

**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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**4th Sunday of the Year 1st Feb 2009
Day for the Unemployed**

Unfortunately for anyone living in the westerised world with its chaotic life style, that minimum necessary order of rising for prayer before dawn and praying also at night is likely also to be the maximum - at least externally. Even a Muslim, determined and devout, must sometimes loose heart at the dislocation which he experiences when trying to sustain his practice of praying five time a day in the face of industrialized society. I think that for instance, of the occasion when I was asked to intervene and intercede in favour of a Muslim student, new to the West, who had been detained at a petrol station because he had taken out his prayer mat, the hour being appropriate for prayer, and begun to make the required prostrations. Almost immediately the attendants at the petrol station had phoned the police to say that they had on their hands a lunatic who kept prostrating himself. The police had come along and detained the young man. When my intercession was sought I did take a certain pleasure in explaining to the police and the attendants that in the country where their petrol came from the young man's behaviour would be regarded as normal and many of their secular habits would lead to their imprisonment.

Taken from Holiness by Donald Nicholl Page 104

Parish Life

Meetings this week

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

Social & Fundraising committee - there will be a meeting on **Wednesday 4th Feb** at 7.00pm. at Elizabeth Allcocks' home.

Date	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
Sat 31 st Jan	Mrs Barbara Geddes	Mr Jerry Fox
Sun 1 st Feb	Mrs Carmel Lamb	Children of the Parish
Sat 7 th Feb	Mrs Pat Hill	Mr Michael Hoddinott
Sun 8 th Feb	Mrs Helen Quinn	Mr John McEwan

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

WANTED: Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: Volunteers are kindly reminded of the need to confirm, amend or add their details to the relevant list for the 12 months beginning 7/8 March. The lists will remain at the back of church for one further week only, when the new rotas will need to be drawn up. Thank you for supporting your parish in these important ministries.

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).

Growing in our Faith - After Lent we hope to continue our study among ourselves. In Llanarth this will focus alternatively on St Paul and 'Lectio Divina'. Monmouth parishioners who would like to form a group for study and discussion are invited to attend a meeting in the Priory Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th Feb at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

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

Collections - Thank you for your generosity

Monmouth	Gift Aid £183.50	SO £210	Loose £174.54
Llanarth	18 th Jan £177.24	25 th Jan £137.24	

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.

News from the Diocese (Details on the notice Board)

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

Sat 14th Feb Mass of Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage

Archbishop Peter Smith will be saying Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday Feb 14th 11am at All Hallows, Miskin, Llantrisant followed by a shared lunch. Everyone will be welcome, but if you are celebrating a significant anniversary and would like to be specially involved in the liturgy, please give your name to Fr Nic or contact Anne Ballard on 029 20212821

Tues 17th Feb Reclaiming the Public Role of Religion
7pm Swansea University

Thurs 26th Feb God & Humanity - Open Learning Theology, Dr J Siemens at the Pastoral Resources Centre, Cardiff. This is a 10 week course

Sat 14th 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.

Masses for this week 1st Feb 2009 - 8th Feb 2009

Sunday 1st February 4th Sunday of the Year

(Day for the Unemployed)

Saturday 31 st Jan	<i>Special Intention</i>	6pm	Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 1 st Feb	<i>People of the Parish</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
	<i>Cheadle Intention</i>	11am	Mass in Llanarth
Mon 2 nd Feb	<i>Tony Serridge</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
<i>(The Presentation of the Lord)</i>			
Tues 3 rd Feb	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
	<i>(Walsh)</i>		
Wed 4 th Feb	<i>Fr Iltyd</i>	10.30am	Mass in Llanarth
Thurs 5 th Feb	<i>Mary Mercer</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
Fri 6 th Feb	<i>Cookson Intention</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
<i>(St Paul Miki & Companions)</i>			
Saturday 7 th Feb	<i>Chambers Intention</i>	10.30am	Mass in Monmouth

Sacrament of reconciliation Saturdays 11 - 11.30am

Sunday 8th February 5th Sunday of the Year
(Education Sunday)

Saturday 7 th Feb	<i>Jean Sheehan</i>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 8 th Feb	<i>People of the Parish</i>	9.15am	Mass in Monmouth
	<i>Cheadle Intention</i>	11am	Mass in Llanarth

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.