

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

There will be a retiring collection for the Clergy Education & Training Fund after all Masses this weekend

What is the Clergy Education & Training Fund?

Those seeking to undertake the work of the Church in the Diocese have many training needs. Candidates accepted for priestly formation spend around 6 years at a Seminary. Whilst the time in Seminary helps the student to determine God's will for him, it is also designed to provide experiences so that the student can play a full role in parish community life following Ordination. Training is also undertaken by those men wishing to become Permanent Deacons in Parishes in the Diocese. As in most occupations, learning and education is a life-long process, and Priests and Deacons have ongoing training needs in their ministries. However, training for Seminarians, Deacons and Clergy involves considerable expense, and the Clergy Education & Training Fund seeks to help meet these costs.

Why does the Clergy Education & Training Fund need your help?

At a time of shortages of Priests, it is a blessing that we have men studying for the Priesthood and Diaconate. This is good news for the people of the Diocese, but the training is expensive – for example, it costs around £30,000 a year (about £80 a day) to train a Seminarian, and £4,000 a year to train a Deacon. The Clergy Education & Training Fund helps meet these costs, the ongoing training needs of Clergy, and in certain instances the cost of training Laity (such as Eucharistic Ministers).

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
- Ann Parsons
- Peter Davies
- Frances O'Boyle
- Mary Reilly
- Margaret Heery
- Steve Burke
- Mark
- Anne Davidson



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

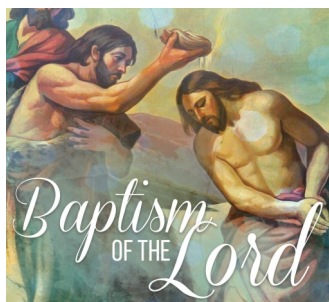
☞ May They Rest in Peace ☜

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Carol Braden
who has recently died. May her soul rest in peace.

Carol Braden's Funeral Mass will be held at
Holy Family on
Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 1:00 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.

Sunday 12th January	The Baptism of the Lord <i>Psalter Week I</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Lilian & George Candlish Anniversary
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - William & Patricia Rowlands R.I.P.
Monday 13th January	St Hilary	9:00 am	OLSJ	Celebration of Word & Communion
Tuesday 14th January	Ferial	9:00 am	OLSJ	Celebration of Word & Communion
		9:30 am	OLSJ	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 15th January	Ferial	9:00 am	Holy Family	Celebration of Word & Communion
Thursday 16th January	Ferial	7:00 pm	OLSJ	Celebration of Word & Communion
Friday 17th January	St Anthony	9:00 am	Holy Family	Celebration of Word & Communion
Saturday 18th January	BVM on Saturday	9:30 am	OLSJ	Come Pray the Rosary
		12 noon	Holy Family	Mass - Intentions of Stella McGann
		6:00 pm	OLSJ	Mass - Michael Wright R.I.P.
Sunday 19th January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Psalter Week II</i>	9:30 am	Holy Family	Mass - Miss D Bessant R.I.P.
		11:15 am	OLSJ	Mass - Parishioners
		4:00 pm	OLSJ	Churches Together in Heswall Unity Service



Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

By Father Stephen

Jesus is baptized only after all the other people have been baptized by John and, while Jesus is at prayer, heaven opens and the Holy Spirit descends on him in bodily shape, like a dove, and a voice comes from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Jesus at prayer foreshadows the importance of prayer throughout the Gospel of Luke. Major events in salvation history occur in the context of prayer, for example the annunciation of John the Baptist's birth to his father, the priest Zechariah, the Transfiguration, the death of Jesus. The major figures of the Gospel are people who proclaim God in prayer: Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna. Only Luke has the parables about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. Jesus' life and ministry arise from prayer inspired by the Holy Spirit, as will the lives and ministries of his followers.

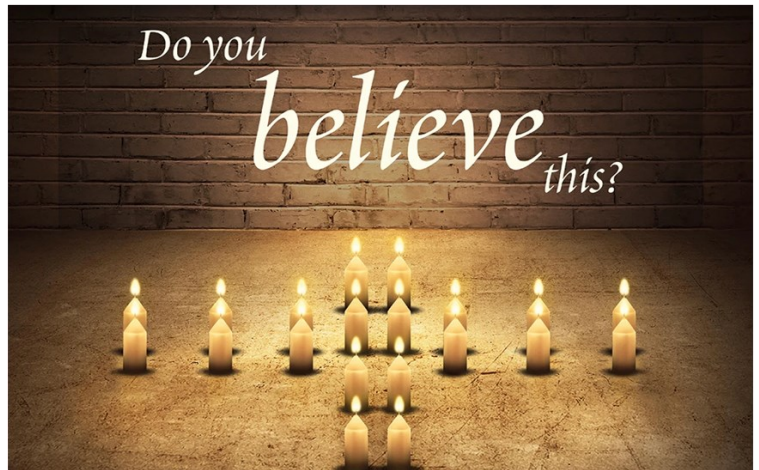
Luke also sees Jesus as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the servant, whom I (the Lord) uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights." This servant will establish true justice in the earth. "He will establish justice by his teaching. Jesus is appointed as "a covenant for the people and a light of the nations."



For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy.

As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service

has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"



Churches Together Heswall invite you to an Ecumenical Service at Our Lady & St John's at 4pm on 19th January 2025

Guest Preacher: Revd Tom Woolford, Lecturer in Church History & Doctrine
"The Nicene Creed: Faith for Today's Church"

Daily Prayer Meetings at Our Lady & St John's

From Monday 20th to Friday 24th January 2025

Between 11am and midday with refreshments afterwards.

Each day will be led by a person from a Heswall Church.

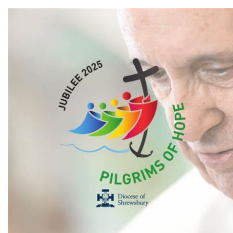
Monday: Church of England

Tuesday: Methodist Church

Wednesday: Quakers

Thursday: United Reformed Church

Friday: Roman Catholic Church


CAFOD

 Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

**A Year of Hope:
An Introduction to the Jubilee Year
with the CAFOD**

- *2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean?*
- *How will the Church be celebrating it?*
- *How can I get involved?*

Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more in this lively start to the Jubilee.

Hear highlights of how we're celebrating as a church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.

Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online.

Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee



**Children's Liturgy at
Our Lady and St John's**

The next LEGO CHURCH will take place this
Sunday 12th January.

**Ridgewood Court
Sunday Church**



Sunday Services at Ridgewood Court in Pensby will recommence on **Sunday 12th January at 11 am**. The next session will take place on Sunday 19th January. The service lasts about half an hour and is much appreciated by the residents, who enjoy singing and playing the tambourine etc and interacting with the group. If you can come along to support us it would be much appreciated. Contact Jean Jenkins on 07966295388



**Wirral Foodbank
January 2025**

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

- **Tinned Fruit**
- **Tinned Vegetables**
- **Pasta Sauce**
- **Tinned Custard**
- **Cereal**

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



Justice & Peace Meeting

The next J & P meeting will be on
Monday 20th January at Holy Family Church at 7.30pm.

All parishioners from either parish are welcome to come and see what we do.

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)