

**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

Tel: 01600 712029

Parish website: www.monmouth-catholic.org

e-mail: stmarymon@tiscali.co.uk

6th Sunday of the Year 15th Feb 2009

Out of a prayerful heart

I find that I need a lot of solitude these days. I'm an extrovert, but there is just too much pain, too much injustice crying out, too much nonsensical reality coming at me. Only silence and solitude are broad enough and deep enough to adsorb the contradictions. Not words, nor explanations in books, not theology, not my own tapes and books, only silence is enough. I feel that if I'm going to be talking and preaching about faith and the scriptures as if I know what I'm talking about, then I have to keep cleaning the lens. I've got to keep getting myself out of the way to make sure I'm preaching God's agenda and not my own. I want to always be preaching out of a prayerful heart. So silence and solitude are job requirements for me.

When I clean the lens, a clarity comes that allows me to live without anger, anxiety, or cynicism. Sometimes cynicism seems the easiest response to the painful mystery. It's clever and makes you sound intelligent, but it's not the spirit of Jesus. His spirit is more patient, trusting ready to find humor and beauty in the middle of things and enjoy them. Right in the middle of all the pain, injustice, and absurdity of the paschal mystery, there's always this: 'Christ is risen.' I can't doubt or deny that power anymore.

Excerpt from 'Near Occasions of Grace' by Richard Rohr

Parish Life

Let us remember and pray the members of our parish community who are not able to join us at Mass and those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year.

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

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.

Social & Fundraising - Heather Hoddinott was remembered with warmth and affection and with gratitude for her work as chairman of this committee. A shrub dedicated to her memory will be planted in the Parish Garden.

Diary Dates:

Andalucia Pilgrimage meeting after 7 pm mass on Ash Wednesday **25th Feb**

Next Social & Fund Raising Committee meeting Wed **4th March**, Flower Room.

Seder Supper Friday **3rd April** - Agincourt Room in Bridges.

St John Kemble Pilgrimage Sunday **23rd August** (see minutes in porch)

Bazaar will be on Saturday **28th November** 2009

Brenda Wills accepted the invitation to take over the S & F chairmanship

Parish Development Project - at the last meeting it was noted:

- We now enjoy full statutory permission to proceed with the project work.
- As a consequence we are seeking competitive quotes from contractors and by year end 2008 after just 7 months, we have collected £46,000 in total, while also paying off £10,250 of our existing £30,000 debt - a great achievement!

In January, the contributions were £216 loose; £360 envelopes; £2652 S.O.

We appreciate your abiding interest in, and contribution to, our parish project.

Collections - Thank you for your generosity

Monmouth	Gift Aid	SO	Loose
W/E 1 st Feb	£144.10	£210	£132.22
W/E 8 th Feb	£ 139.50	£210	£133.39
Llanarth W/E 1 st Feb		£150.08	
W/E 8 th Feb		£145.94	

SVP Messages - We are asking for an unwanted freezer to give to one of our parishioners. If you, or you know of anyone who is replacing their freezer in the near future, please contact Agnes Charnock. Please don't forget the minibus request in previous newsletters. A tall order we know, but please contact Fr Nic who will pass any suggestions to the SVP. Many thanks.

Womens World Day of Prayer - this year is on Friday 6th March at 11.30am at St Mary's Priory Church in Wales. The service is written by women from Papua New Guinea and the theme is 'In Christ there are many members yet one body'. If you would like to represent our church by taking part in the readings, please contact Babs Jones ASAP.

100 Club -The first draw of 2009 is on 1st March. 12 individuals representing 17 numbers have yet to pay. Remember that the church will only receive the full £600 if all the numbers are paid for. We really need you support. Geoff 713728

Situations Vacant - Urgently required. Do you have computer skills and a few hours to spare each week? Would you like to help with the smooth running of St Marys' weekly communication? Our church needs someone to take over as the newsletter compiler as soon as possible. If you are able to help, please contact Babs Jones or Fr Nic.

News from the Diocese (Details on the notice Board)

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

Thurs 26th Feb God & Humanity - Open Learning Theology, Dr J Siemens
Pastoral Resources Centre, Cardiff.

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 14th Feb 2009 - 22nd Feb 2009

Sunday 15th February 6th Sunday of the Year

Saturday 14th Feb *Brian Donovan* 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth

Sunday 15th Feb *People of the Parish* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Kevin Lunny 11am Mass in Llanarth

Mon 16th Feb *Jean Sheehan* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Tues 17th Feb *Madeleine Pulley* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Wed 18th Feb *Holy Souls* 10.30am Mass in Llanarth

Thurs 19th Feb *Special Int. (Walsh)* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Fri 20th Feb *Margaret Murphy* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

Sat 21st Feb *Teresa* 10.30am Mass in Monmouth
& *Benjamin Rees*

Sacrament of reconciliation Saturdays 11 - 11.30am

Sunday 22nd February 7th Sunday of the Year

Saturday 21st Feb *Private Int (Geddes)* 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth

Sunday 22nd Feb *Special Intention* 9.15am Mass in Monmouth

People of the Parish 11am Mass in Llanarth

Date	Eucharist Minister	Reader	Welcomer
Sat 14 th Feb	Mr R Derricott	Mrs B Keyton	Mr & Mrs D Harvey
Sun 15 th Feb	Mrs M Boase	Mrs H Quinn	Mr & Mrs W Tampling
Sat 21 st Feb	Mrs A Dunne	Mrs A May	Mrs S Adams & Edith
Sun 22 nd Feb	Mr A Browne	Mrs C Sherrington	Mr B Cookson