

**St Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Monmouth**  
**with**  
**St Mary & St Michael, Llanarth**

(A parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. Registered No: 242380)

Parish Priest: Fr Nicholas James

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009

### The Potter's Clay

As our prayer life matures, we become more and more aware of being the clay in the hands of the potter. The clay can do virtually nothing to transform itself into an object of beauty. But it can be soft, pliable, sensitive to the potter's touch. People often talk about their fear that God's will may break them, that what he asks is too hard for them to bear. And yet the clay is never broken by anything the potter may do to it - unless the clay has become hard and rigid. As long as it is malleable it will never break, but once it begins to resist the potter's touch, to push against his shaping, it will be very much in danger of breaking. This is what happened to Israel, and that is why Yahweh sent Jeremiah to tell her that she needed to be broken in order to be refashioned according to the potter's design. Even her breaking was not to be for her destruction but for her healing.

# Masses for this week 25<sup>th</sup> Jan - 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2009

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan *Margaret Poole* 6pm Mass in Monmouth

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan *People of the Parish* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

*Special Intention* 11am Mass in Llanarth

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jan *Philip Allcock* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Jan *Heather Hoddinott* 9.15am Mass in  
Monmouth

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan *William Crawshay* 10.30am Mass in  
Llanarth

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan *Forgotten Holy Souls* 9.15am Mass in  
Monmouth

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan *John Coleman* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan *Private Intention* 10.30am Mass in Monmouth

Sacrament of reconciliation Saturdays 11 - 11.30am

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan *Special Intention* 6.00pm Mass in Monmouth

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb *People of the Parish* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

11am Mass in Llanarth

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Let us remember and pray for our friends and relations who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries are at this time of the year. We remember and pray for the members of our parish community who are not able to join us at Mass.

# Parish Life

Date	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs Lynne Derricott	Miss Dorothy Evans
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs Hilary Gooch	Mr Michael King
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Mrs Barbara Geddes	Mr Jerry Fox
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Mrs Carmel Lamb	Children of the Parish

<mailto:bethan-aur.lewis@museumwales.ac.uk>

**Social & Fundraising committee** - there will be a meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm. Venue to be advised.

**WANTED: Readers and Eucharistic Ministers:** The current rotas expire after the weekend of 28 February/1 March. So, it is time to invite current and new volunteers to put themselves forward for these important ministries. Any new volunteers for the Eucharistic Ministry will be subject to commissioning by Fr. Nicholas. All volunteers are asked to confirm or amend, and new volunteers to add, their details to the relevant list now placed at the back of church. We are a small parish; please don't expect someone else to do it! We especially need more Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for Saturday Mass!

**CAMEO** - will meet next on Tuesday, 3 February 2009, at 7.30 p.m. in the Priory Rooms. Superintendent David Johnson will speak on new policing arrangements for Monmouth, as usual followed by questions, coffee and biscuits. All are welcome!

**Sharing our Faith** - During Lent, we have been invited to join with our neighbouring communities for reflections and prayer. In Monmouth a study group will meet each Monday in the Priory to study the Beatitudes, and on Friday evening, we will share our Stations of the Cross with parishioners of St Mary's Church in Wales and St Thomas'. In Llanarth, we are invited to join a Monday study group with Bishop Dominic Walker (details on a separate sheet). Our own faith-formation sessions will begin after Easter.

## Collections - Thank you for your generosity

Monmouth	Gift Aid	£179.25	SO	£210	Loose
					£169.36

**Parish Development News** - there will be a second collection next weekend for those who wish to support the Parish Development Project in this fashion. Your support in whatever form is much appreciated

**SVP Message - URGENTLY NEEDED - ONE MINIBUS!** Can anyone help? A family of ten (8 children under 10), living in an isolated rural location within our parish area, are desperately in need of a **minibus**. The one they have is no longer roadworthy, and it would cost as much to repair as to replace it. The family has an earned income but it's low and certainly doesn't run to buying a replacement. We know this is a Tall Order and a Long Shot, but if anyone in the parish has, or knows of someone who has, a roadworthy but unwanted minibus and would be willing to sell it at a token price (thereby avoiding problems of donor liability), or if anyone has an alternative solution to suggest, please tell Father Nicholas, who will pass it on to the SVP. Thank you

## News from the Diocese (Details on the notice Board)

### **Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb St Teilo's Church Project St Fagans**

An illustrated lecture by Prof. Eamon Duffy will be given on at 2pm in Oakdale Workmen 's Institute , St Fagans. Seating is limited, so please book in good time. Contact Bethan Aur Lewis 029 32573400

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb** Theology Public Lecture - How bloody was Mary (Prof E Duffy)  
7pm Swansea University

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** Mass of Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage  
11am at All Hallows, Miskin, Llantrisant

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Feb** Reclaiming the Public Role of Religion  
7pm Swansea University

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Feb** God & Humanity - Open Learning Theology, Dr J Siemens at the

Pastoral Resources Centre, Cardiff. This is a 10 week course

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Mar** CAFOD/Justice & Peace Conference  
at Llantarnam Abbey 10-30am - 4.30pm Details to follow

**Newsletter items** - Please contact Babs by **mid-day Thursday** for any items to be included.