

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

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

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7th Sunday of the Year 22nd Feb 2009

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent, heading our season of repentance and preparation for Easter.

The request for the forgiveness of sins is linked to forgiveness of our brothers and sisters: "Forgive us our sins, as we ourselves forgive those who are indebted to us". Jesus talks of forgiving "seventy times seven" (Mt 18:22) Whom do we forgive? All those from whom we think we have received some injury, some maltreatment: all those who have been a disappointment to us, who have withheld love, attention or a listening ear from us when we felt we needed it. We bear so many small hurts and bitternesses that are in need of the ointment and balm of continual and sincere forgiveness. That will make us feel better, healthier even, and give us a taste of the Father's forgiveness, not only for our sins, but for our shortcomings, for everything we have denied to God that he could have expected from us in faith and love, for all our many sins of omission.

From Return to the Father by Carlo Maria Martini

Parish Life

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 from 2nd March at 7.30pm- 9pm 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 Priory and St Thomas'. This week Stations of the Cross are here in our own church at 7pm

Collections - Thank you for your generosity			
Monmouth W/E 15 th Feb	Loose £198.50	Env. £219.08	SO £210
Llanarth W/E 15 th Feb	£161.15		

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 - If you haven't paid your subs, **PLEASE PAY NOW**. The first draw of 2009 is next week - 1st March, at the Coffee Morning after 9.15am Mass

New rotas: for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: The new full-year rotas, commencing 7/8 March, are now ready for collection from the table at the back of the church. Thank you to all volunteers. Please ensure you know when you are needed and as ever it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute using the information provided if you are otherwise committed.

Eucharistic Ministers: All new and current Eucharistic ministers please ensure that you have in your diaries to attend Mass at 8.00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, 9th April, for commissioning or re-commissioning for the coming year.

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. Please contact Babs Jones or Fr Nic.

CAMEO - the next meeting will be held in the Priory Rooms on Tues 3rd March, at 7.30 p.m. Mr Nigel Hodge will speak on his career as a Forensic Scientist. Raffle in aid of our parish and tea or coffee and biscuits follow. All are welcome.

Social & Fundraising will be giving away free boxes of Smarties this week-end. Yummy!!! Take them home, eat and enjoy. Then, here comes the best bit - keep the

box and fill it with money that you would have spent on treats during lent. Everything collected will go to Parish Funds. Please bring your boxes back before Easter Sunday.

Fairtrade Town - Monmouth Fairtrade fortnight 23rd Feb - 7th March

Please continue to buy Fairtrade bananas, chocolate, tea, coffee and any of the many other products bearing the Fairtrade logo. It's a good way to 'make a real difference to real people'. **Coffee mornings** - at Elizabeth Alcock's on Shrove Tuesday at 11am and at The Priory on Saturday 7 March 10am - 12.30am. See posters on the notice board. Our parish supports Fairtrade and coffee/tea mornings after Mass on each first Sunday in the month only serve fairly traded coffee & tea.

Cafod Family Fast Day - Friday 6th March Please give generously to CAFOD's Lent Fast Day and bring hope to people living in poverty. Phalla is a 58-year-old foster mother who cares for eight children orphaned by AIDS, with support from CAFOD. She asked CAFOD to pass on this message: *I grew up on my own so I know how hard it is to have no family. Orphan children need security and love but many are left in the cold, out on the streets. " Please help children who have nobody else to rely on."*

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

From the Notice Boards

Mon 23rd Feb **CAFOD** Supporters meeting at St Marys Church, Stow Hill, Newport at 7.30pm. An opportunity to learn more about CAFODS work and how you can help.

Wed 4th Mar **Deanery Stations Mass** - Our Lady of the Angels, Cwmbran at 7.30pm Archbishop Peter Smith will preside.

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

Fri 3rd April **Seder Supper** - 7pm at Bridges. £5 per head.

News from Llanarth

Faith sharing group - The introductory session of A Journey with St Paul (plus pancakes) will be held on Tuesday 24th February, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Please note that this will now take place at Church Farm, Llanarth. As you drive up the hill through the village from the direction of the church, pass the telephone box on your right and after 100 yard, turn right into Church Farm.

Lent talks - The weekly Lent talks given by Bishop Dominic Walker at Llanfair Kilgeddin Village Hall will begin on Monday 2nd March, 7:30-8:30 p.m., and will continue on the remaining Mondays in March. Please see noticeboard for details.

Newsletter items - Please contact Babs by **mid-day Thursday**

Masses for this week 21st Feb 2009 - 1st March 2009

Sunday 22nd February 7th Sunday of the Year

Saturday 21 st Feb	<i>Private Int (Geddes)</i>	6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 22 nd Feb	<i>Special Int Haemerli Family People of the Parish</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth 11am Mass in Llanarth
Mon 23 rd Feb	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
<i>St Polycarp</i>		
Tues 24 th Feb	<i>Val Phillips</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
Wed 25 th Feb	<i>Private Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Special Intention</i>	11am Mass in Llanarth
	<i>Eddie Connolly</i>	7pm Mass in Monmouth
Thurs 26 th Feb	<i>Morgan Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
Fri 27 th Feb	<i>Maffia and Williams</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	7pm Monmouth
Sat 28 th Feb	<i>No Morning Mass</i>	

Sacrament of reconciliation on request

Sunday 1st March 1st Sunday in Lent

Saturday 28 th Feb	<i>Ronald Badham</i>	6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 1 st March	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	11am Mass in Llanarth

Date	Eucharist Minister	Reader	Welcomer
Sat 21 st Feb Sun 22 nd Feb	Mrs A Dunne Mr A Browne	Mrs A May Mrs C Sherrington	Mrs S Adams & Edith Mr B Cookson
Sat 28 th Feb Sun 1 st Mar	Mrs B Geddes Mr B Cookson	Dr P-J Shaw Mr Vic Williams	Mrs Pat Munday Children of the Parish

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