



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent (John 2:13-25)

WEEK COMMENCING 3 <sup>rd</sup> March			Church	Intentions
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Mary Constantine (RIP)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Sheila O'Connor
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	Patricia Collins-Morgan of Eden Florist
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine's	Pauline Tarleton (RIP)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am	Mass	St Agnes	John Brothers (Special Intention)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	1.30pm	Funeral Service for Ann Molloy	St Catherine's	~
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am	Mass	St Catherine's	Matthew Allen
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Agnes	~
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Tom Constantine
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Eithne McCormack (RIP)
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Parishioners

**PLEASE PRAY** for all those who have died recently and their families especially Christopher Brady, Alan Edwards, Nataliia Khrystiuk, Pam McCoy, Ann Malloy and Pauline Tarleton.

**PLEASE remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially** Canon Phil Moor VG, Ronald Lewis, Eve Snape and Pam and Anton Wills-Eve.

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

**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.

**ST CATHERINE'S TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS:** this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Please join us in the lounge.

**FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:** Today's Gospel is one of the few narratives about Jesus that appears in all four Gospels, though in John it is placed at the beginning rather than at the end of Jesus' ministry. Scholars debate its significance. Was it a symbolic prediction of the Temple's destruction, a prophetic attack cleansing the Temple from mercantile misuse, or an abortive attempt at an armed takeover of the Temple? However, as so often in John, the issue quickly becomes not what Jesus did but who is he? "The Jews" (the expression in this Gospel refers primarily to the Jewish leaders) ask what sign can he give for doing this, and Jesus challenges them to destroy the Temple, and he will rebuild it in three days. Following the usual Johannine technique of misunderstanding, the narrator notes that Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body. Only after his resurrection were his disciples able to understand that he was speaking more about himself than the Jerusalem Temple, which had been rebuilt recently as part of a massive project initiated by Herod the Great. Their insight suggests that after the Temple's destruction in AD 70 the worship of the God of Israel will be carried out best with reference to Jesus. As believing readers of the Fourth Gospel, we too experience the presence of the crucified yet risen Jesus as our "Temple."

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday during Lent at 7pm at St. Catherine's.

**ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** At 10.30am, our Tuesday morning Stations of the Cross in Lent give us all the opportunity of sharing good company (and a welcome tea or coffee) with our friends from St Andrew's in West Kirby. Next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March it is their turn to host us in their very beautiful church on Meols Drive. Stations is so much a part of Lent, please join us. The pattern continues: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March at St Andrew's and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March at St Agnes.

**LENT LUNCHES** will take place at St John's, Meols this year. Dates for your diary: 8<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**ST AGNES FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** We will be welcoming back our children to their First Holy Communion sessions this month. We begin with the Parents meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. The children are welcome to attend as well. Please note this is only for children currently enrolled in the programme.

**CEILIDH FOR THE CLIMATE:** We are delighted to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceilidh for the Climate on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at St Agnes Hall, West Kirby. Tickets will be £5 each, available after 10.30am Sunday Masses at St Agnes, and also at the door on the night. Under-18s free. All are very welcome. Doors open at 7pm, music and dancing will start at 7.30pm.

**A SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at St Agnes.

**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](mailto:stagneswestkirby@gmail.com) or [stcathhoylake@gmail.com](mailto:stcathhoylake@gmail.com)).

**LEPRA APPEAL:** Thank you for your generous donations of £338 for Lepra (supporting people affected by leprosy).

**MILK BOTTLE APPEAL:** Thank you for the response last Sunday to everyone who took a bottle for the Milk Bottle Appeal to help the children of the Middle East. Every little helps no matter how small and is so much appreciated. Please return the bottle at Easter. There are milk bottles still available at the back of each church and spare labels for containers.

**FURTHER THREAT TO THE UNBORN OF ABORTION UP TO BIRTH:** Bishop Mark writes: "In the next couple of weeks an attempt is to be made to widely decriminalise abortion up to the birth. This is a further assault on the sanctity of human life in our society. This extreme amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill is being made by Diana Johnson MP and parliamentarians will be under pressure to support the amendment on grounds of compassion for mothers who seek to abort their unborn child beyond the legal limits. The effect would be to withdraw legal protection from the unborn. It is important to make our voice heard in support of the unborn child. The Right to Life website also has details of an alternative amendment by Caroline Ansell MP to reduce the legal limit for abortion from 24 to 22 weeks on the basis of the increased survival rates for babies being born at 22 and 23 weeks." There are postcards at the back of church to post to your MP in support of this amendment.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** for the new tax year will soon be available for collection at the back of church. If you would like a box of envelopes, or are interested in setting up a standing order and/or gift aiding your contributions, please let us know. Thank you for your support.



**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 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 ([stcathhoylake@gmail.com](mailto:stcathhoylake@gmail.com)) or St Agnes ([stagneswestkirby@gmail.com](mailto:stagneswestkirby@gmail.com)).

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

**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)**