Christmas and for the New Year. May our Lord Jesus Christ *'give light to those in darkness and those who dwell in the shadow of death and guide us into the way of peace'* (Luke 1:79).

*Father Stephen, Father Tom
Rev. Jeff, Rev. Paul & Rev. Gianni*



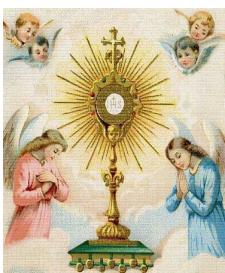
☞ May They Rest in Peace ☞

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Susan Elizabeth Taylor & Kevin Kerrigan
who have recently died. May their souls rest in peace.

Susan Taylor's Funeral Service will be held at
Our Lady and St John on
Monday 23rd December at 1:30 pm

Kevin Kerrigan's Funeral Service will be held at
Landican Cemetery on
Friday 3rd January 2025 at 12:30 pm

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



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Adoration
Every Tuesday morning from
9:30 am - 10:30 am after the
Celebration of Word and
Communion at 9:00am at Our
Lady and St John.
Everyone welcome.

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
- 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
- Anne Davidson



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

Masses for the next two weeks commencing Sunday 22nd December 2024

Sunday 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Week IV</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Fr. Paul Lomas R.I.P. Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Theresa Stubbings Anniversary
Monday 23rd December	St John of Kanty	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Emmanuel Nsutebu R.I.P.
		1:30 pm	OLSJ	Susan Taylor Funeral Service
Tuesday 24th December	Christmas Eve 	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Family Intention
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Dan Miller R.I.P.
		Midnight	Holy Family	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass - For Peace
Wednesday 25th December	 The Nativity of the Lord	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
Thursday 26th December	St Stephen	<u>10:00 am</u>	OLSJ	Celebration of Word and Communion
Friday 27th December	St John			No Mass
Saturday 28th December	The Holy Innocents	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Nora Carney
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Margaret McGurk R.I.P. 3rd Anniversary
Sunday 29th December	The Holy Family <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Carol Braden Birthday
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - William & Patricia Rowlands R.I.P.
Monday 30th December	Sixth Day of Christmas Octave	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Mary Cecelia Mannion R.I.P.
Tuesday 31st December	St Sylvester	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Fred & Janine Overton R.I.P.
Wednesday 1st January	Mary, Mother of God	<u>10:00 am</u>	Holy Family	Mass - For Peace
Thursday 2nd January	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Anne Davidson Sick
Friday 3rd January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mr A. May on loss of Mother
		2:30 pm	OLSJ	Hour of Pray for Peace
Saturday 4th January	Saturday of the Christmas Season	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come pray the rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Wilf McManus & Family
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
Sunday 5th January	The Epiphany of the Lord <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mr D. J. O'Brien & Family
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Maureen Birch and Deceased Birch Family Members



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Carrying Jesus within herself, Mary sets out on a journey from Nazareth to the hill country of Judah, anticipating that final journey that Jesus will make from Nazareth to his passion and death in Jerusalem. As soon as Elizabeth hears Mary's greeting the child in her womb leaps for joy, this reflects a biblical theme that the action of children in the womb points towards their future destiny. In this case, John the son of Elizabeth will be the first to recognize Jesus as he begins his public ministry. Elizabeth, then, is filled with the Holy Spirit and cries: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In this she echoes Gabriel's greeting to Mary. Then she invokes a second blessing on Mary: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Elizabeth's praise describes Mary as the model believer. Mary believes in the word of God that has been spoken to her and acts on that word in her journey to see Elizabeth. Mary is the mother of all who believe in God's word and follow that word on all their journeys. Amid the rush and commercialism of this season let us quietly ponder in our hearts the gifts God continually gives us and our loved ones.



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 January 2025 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.



Monthly Assam Collection

This is a reminder that the usual monthly Assam collection will take place after Sunday Mass at Holy Family, on **SUNDAY, 5th January 2025**

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.



OLSJ Children's Liturgy Christmas Eve Nativity

Our nativity starts at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve. There are also videos on our YouTube page with the two songs the children will be singing, if anyone else would like to learn them and sing along. Children's Liturgy will start again on Sunday **12th January** and over the holidays there will still be colouring sheets and activities available in the children's area at the back of church. Please do help yourself to them.



Saturday 21st December

Churches Together Heswall invite you to join us to sing Christmas Carols on **Saturday 21st December at 11am**. Please meet us in front of Heswall Library



Wirral Foodbank December 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**
- **Pasta Sauce**
- **Tinned Custard**
- **Cereal**
- **Treats (chocolate etc)**

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

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

A 3 day pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place from **Monday 12th May returning 15th May 2025**. Full details will be announced in January.



The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness.

Jubilee Year Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both hu-
manity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Christmas Novena by The Pilgrims of Love

The Pilgrims of Love invite you to join in prayer for the Christmas Novena, virtually on their [YouTube channel](#) from December 16th-24th. Several parishioners of both Parish do this every year and some have done the readings in the past. Marino Restrepo has spoken at Holy Family twice.



Wirral Ark

A big thank you to all who purchased the Ark's Christmas cards, this year. Because of your generosity we are able to send The Ark a total of **£208** to help, in a small way, the vital work of helping the homeless carried out by our local charity.



Ridgewood Court Nursing Home are having their Christmas party on **Friday December 20th**. I am taking some Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to sing carols etc. it would be lovely to have some adult support. If you can spare an hour 6-7pm then please come along. Help brighten up Christmas for the residents and have fun too.

Contact Jean 07966295388.



Thank you for all you and the parish do to follow Jesus' example of loving our neighbour. Your donations and prayer are all practical signs of heeding Christ's call to love each other as He loves us.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor."

Luke 4:18

2025 is The Year of Jubilee, 'Pilgrims of Hope', is almost upon us. It will be a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to return to a right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. We are beginning the year with [A general introduction to the Jubilee Year](#) with special guests including **Fr Jan Nowotnik**, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, **Christine Allen**, CAFOD Director, and **Kayode Akintola**, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Also featuring a special song by Catholic Group Ooberfuse and more.

Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday



KEEP YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD STAMPS FOR THE RNIB!

Please donate any stamps to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. 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 1 cm of paper around the edge, with no large gold Post Office labels or pre-printed postage marks - these have no value to the RNIB.

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



Ladymount Pre-school

If you would like your child to learn and thrive in a warm and welcoming setting with highly qualified and experienced staff, please do get in touch for a visit. Telephone number 648 8005 or email preschool@ladymount.wirral.sch.uk

We are part of the school community and can provide a fantastic transition into main school. All types of funding accepted from age 2 and a half. Check out our website: ladymountpreschool.com

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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0151 342 6581

Parish Priest: stephen.coonan@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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

Parish Website: www.rcchp.org.uk

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

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

OLSJ FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-St-John-Heswall/61558135247607/>

Instagram: [@ourladyandstjohn_heswall](https://www.instagram.com/ourladyandstjohn_heswall)