



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



## Advent Carol Service

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

Midnight Mass - Holy Family

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

### Christmas Mass Attendance

**Please Help** - We are asking all parishioners over the next couple of weekends, if they could let us know which of the Christmas Masses they are intending to come to. This is to help us ensure we have sufficient stewards to help out during this busy period.

Please can you put your name and the number of people attending with you (approximate) on the sheets in the porch. Thank you.

### Confession Times

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

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

**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.*

<b>Sunday</b> 8th December	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Parishioners
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Maria Lia Almeida R.I.P.
Monday 9th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Imelda Atherton R.I.P.
Tuesday 10th December	<i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	9:00 am	OLSJ	Mass - Josephine Burbridge Anniversary
		9:30 am	OLSJ	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 11th December	St Damascus	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Mr & Mrs M. M. Heneghan & Family
Thursday 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Michael Wright Birthday Anniversary
Friday 13th December	St Lucy	9:00 am	Holy Family	Mass - Anne Curie R.I.P.
Saturday 14th December	St John of the Cross	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come Pray the Rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Irene Murphy R.I.P.
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b> 15th December	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Psalter Week III</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Eileen Davies 6th Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Irene Hart R.I.P.



## Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

*By Father Stephen*

St Luke says, "The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness.". The word of God comes to John as he prepares the way of the Lord Jesus, just as this word came to Mary at the Annunciation. John emerges in the wilderness which evokes Israel's journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom and the place where the covenant was inaugurated. John proclaims a baptism or immersion in the river Jordan which is to symbolize inner repentance leading to forgiveness of sins.

But for Luke John the Baptist's more important task is to prepare the way of the Lord, so that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Having begun today's Gospel passage with a list of rulers who did not bring wholeness or salvation, Luke ends with the expectation of a true Lord who can bring wholeness and salvation.

Today, when the ruling powers seem as unaffected by the gospel as Luke's monarchs the season of expectation can still be a season of prayer that "God will lead us with joy in the light of his glory with the mercy and righteousness that come from him."



### Christmas Fayre - Marksway Scout Hut



3rd Heswall Scout Group is holding a Christmas Fayre this Sunday 8th December at the Scout Hut on Marksway from 12 noon - 3pm . Come along have fun and support your local group.

### 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.

### \*\* E-Mail Scam \*\*

Just wanted to alert everyone about a recent e-mail scam that came through to the Parish e-mail account. The e-mail was from a lady called Iris Peters, wanting to donate a Yamaha piano to a musical parishioner. It was apparently her late husband's piano and she was moving and wanted it to go to a new home. It took me in as being genuine, until they asked to pay for delivery fees and then I got suspicious.

With this in mind, I thought that it would be a good time to give some hints on what to look out for when you receive e-mails from people you don't know:

- The sender's e-mail address not matching the company's official e-mail address. In this case the sender's e-mail address seemed genuine irispeters06@gmail.com
- An impersonal greeting e.g. 'Hello' or 'Dear Subscriber'
- URLs that aren't the company's official website when you hover over links - avoid clicking these links when you inspect them
- Out of date information in the body of the email
- Blurry or unofficial branding
- E-mails which ask for personal information or bank details
- Poor spelling, grammar and presentation
- E-mails which try hard to be official
- E-mails which claim you need to react urgently

You can report scam e-mails by forwarding them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

If you've fallen victim to a scam, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to [Action Fraud](#)

### 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.

### 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.





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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, a raffle and refreshments.



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

Churches Together Heswall invite you to join us to sing Christmas Carols on

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11am**

Please meet us in front of Heswall Library

## 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](mailto: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



## Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all of our generous supporters, we have now sold all our Christmas Raffle tickets and reached our £1000 target. The raffle will be drawn on 15th December and we will contact all the lucky winners. **THANK YOU AND**