

Saint Mary's Catholic Church,

Monmouth

with

Saint Mary & Saint Michael, Llanarth

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

Parish Priest: Fr Nicholas James

website: www.monmouth-catholic.org

e-mail: stmarymon@tiscali.co.uk

Fourth Sunday of Lent : 22nd March 2009

To say that every man must discover the truth for himself is not to deny that faith is a gift from God or that we need to be taught by God through his revealing Word and through the Church which communicates the Word to us; it is to say that we cannot arrive at true knowledge simply by parrot-memorising of tags of doctrine, by a shallow and facile familiarity with the necessary but necessarily inadequate formulas which express for us something of the inexpressible Reality : we do not know God in these, we are led to him through them, just as faith is not belief in a creed but belief, through a creed, in the reality about which the creed speaks to us. Every man born into the world has to look for a teacher who will show him how to use that 'light of understanding' which is his by nature; he needs to be taught the truth, but he will never possess it, still less be possessed by it, until, like one returning home and recognising the familiar landmarks and features which are part of himself, he discovers in his heart the conviction that what he has been told is true.

Gerald Vann

<i>Collections for w/e 13th/14th March : Thank you for your generosity</i>				
<i>Church</i>	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Loose</i>	<i>Cafod</i>	<i>Dev. Fund</i>
Monmouth	£173.46	£218.96	£5.00	£5.00
Llanarth	-	£191.80	£10.00	-

The Parish Development Team reports that competitive quotes have now been received from four builders for our project work and sent to the Archdiocese for their evaluation. Happily the entire cost has fallen to about £250,000 from the originally estimated £300,000.

The Parish Website has been significantly upgraded to reflect greater activity in the Parish. This has been accomplished by Babs Jones with the invaluable technical expertise of David and Anne May. In the future Anne May is our prime contact for any additions or changes. The website address remains the same, i.e. www.monmouth-catholic.org

The 'Seder' Meal connects us with those Jewish traditions of Passover which Jesus himself shared and which he gives to us in his new, unique way. To gather for such a meal is to remember - and for the Jewish people that means to make present God's saving action. It means to express complete trust in God's purpose. And it means to give thanks. (Our word 'Eucharist' means literally 'Thanks-giving'). The Seder meal which we share annually does two things: it honours the story of our first 'fathers in faith' and it helps to nourish the roots of our own Eucharistic belief.

The Seder Supper is at Bridges Friday 3rd April at 7.00p.m. Don't forget to put your name on the sign-up sheet on the notice board. (Maximum of only 30 places).

Prayer Vigil Maundy Thursday 9th April at 1.30p.m. a Prayer Vigil outside the main gate of BAE Systems Weapons Factory at Monkwood on the A472 between Usk and Pontypool. (If travelling from Usk, it is on the left just as you enter Monkwood - before the Beaufort Arms). The service is intended to witness to and to promote the resolution of conflicts by peaceful, non-violent means. Please bring flowers to place at the perimeter fence in memory of people killed by weapons of war. Arranged by Penarth Christian Network of Campaign Against Arms Trade.

Cake Stall - Palm Sunday weekend 4th/5th April. We would like as many cakes as possible for the stall, enough for both masses. Names have already begun to appear on the form at the back of church. If you are able to help, please add your name so that we have an indication of numbers. We would be delighted if the youngsters of the parish could demonstrate their culinary skills by making something for the stall (with parent's consent of course). NB. If your cake contains nuts, please put a label on your cake to let us know.

Our Faith : Lent & Easter

During Lent, we are invited to join local study groups. In Monmouth a study group will meet each Monday at 7.30pm - 9.00pm in the Priory to study the Beatitudes.

In Llanarth, the weekly Lent talks give by Bishop Dominic Walker at Llanfair Kilgeddin Village Hall will continue on the remaining Monday in March. 7.30-8.30pm.

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 here at St Mary's.

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

Friday 27th March Stations of the Cross at 7.00p.m. here at St Mary's.

Thursday 9th April 8.00pm Mass Maundy Thursday - commissioning or re-commissioning Eucharistic Ministers for the coming year.

The Easter Experience: the Passion Play for primary school children, enacted by the different Churches in Monmouth, starting at the Methodist Church (the Last Supper), then to the Baptist Church (the Transfiguration), then St Mary's RC (Peter betrays Jesus) then on to the Priory (Crucifixion and Resurrection). Dress rehearsal on Sunday 22nd March at 5.00pm at which adults are very welcome (1 hour in total). The Play will then be performed to 6 local schools, 3 on Monday 23rd and 3 on Tuesday 24th. Father Nick commented last Easter that for him it was one of the highlights of the Easter preparation.

Urgent Plea: Beatrice Brookes will be the maid talking to St Peter (the Rev. Brian Pearce) in the High Priest's palace garden (outside our Church). But we need people to support her to be the 'crowd' at the 'Palace'. Parishioners who have some time on Monday and/or Tuesday and could help are urgently requested to contact Father Nick or Anne May. No acting ability required, just a willingness to help!

The Good Friday Walk of Witness, 10th April: starting in St Mary's Priory Church at 1.30pm proceeding down Monnow Street to a short service on Monnow Bridge. All CTIM churches are involved - RC, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Wyesham Christian Fellowship.

Masses for week 21st March - 28th March 2009

Saturday 21 st March	6.00pm	Hannah Pilling	Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 22 nd March	9.15am	Special Intention	Mass in Monmouth
	11.00am	People of the Parish	Mass in Llanarth
Monday 23 rd March	9.15am	Sasha Moore	Mass in Monmouth
Tuesday 24 th March	9.15am	Ellen & Daniel Murphy	Mass in Monmouth
Wednesday 25 th March	10.30am	Leonard Johnson	Mass in Llanarth
The Annunciation of the Lord			
Thursday 26 th March	9.15am	Sherrington Family Int.	Mass in Monmouth
Friday 27 th March	No Mass		
Saturday 28 th March	10.30am	Teresa & Benjamin Rees	Mass in Monmouth

Sacrament of Reconciliation on request

Sunday 29th March : Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday 28 th March	6.00pm	Maurice Allcock	Vigil Mass in Monmouth
Sunday 29 th March	9.15am	People of the Parish	Mass in Monmouth
29 th March	11.00am	Special Intention	Mass in Llanarth

Date	Eucharist Minister	Reader	Welcomer
Sat. 21 st Mar	Mrs B. Geddes	Mrs Kath Fallon	Mr & Mrs Derricott
Sun. 22 nd Mar	Mrs Hilary Gooch	Mrs B. Brooke	Mrs Babs Jones
Sat. 28 th Mar		Mr M. Hoddinott	Don & Ann Harvey
Sun. 29 th Mar	Mrs Helen Quinn	Mrs Frances Cloud	Mr & Mrs M. Thompson

Let us remember and pray for 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.