



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28)

WEEK COMMENCING 17 <sup>th</sup> December			Church	Intentions
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
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Agnes	~
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	12noon	Mass	St Catherine's	Sr Monica Intentions
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Kelly Family
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine's	Fr Russell
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Relatives & friends of Jane C
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Mgr G W Tickle
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	John Hill
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners

### CHRISTMAS MASSES 2023

Christmas Eve: Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	5pm	St Catherine's
Christmas Eve: Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	8pm	St Agnes
Christmas Day: Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9am	St Catherine's
Christmas Day: Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	St Agnes

**ADORATION and SCRIPTURE GROUP** will now be taking a break over Christmas and will resume in the New Year.

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently and their families.

**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 including John Hill and David Smith.

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

**FR DAVID, FR JOHN, SR MONICA and DEACONS JOHN, TONY, BASIL, PETER** wish you peace and joy over this Christmas Season. Thank you for all your cards and gifts.



**SVP ST AGNES** would like to thank everyone for their generosity for the Christmas gift and monetary appeals. A total of £2,029 was raised.

**SISTERS OF THE NEEDY** would like to thank both parishes for their generosity following their appeal in November.

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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**FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:** The Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday," from one of the Latin words for "rejoice" (gaudere). The title comes from the first words in today's reading from Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice at all times." Unfortunately, our translation is much less satisfactory, "Be happy at all times." In the first reading, from Isaiah, a messianic (anointed) figure announces that he has been sent by God to usher in the age of salvation for Jerusalem and all God's people. Jesus used this prophecy to announce the programme of his own ministry (Luke 4:16-21). At the end of the reading Jerusalem is represented as exulting with joy in the good news brought to her. The subject of the gospel is the same as that of last Sunday: the witness of John the Baptist who summons all to faith in Jesus. More firmly even than Mark, John casts the Baptist in the role of witness to the light. The Baptist declares that he is not the Messiah. Nor is he Elijah, who was expected to precede the Messiah. Nor is he the prophet (like Moses) who was to come. He is the voice of the wilderness prophet of Isaiah. His task is to prepare the way for the Messiah, who is already among the people, though they do not recognise him.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Megan Rowlinson and Thomas Fraine on the occasion of their wedding which will take place on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at St Agnes.

**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).

**DIOCESAN JOB VACANCY:** A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Secretary at the parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & St Paul, Birkenhead. **Hours:** 12 per week, to be spread over Tuesday to Friday mornings (flexible). **Hourly rate:** £11 to £13 depending on experience. For further details please see the Diocesan Website <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> **Closing date:** 15 January 2024.

**TALKING TOGETHER WIRRAL:** You don't have to "just get on with it". Feeling low, worried, or stressed isn't just part of getting older. If you've been feeling this way, you don't need to struggle on alone. Free, confidential NHS Talking Therapies are proven to work: they can help you feel more like yourself again. Take action to improve your mood; contact Talking Together Wirral for an appointment: 0151 649 1859 [talkingtogetherwirral.org](http://talkingtogetherwirral.org)



## Contactless donations at St Agnes

A DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE will be available to use at the back of church. If you wish, you can use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone to make a donation. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate on the screen and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid (one off registration) to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received. Thank you for your support. If you do have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.



**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. Thank you for your support.



**Do you have any items for the newsletter? Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically each week?** Please email St Catherine's ([scathhoylake@gmail.com](mailto:scathhoylake@gmail.com)) or St Agnes ([stagneswestkirby@gmail.com](mailto:stagneswestkirby@gmail.com)).

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