



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

Parish Priest: Fr David Roberts



Sunday 8th January 2023 – The Baptism of the Lord (Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17)

WEEK COMMENCING 8 th January 2023			Church	Intentions
Saturday 7 th January	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	Thanksgiving (TM)
Sunday 8 th January	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	Mary & Frank McGuirk
Sunday 8 th January	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Ann Byrne
Monday 9 th January	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Stephen Wright	St Agnes	~
Tuesday 10 th January	12noon	Mass	St Catherine's	Ray O'Neill
Wednesday 11 th January	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Agnes	~
Wednesday 11 th January	2.00pm	Funeral Service for Margaret Kelly	St Catherine's	~
Wednesday 11 th January	7.00pm	Adoration	St Catherine's	~
Thursday 13 th January	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Catherine's	~
Friday 14 th January	9.15am	Service of Word & Communion	St Agnes	~
Saturday 15 th January	5.30pm	Mass	St Agnes	L & N Forsey
Sunday 16 th January	9.00am	Mass (+ online)	St Catherine's	James & Mary Grealis
Sunday 16 th January	10.30am	Mass	St Agnes	Members of the choir

PLEASE PRAY for all those who have died recently and their families especially Pope Emeritus Benedict, William (Billy) Agnew, Sister Jo Bird, Margaret Kelly, Lucy Parker, Lynden Payne, Philip Pye, Susan Wearing and Stephen Wright.

PLEASE remember in your prayers all those who are sick especially John Irwin and Ronald Lewis.



WE WELCOME Eleanor Mirra Unwin to our Parish Community following her baptism at St Catherine's last Sunday.

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

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**FR DAVID'S GOSPEL REFLECTION:** In Matthew's account of the baptism of Jesus the emphasis is on the revelation of Jesus as Son of God, not on the baptism as such. Jesus came to be baptised. Why? To inaugurate his mission (and, in effect, the messianic era); to raise the baptism of John to a new level; to show his solidarity with sinful humankind; to give an example of humility. The vision seals this mission of Jesus with divine approval. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus in this messianic anointing is what is referred to in the second reading. Here only in the Synoptic accounts of the baptism does the Baptist recognise Jesus before the baptism; he tries to prevent Jesus from undergoing this baptism of repentance meant for sinners. Jesus appeals to God's plan of salvation. It befits John and him to 'do all that righteousness demands', to conform to the roles mapped out for them. Matthew's text shows the Christian embarrassment (quite absent from Mark) that Jesus should have undergone a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and at the hands of his inferior, John. The voice of the Father is for all present: Jesus is not being designated Son for the first time; rather his sonship is proclaimed to others: 'this is my Son, the Beloved'. Any actualisation of the text should concentrate on the person of Jesus and his identity as he embarks on his public ministry. The theme of Christian baptism should take second place.  
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PARENTS AND TOTS PLAYGROUP at St Catherine's starts again this Friday 6th January 1.30pm-3pm. It runs every Friday in term time. Children age 0-4 and their parents/carers are very welcome. Entrance is through the OLOP Annexe Preschool and School site.

ST CATHERINE'S TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS: Come and join us this Sunday 8th January in the Parish Lounge.

SCRIPTURE GROUP will resume on Thursday 12th January at 7.30pm at St. Agnes in the upper small room.

PEACE SUNDAY is next Sunday 15 January. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon writes "2022 has been a year of war and rumours of war. Lives lost, people displaced, fear and suspicion overwhelming many communities around the world. These wars are also contributing to the destruction of our environment. Sometimes it feels as though we have moved backwards in our efforts to bring peace and justice to our world. However, the constant, faithful voice of Pope Francis urges us to keep going. Whether he is speaking about Ukraine and Russia, Yemen or the Middle East, his message is always the same: No to war and no to the trade in weapons that fuel war. His All Saints Angelus message offers these questions: 'Brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace?' Pax Christi England and Wales works all year round to 'open up the way of peace'. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023> Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you would like to make a donation, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x> Or send a cheque payable to 'Pax Christi' to: Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY Tel: 0208 203 4884. Thank you for your support.

WIRRAL AGE UK TECHY TEA: would you like some help with your electronic devices (tablet / smart phone / laptop)? The next session will take place on **Tuesday 17th January** 9.45am-11.45am at St Catherine's Presbytery. The session will be via 15 minute appointments. Please look out for the appointment sheet in the porch at St Catherine's or email (stcathhoylake@gmail.com) / call St Catherine's Parish Office to arrange a convenient time.

SVP ST CATHERINE'S: The people of Sudan and South Sudan still bear the scars of civil war with millions of displaced people living in camps. For the third consecutive year, severe flooding has disrupted food production, leaving millions of people at risk. The SVP provides funding towards a Child Feeding Centre, basic rations, medication, support for a healthcare project and a project to rescue, educate and care for boys who would otherwise be living on the streets. If you would like to support the SVP in this special work then please put your donation in an envelope marked SVP SUDAN and place it in the Offertory Collection. Please make cheques payable to SVP SS Catherine & Martina Hoylake.



WIRRAL FOODBANK: Tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, fruit squash, jam, biscuits, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, washing up liquid and nappies (size 6). 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).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

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