



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



Sunday 24th March 2024 – Palm Sunday (Mark 14:1-15: 47)

WEEK COMMENCING 24 th March			Church	Intentions
Saturday 23 rd March	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Doreen Howard
Sunday 24 th March	9.00am	Palm Sunday Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Ursula Pickering
Sunday 24 th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Monday 25 th March	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Philomena Fletcher (RIP)
Tuesday 26 th March	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Ann Willis	St Agnes	~
Tuesday 26 th March	12.00pm	Mass	St Catherine's	Jim Forsey (anniversary)
Tuesday 26 th March	2.30pm	Funeral Service for Gerry Snape	St Catherine's	~
Wednesday 27 th March	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Peter Ruane (RIP)
Holy Thursday 28 th March	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St Agnes	Jim Forsey (anniversary)
Good Friday 29 th March	11.00am	Children's Stations of the Cross	St Catherine's	~
Good Friday 29 th March	3pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	St Catherine's	~
Good Friday 29 th March	3pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	St Agnes	~
Holy Saturday 30 th March	7.45pm	Easter Vigil Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Easter Sunday 31 st March	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Francis O'Connell (anniversary)
Easter Sunday 31 st March	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Les Davies

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently and their families especially Alan Edwards, Kevin Gallagher, Marie Lund, Ann Malloy, Terry McComish, Louise McKinney, Gerry Snape and Ann Willis.

PLEASE remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially Eve Snape, Pam and Anton Wills-Eve.

PLEASE remember in your prayers all those whose anniversaries occur this month and their families including Paula Hudson and Francis O'Connell.

PLEASE PRAY for all those who are preparing to join the Church this Easter especially the following members of our community: Clare Calder, Owen Johnson, Linh Ly, Sue Phelan and Alan Phelan. A very warm welcome to our new members!

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

ADORATION is on Wednesdays at 7pm at St Catherine's and **SCRIPTURE GROUP** is on Thursdays at 7.30pm in St Agnes' parish rooms. There will be a break during Holy Week and Easter, resuming on Thursday 18th April.

ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Our Tuesday morning Stations of the Cross in Lent give us all the opportunity of sharing good company with our friends from St Andrew's in West Kirby. Dates: Tuesday 26th March at St Andrew's. ****Please note the location has changed from St Agnes.**** There is tea and coffee at 10.30am before Stations begins at 11am.

HOLY THURSDAY: We do need volunteers from both parishes to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday night. Please contact either Parish Office if you can volunteer (stagneswestkirby@gmail.com or stcathhoylake@gmail.com). Thank you.

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS is on the Wirral this year - at St Michael's and All Angels, Woodchurch on Wednesday 27th March at 7pm.

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

FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today we enter the most significant week in the Church's calendar. We call it Palm Sunday and we call it Passion Sunday. We dance the liturgy in, cry a joy-packed "Hosanna!" to a triumphant king. Fifteen minutes later we are crushed with sadness, laid low in desolation. The king has been betrayed with a kiss, delivered to a Roman governor, lashed with whips, crowned with thorns, pinned to a cross till he breathed his last and is laid lifeless in a tomb. From triumph to tragedy in a quarter hour? What can such a liturgy mean? The meaning lies in its very name: Palm/Passion Sunday. Passion and palms make up a single mystery. We call it the paschal mystery. And what is that? An inseparable two-in-one: the dying/rising of Jesus. During these 40 days of Lent, the Church has been trying to initiate us gradually, progressively, ever more intensely into the paschal mystery. Not the sheer history: dying on Friday, rising on Sunday. More the mystery: In Jesus' very dying there is rising; life comes through death, not simply after death. Put another way, the tragedy of Calvary is not a promise of triumph at Easter. The cross is itself a triumph. In Christ's death there is life. Lifted up in crucifixion, he draws women and men into his life. That is why the Church puts palms and thorns together. But there is more. The liturgy symbolizes, sacramentalizes what ought to go on in our lives. And so we are called to ceaselessly reproduce the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, not only in the liturgy but in our flesh and bones. In this life we rise to new life only by dying, ceaselessly dying. Dying to what? Fundamentally, to sin and to self. Dying to sin is never ended. For dying to sin is not merely turning from evil; dying to sin is turning to Christ, and turning to Christ is a constant conversion. More difficult perhaps is dying to self. Here you let go of where you've been. This is a very human problem. How do you let go of where you've been, of the past that is so much a part of you? Not forget it; let go of it. Essential to our Christian journey is the journeying of Christ. And to let go of yesterday is to die a little. Like Jesus we must leave Nazareth and the sea of Galilee and turn our face to Jerusalem, our Jerusalem. We will find fresh crosses there; but for our consolation and strength, we have the paradoxical promise of our crucified and risen Lord: It is in losing your life that you find it; it is in dying that you come alive.

PASSION PLAY led by Meols Community Choir at St John's, Meols will take place on Palm Sunday 24th March at 6pm. Entrance is free. Any donations are welcome which will go to kidsconnect: Liverpool.

TAIZE on Easter Sunday at 6pm at St John's Meols. All welcome!

PRO-LIFE QUIZ: A big thank you to all who attended the Pro-Life Quiz, those who made donations and who helped on the night. A total of £350.00 was raised which will go to palliative care in Wirral.

CONFIRMATION REUNION: please come along for an informal get together in TOAST coffee shop West Kirby on Saturday 20th April at 11am. Do bring along a friend who might be interested in meeting other young people and getting involved in Charity work in our parishes of St Agnes and St Catherine's and in the local community. The youth team look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact the Parish Office.

ST AGNES CLEANING ROTA is now available to collect in the sacristy. Thank you.

ST CATHERINE'S 'LITTLE CATERPILLARS' PARENTS AND TOTS PLAYGROUP is every Friday afternoon 1.30pm-3pm. Children age 0-4 and their parents/carers are very welcome. Entrance is through the OLOP Annexe Preschool and School site to the right of church.



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD THIS LENT: chocolate, tinned fruit, tinned potatoes, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding, tinned spaghetti, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and pasta sauce. Collection boxes can be found at the back of each church. 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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