



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



Sunday 3rd December 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent (Gospel: Mark 33:33-37)

WEEK COMMENCING 3 rd December			Church	Intentions
Saturday 2 nd December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Josephine Crowley
Sunday 3 rd December	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	David Smith (anniversary)
Sunday 3 rd December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Monday 4 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Tom Smith
Tuesday 5 th December	12noon	Mass	St Catherine's	Wendy O'Brien birthday intention
Wednesday 6 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Special Intention (AF)
Thursday 7 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine's	Brenda Ellison (RIP)
Friday 8 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Annie Sumner
Saturday 9 th December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 10 th December	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Billy Agnew (anniversary)
Sunday 10 th December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners

ADORATION is every Wednesday at 7pm and Thursday at 10am 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 Catherine Bobby, Paul Jones, Joseph Kelly and Robert Little.

PLEASE remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially Pierre Adam, Steve Jones' Family, 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>

ST CATHERINE'S TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS: the next date is this Sunday 3rd December (First Sunday of Advent).

FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Advent is a wreath of evergreen, a symbol of life, of growth, of hope. It's the overture to the Church's year. The theme, the focus, is salvation. Not some abstract, flimsy pie-in-the-sky. The message is startling: God Himself will come to save. Both Isaiah and Mark sum up in a single word what the Church expects of us during Advent: "Prepare!" Prepare for the coming of Christ. Not for his first coming; that has come and gone. Prepare for his return. Mark's exhortation to "stay awake" includes a parable. Like many of the parables of Jesus it has become something of an allegory in the tradition. The "man travelling abroad" is Jesus, shortly to go on a "journey" to the Father through death and resurrection. The servants are the faithful. They are not simply to lie about idly awaiting his return. Each has his or her "task" to do, but it is the one who must watch the door, the gatekeeper, who particularly illustrates the watchfulness required of all. The master does not want to be pinned down to a preannounced time of arrival. In line with master-slave relationships of the time, he has no scruple in expecting his slaves to be awake and ready to receive him when he arrives, and will be greatly displeased to find them asleep. Hence their only proper course is to stay awake through all the watches of the night. When scripture focuses on Christ's final coming, the stress is not on when and how. Interesting issues, of course, but not crucial. The crucial question is, whenever Christ comes, however he comes, will we be ready?

St Agnes 0151 625 6367 st-agnes-west-kirby.org.uk | St Catherine's 0151 632 4388 stcatherineshoylake.org

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ST CATHERINE'S CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION - SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER: Would you be able to donate a new toy to a child living in homeless accommodation on the Wirral this Christmas? There are currently 82 children in this situation. This Sunday there will be a Christmas bag at the back of St Catherine's for any unwrapped new toys. Thank you in advance for helping to make Christmas better for these children.

ST AGNES SVP MONETARY COLLECTION is taking place this weekend. Please place any donations in the baskets at the back of church or post through the presbytery door at St Agnes.

ST CATHERINE'S COATS FOR KIDS FUNDRAISING APPEAL: Thanks to your incredible generosity a total of £1,533 was raised to buy coats for children on the Wirral this winter. A huge thanks to everyone for supporting this appeal.

CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB AT ST CATHERINE'S: Come and join us around our outdoor crib on Friday 8th December at 6pm for carols and festive refreshments!

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

ROSARY: Following the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Friday 8th December, there will be a Service of Word and Communion followed by Rosary at St Agnes on Saturday 9th December at 10am.

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.

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."* There will be a collection on Friday 8th December at St Catherine's Carols around the Crib. You can also donate via St Catherine's donation station and online via www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk. 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.

ST AGNES' MUSIC MINISTRY: "Hello, it's Fran Allen here, Leader of St Agnes' Music Ministry. We would love some new members to join us! Can you sing or play an instrument? Please email me (ragtop1975@btinternet.com) or phone me (07916 465311) for a chat. Alternatively, do have a word with any of the group after Sunday Mass."

READERS AT MASS: there is a list going up at the back of St Catherine's inviting readers who are available on Tuesday and/or Thursday, to sign up to read at these Masses. It starts in early December. Thank you.

CAFOD'S ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR 2023: Sign up to CAFOD'S online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection - an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas www.cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar

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.



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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