



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 soul of

John Ritchie

who has recently died. May his soul rest in peace.

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 his family at this difficult time and for all those who have lost loved ones recently and whose anniversaries occur this month.



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 6th December 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.

Afternoon Cream Tea & Bingo



Everyone is invited to an Afternoon Cream Tea and Bingo on **Tuesday 3rd December** from **2 - 4pm.**

Come along for Tea, Cake and a lot of fun and bring a friend. There will be a charge of £3 and this includes your Bingo cards.

If you would like to come along, there is a sign up sheet at the back of both churches or email

contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk.

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



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

Sunday 1st December	1st Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Fred & Janine Overton R.I.P.
Monday 2nd December	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 3rd December	St Francis Xavier <i>Day of Special Prayer for all Migrants and Refugees</i>	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Mary Brownrigg Birthday Anniversary
		9:30 am	OLSJ	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 4th December	St John Damascus	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Jim Walker RIP Birthday Remembrance
Thursday 5th December	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Michele Zito R.I.P.
Friday 6th December	St Nicholas	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Holy Souls
		12 noon	OLSJ	John Ritchie Funeral Mass
		2:30 pm	OLSJ	Hour of Prayer for Peace
Saturday 7th December	St Ambrose	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come Pray the Rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Mr & Mrs E. P. Barsby & Family
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Jane & Desmond Moorhead R.I.P.
Sunday 8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Maria Lia Almeida R.I.P.



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

As the new liturgical year begins, the First Sunday of Advent reminds us that our lives are caught up in a cosmic drama and that history will end with the return of Christ and the redemption of humanity. St Luke and St Paul urge that we live not only by looking back to what Christ has done for us, but also by looking forward to the future. Despite the emphasis throughout this Gospel on the joyful benefits of God made known in Jesus, in this apocalyptic section Luke's Jesus is more concerned about negative behaviour: dissipation, drunkenness, and the cares of this life. Jesus here virtually paraphrases the Lord's Prayer in asking for God's protection in the time of trial: "Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." Paul, who when writing his First Letter to the Thessalonians expected Jesus to return in his lifetime, is more positive. He prays that his community, while waiting, may "abound in love for one another and for all, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of the Lord with all his saints."

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
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Custard
- Cereal
- Treats (chocolate etc)

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



Monthly Assam Collection

This is a reminder that the usual monthly Assam collection will take place after Sunday Mass at Holy Family, **THIS SUNDAY, 1st December 2024.**

Confession

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

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



Ridgewood Court Sunday Church

Please come and join a group of Holy Family parishioners at Ridgewood Court in Pensby to provide a Sunday Service for the residents. The service starts at 11.00 am and 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 8th December.** Contact Jean Jenkins on 07966295388 for further information.



Children's Liturgy Lego Church THIS Sunday 1st December

At Lego Church at Our Lady and St John, 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.

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 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)

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

We have been working behind the scenes to create a new parish website and it is nearly ready! Whilst it is in the development stage, it is possible to view it here: <https://olsj13.wixsite.com/rcchp>

It would be great if parishioners could visit the website and we would welcome your feedback. In particular, please let us know if you notice any errors, missing information or if you have any other suggestions. You can email the website team at olsj13@gmail.com

The new website will be on display in the meeting room after 11:15 Mass this Sunday. We hope to officially launch it in the new year, then it will replace the current website.



Advent Carol Service

Sunday 15th December

5pm at Our Lady and St John

No booking necessary. Everyone welcome. There will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the Meeting Room afterwards.

Christmas Mass Times 2024

Tuesday 24th December

5:30pm Children's Liturgy Nativity - Our Lady & St. John

6pm Christmas Vigil Mass - Our Lady & St. John

Midnight Mass - Holy Family

Monday 25th December

9:30am The Nativity of the Lord - Holy Family

11:15am The Nativity of the Lord - Our Lady & St. John

Children's Liturgy Christmas Eve Nativity



This year we are delighted to announce that we will be doing a nativity play on Christmas Eve once again.

It will take place in the half hour before the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve (approximately 5:30-5:45pm). If your child would like to take part in the nativity, please speak to one of the Children's Liturgy team or email childrenolsj@gmail.com on or before 1st December, so that we can assign parts.

Rehearsals will take place during our normal Children's Liturgy and sometimes after Mass. There will also be videos on our YouTube page with two songs to practise.

Please note that for H&S reasons, only children who have come to the rehearsals will be able to take part on the night.



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



Heswall
Disabled Children's
Holiday Fund

Christmas 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



Diocesan Advent Talks

You are invited to a series of talks in Advent to coincide with the launch of the New Lectionary at the Parish Hall, Holy Angels, Hale Barns, Altrincham, WA15 0HG.

*On **7pm on Wednesday 4th December** we are delighted to welcome Fr Paul Denney who is a priest of the Diocese of Motherwell, Scotland. He has a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He has recently served on the editorial board for the new lectionary as the delegate of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. He will speak to us about the new translation of the Lectionary that we will be using at Mass.*

*On **Wednesday 11th December** Fr Marco Egawhary a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, he completed further studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. His talk will be on why it is important to pray with the scriptures and how to pray with them.*

***Wednesday 18th December** Fr David Irwin priest of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and Natalie Orefice, Director of Evangelisation and Catechesis for the Diocese of Shrewsbury will present Dei Verbum on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council.*

*After each talk we will go into the parish church for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Compline. All are welcome to attend.***

For further information please contact Natalie Orefice by email Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or telephone 07730526826.



**DATES FOR YOUR
DIARY**

Saturday 7th December

Christmas Charities Coffee Morning at the United Reformed Church - 10am – Midday

An excellent opportunity to pick up a Christmas present or just treat yourself. Churches Together Heswall will have a stall raising money for the Wirral ARK. We will be selling Wirral ARK Christmas Cards, delicious homemade cakes, aprons and peg bags. Other stalls offer items such as cards for all occasions and a wonderful array of Jams and Preserves. Entrance fee includes a free drink and mince pie.



Wirral Ark

Saturday 7th December

**Christmas Fair at the Lighthouse Church
10am – 3pm**

Why not wander down to the Lighthouse Church? Their youth church is also holding a Christmas Fair on the same day between 10am and 3pm. They are raising money for Rock of Joy Uganda, Wirral ARK and their Youth Fellowship. They will be selling decorations, gifts and will of course have a raffle and refreshments.

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

