



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



Sunday 15th December 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Luke 3:10-18)

WEEK COMMENCING 15 th December			Church	Intentions
Saturday 14 th December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Des Kennedy (RIP)
Sunday 15 th December	9.00am	Mass	St Catherine's	Blackburn Family
Sunday 15 th December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Monday 16 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Joan Minshall
Tuesday 17 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine's	Winnie Marsden (RIP)
Wednesday 18 th December	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Des Kennedy	St Agnes	~
Thursday 19 th December	1.00pm	Requiem Mass for Winnie Marsden	St Catherine's	~
Thursday 19 th December	7.00pm	Service of Reconciliation	St Catherine's	~
Friday 20 th December	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Brigid Kelly (90 th birthday)
Saturday 21 st December	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Mary Constantine
Sunday 22 nd December	9.00am	Mass	St Catherine's	Hazelhurst Family
Sunday 22 nd December	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Joan Minshall (SVP intention)

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently and their families especially James Fagan, Margaret Gillan, Des Kennedy, Winnie Marsden and Joan Minshall.

PLEASE remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially Bob Cuthbertson, Pauline Hall and Ray Hawthorne.

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

PLEASE PAUSE FOR PRAYER for Des Kennedy when his Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 10.30am at St Agnes. The Requiem Mass for Winnie Marsden will take place on Thursday 19th December at 1.00pm at St Catherine's. Please remember their family and friends.

WE WELCOME Lola and Jackson Smith and Theodore Cullen to our Parish Community following their baptisms at St Catherine's last Sunday.



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 word in today's reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always." Joy is an emotion evoked by good fortune, success or well being. According to the Bible, God is the origin and object of true joy. Today's Old Testament readings from Zephaniah 3 and Isaiah 12 (the Psalm) proclaim that the real reason for joy is their experience of God's presence in the midst of God's people. Today's New Testament readings connect joy with the two comings (or advents) of Jesus. In Luke, John the Baptist points toward Jesus' coming on the public stage as the "mightier" (3:16) one who will bring baptism with the Holy Spirit and inaugurate a new phase in the full coming of God's kingdom. In Philippians Paul urges joy at the first coming of Jesus and points forward with joy to his Second Coming ("the Lord is at hand"). To be productive, joy needs direction and follow-through, if it is not to pass as fast as it came. Thus, John the Baptist urges various groups to make concrete their joy at the coming of God's kingdom by sharing their possessions with others and treating people fairly and honestly. Likewise, Paul exhorts the Philippians to thank and pray to God and so find peace and confidence in God as they await the fullness of God's kingdom.

ADORATION at St Catherine's is on Wednesdays at 7pm.

SCRIPTURE GROUP is now paused for the Christmas break and will resume in the new year.

CHRISTMAS POST: There is a "Parish Post" service available which will deliver cards, free of charge, within Hoylake and Meols. This Sunday is the last opportunity to post your cards in the "PARISH POST" box at the back of St Catherine's. Thank you to our volunteers who are delivering the cards.

ST AGNES' PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD is available to sign at the back of church. Any donations will be given to CAFOD'S Ukraine Appeal and to Mary's Meals (a registered charity serving a nutritious daily meal to some of the world's poorest children to attract them into the classroom where they can gain an education and a brighter future).

A SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION will take place at St Catherine's on Thursday 19th December at 7pm.

ST AGNES CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS 10.30am: if your child would like to take part in a Christmas Tableau (play/mime based on the Gospel) during Mass, please contact Felicity Keenan fliiskeenan@icloud.com by Friday 20th December.

CAN YOU HELP? Volunteers required for the **cleaning rota** for St Agnes - one hour every four weeks. Two ladies have recently resigned – one lady has been a volunteer for over 30 years which only proves the great dedication and service given during those many years. We are most grateful to both volunteers for all their time given to keep St Agnes so cared for. Volunteers are also urgently required for **laundering of altar linen** (purificators and small altar cloths – no heavy items). This has been undertaken by two ladies for nearly 40 years – a 90 year old and an 89 year old! One has recently retired and the other lady retiring shortly. Please do think about volunteering. Further details from Jo Forsey 07936 435073.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Wirral String Orchestra and Chorus will be performing Handel's Messiah (excerpts), Boyce Symphony No 4 and Stanley Concerto No 1 in aid of St Hildeburgh's, Hoylake on Saturday 21st December at 7.30pm at St Hildeburgh's. Tickets are £10 (available on the door, the Church office, Maccombs Pet Store in Hoylake and The Tee Rooms in West Kirby). Raffle in aid of The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

WIRRAL AGE UK DIGITAL SKILLS COURSES: places available at the Flourish Wellbeing Hub, Victoria Central Hospital and at Age UK Wirral's Wellbeing Hub, Bromborough. For information please contact John Edgar on 07552 532719 /e-mail johnedgar@ageukwirral.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24 th December	5pm	St Catherine's
Christmas Eve: Tuesday 24 th December	8pm*	St Agnes
Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 th December	9am	St Catherine's
Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 th December	10.30am	St Agnes

*St Agnes' Christmas Vigil Mass will have carols and reflections before 8pm. Please be seated by 7.30pm.



FOODBANK ITEMS: cereal, tinned vegetables, custard, pasta sauce and tinned fruit. Thank you.



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

Parish safeguarding representatives: St Agnes: Maria Burchall 07837590284 maria.burchall@gmail.com
St Catherine's: Simon and Kim O'Connell 07711 163922 simonoconnell@outlook.com

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