



# NEWS FROM THE PARISHES OF ST AGNES, WEST KIRBY AND ST CATHERINE'S, HOYLAKE

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gospel: Mark 1:1-8)

WEEK COMMENCING 10 <sup>th</sup> December			Church	Intentions
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Billy Agnew (anniversary)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Tom Smith
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	12noon	Mass	St Catherine's	Joseph Lyons
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Joe Kennedy
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes*	Kearney Family
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Agnes	~
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Nancy Jones
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Rose & James McCrave
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners

**ADORATION** is every Wednesday at 7pm at St Catherine's.

**SCRIPTURE GROUP** is every Thursday at 7.30pm in the St Agnes' Parish Rooms.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently and their families especially Paul Jones and Robert Little.

**PLEASE** remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially Ronald Lewis and Eve Snape.

**PLEASE** remember in your prayers all those whose anniversaries occur this month and their families.

**ONLINE MASS** via Zoom is on **Sundays** at **9am**. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84015861524>

**MASS ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** will be at St Agnes\* as Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School Annexe Reception and Our Lady of Pity Annexe Preschool will be performing their nativity play at St Catherine's at 9.30am. Parishioners are very welcome to attend the nativity.

**FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Matthew's description of John recalls the austere dress of the great prophet Elijah. The Jews believed that Elijah would return from heaven to announce the long-awaited restoration of Israel as God's kingdom. For Matthew, this expectation is fulfilled in John the Baptist. John challenges two of the ruling classes of the Jewish establishment. The Pharisees ("separated ones") were a group of particularly observant and influential Jews, respected for the faithful keeping of the Torah in everyday life. Little is known of the Sadducees ("righteous ones"). They seem to have been an elite class of priests associated with the temple in Jerusalem. The Sadducees were especially influential in matters of politics and temple administration. Matthew writes that John strikes a responsive chord in the people who have come to the Jordan River to hear him; but John has strong words for the Pharisees and Sadducees who step up for his baptism but have no intention of embracing the spirit of conversion and renewal to make their own lives ready for the coming of the Messiah. John's confrontation with the Pharisees and Sadducees previews the clash between Jesus and the Jewish leaders that will develop as Matthew's Gospel unfolds. His teachings consist of three warnings: do not imagine that merely undergoing the ritual of baptism will protect you, do not think that merely belonging to the children of Abraham (i.e. Israel) will save you, and do not waste the short time that is left.

St Agnes 0151 625 6367 [st-agnes-west-kirby.org.uk](http://st-agnes-west-kirby.org.uk) | St Catherine's 0151 632 4388 [stcatherineshoylake.org](http://stcatherineshoylake.org)

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**ADVENT EXPLORE:** journey with Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team towards Bethlehem this Advent season as we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ, the reason for Christmas! Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm at Saint Michael & All Angels, Woodchurch. We encourage all our young people who are in Year 7 or above to come, especially if you have just been confirmed, are preparing for it or just thinking about it.

**ST CATHERINE'S CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION:** Thank you! Six big bags of toys and games were collected last Sunday. All the toys will make a real difference to children living in homeless accommodation on the Wirral this Christmas.

**SHOEBOX APPEAL:** A big thank you to all who sent in a shoebox. Your generous donations towards the cost of transport - a record total from our parishes of £135 - and 24 boxes out of a total of 3,584 sent from Wirral. The first lorry left Wrexham on its way in good time for Christmas to deliver happiness to children in Serbia, Mongolia, Romania and Georgia. If you want to be further involved, we work all year round preparing gifts for the boxes. If you are interested in helping, ring Marianne on 625 5158.

**ST AGNES' PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** is available at the back of church for parishioners to sign. Any donations made in lieu of sending Christmas cards will be sent to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

**CHRISTMAS POST:** There will be a "Parish Post" service available which will deliver cards, free of charge, within Hoylake and Meols. Please post your cards in the "PARISH POST" box at the back of St Catherine's from 1st -14th December.

**CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023:** *"Without the support, I simply wouldn't be here."* 100% of your donations will go to those in the most vulnerable situations within the Diocese ensuring they receive crisis food vouchers and practical support as quickly as possible when needed. You can donate via St Catherine's donation station and online via [www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk](http://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk).

**WEST KIRBY MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY** will be performing a Christmas Concert 'Voices at Christmas' at St Agnes on Wednesday 13th December, 7.30pm-8.45pm. Further details are at the back of St Catherine's and St Agnes. Tickets are £10 and include a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie. Tickets are available from John Phipps on 0151 625 4985 / Fran Allen on 0151 625 2492 (between hours of 9am and 6pm) or book online at [www.wkmt.co.uk](http://www.wkmt.co.uk).

**CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING:** outside Morrisons on Saturday 16th December 10:30am-11:30am. The Happiness Band who will be leading the singing. All very welcome to come along!

**ST AGNES' CHURCH LINEN AND CLEANING ROTA:** we urgently require a volunteer to be responsible for the care of the church linen (purificators, altar cloths etc). Could you help once a month cleaning in church? For further details please contact Jo Forsey on 07936 435073.

**"NO HIDING PLACE"**, the play telling the story of Corrie Ten Boom's ordeal in supporting Jews during WW2, at St Michael's, Newton on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December was very well supported with 26 attending from our two parishes. It was very rewarding to have such a good response and to support Churches Together, with an opportunity for us to meet our fellow-Christians. A big thank you to Rev. Cheryl and her parishioners for allowing the use of the church (which gave the story even more poignancy) and hosting the event so generously, especially in the provision of refreshments.

**PARKING AT ST AGNES:** A polite reminder to be considerate when parking on Darmond's Green and the surrounding roads when attending Mass. Please do not park on pavements or on corners.



**WIRRAL FOODBANK ITEMS:** tinned fruit, UHT milk, tinned custard, tinned spaghetti and packet soup. Collection boxes can be found at the back of each church.

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