

**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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1st Sunday of Lent 1st March 2009

Holy Obedience

Obedience is a matter of love, which makes it voluntary, not compelled by fear of force. Pope John's motto was *Obedience and Peace*. Yet he was the pope who flouted convention which had hardened into laws as to what a pope could or could not do, and the Pharisees were scandalized and the people delighted.

All his life long he had done his work, which sometimes meant silence, solitude and inactivity, as in his years in Bulgaria and Turkey. But now that he was pope and his decisions concerned the whole world, he ceased to obey men. Father Ernesto Balducci, in his book *John: The Transitional Pope* calls him a man of vast and vital ideas and says that his temperament led him "to escape whenever possible from behind the velvet curtains of ecclesiastical offices into the roads and squares where living men and women move".

He had accepted the frustration of his life and his plans because "obedience is not only a moral virtue but a specific principle of faith, and as such, has reasons that reason cannot understand".

From: By Little and by little, Selected Writings by Dorothy Day

Parish Life

Collections - Thank you for your generosity

Monmouth W/E 22 nd Feb	Loose £187.96	Env. £184.00	SO £210
Llanarth W/E 22 nd Feb	Loose £97.28	Env £40	

100 Club - draw is after Mass this Sunday. Have you paid your subs?

New rotas - A number of the new rotas remain at the back of church awaiting collection. Please ensure you have yours before you are needed, thank you.

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.

CAMEO - the next meeting will be held in the Priory Rooms this 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.

Fairtrade Town - Monmouth Fairtrade fortnight 23rd Feb - 7th Mar. 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'.

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. "*

Cake Stall - Palm Sunday weekend 4th/5th April. In the past, parishioners have been very generous with baking and donating homebakes. Please help again this year by making home made cakes, biscuits, pies, jams etc. Produce will be on sale in church after 6pm Mass on Saturday 4th April and in the St John Kemble Room after 9.15am Mass on Sunday 5th April during the Monthly Coffee morning. It's a great way to buy a delicious treat, at the same time raising funds for the Parish. More details to come.

Message from the SVP - A minibus has been found for the family who need it so badly. *Deo gratias!* Thank you, everyone who helped by offering suggestions; it was much appreciated. Also, a kind person has donated a freezer - again, many thanks.

Parish Statistics - to keep our records up to date, if you are new to the parish please don't forget to complete a pink 'new parishioners' form' and hand it to Fr Nic. Thanks

Parish Development Project -There will be a second collection this weekend for those who wish to support the Parish Development Project this way. Your help is always appreciated.

Our faith - Lent & Easter

Before Lent, parishioners in both Monmouth and Llanarth helped to plan a programme which will begin after Easter. In Llanarth, sessions will alternate between 'Lectio Divina' led by Michael Woodward and 'A Journey with St Paul' led by Fr Nicholas. In Monmouth, Roger Ruston will help us to look at the account of creation contained in the book of Genesis.

During Lent, we are invited to join local study groups. In Monmouth a study group will meet each **Monday from 2nd March at 7.30pm- 9pm** in the Priory to study the Beatitudes,

In Llanarth, 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.

Each Friday in Monmouth, Stations of the Cross will alternate between our own St Mary's and the Anglican churches of St Mary's and St Thomas'.

Stations this Friday at 7pm in St Mary's Priory.

Also

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

Thur 19th Mar 7.30pm Service of the Word
(Followed by a short meeting for readers).

Thur 26th Mar Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from morning Mass until 7.30pm Benediction (followed by a short meeting for special ministers of the Eucharist).

From the Notice Boards

Friday 6th Mar Womens World Day of Prayer - this year is at 11.30am at St Mary's Priory Church in Wales.

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

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

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

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

Sunday 1st March 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday 28 th Feb	<i>Ronald Badham</i>	6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 1 st Mar	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
	<i>People of the Parish</i>	11am Mass in Llanarth
Mon 2 nd Mar	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
<i>St David</i>	<i>(Walsh)</i>	
Tues 3 rd Mar	<i>Kathleen Chambers</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
Wed 4 th Mar	<i>Val Phillips</i>	10.30am Mass in Llanarth
Thurs 5 th Mar	<i>Special Intention</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
Fri 6 th Mar	<i>John Coleman</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	7pm St Mary's Priory
Sat 7 th Mar	<i>Stuart Int</i>	10.30am Mass in Monmouth

Sacrament of reconciliation 11am - 11.30am

Sunday 8th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

Saturday 7 th Mar	<i>Doug Miles</i>	6.00pm Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 8 th Mar	<i>People of the Parish</i>	9.15am Mass in Monmouth
	<i>Private Intention</i>	11am Mass in Llanarth

Date	Eucharist Minister	Reader	Welcomer
Sat 28 th Feb	Mrs B Geddes	Dr P-J Shaw	Mrs Pat Munday
Sun 1 st Mar	Mr B Cookson	Parish Children	Children of the Parish
Sat 7 th Mar	Mrs Pat Hill	Mrs E Allcock	Mr & Mrs Keyton
Sun 8 th Mar	Mrs Frances David	Mr David Barry	Mrs Mary Boase

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.