

St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth
and
St Mary & St Michael, Llanarth

(Parishes of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. Registered No: 242380)

Parish Priest: Fr Nicholas James
Telephone Number: (01600)712029

website: www.monmouth-catholic.org
e-mail: stmarymon@tiscali.co.uk

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

21st June 2009

Prayer is to be in God's presence with open hands and an open heart. There are many things in my life to which I cling as with a clinched fist - my possessions for sure but the immaterial things as well - the work I do, the position I hold, the friends I have, my ideas, my principles, my image. If I should open my fist, they still remain. Nothing drops out. But my hands are open. And that is what prayer is. After a while, if I am willing to remain long enough with open hands, the Lord will come. He will have a look and roam through my hands to see what I have. He may be surprised - so many things! Then he will look at me and ask:

"Would you mind if I take out this little bit?"

And I answer:

"Of course you may take it out. That's why I am here with open hands."

And perhaps the Lord will look another time at me and ask:

"Would you mind if I put something else in your hands?"

And I answer:

"Of course you may."

That is the heart of prayer. The Lord may take something out, and he may put something in. No one else can do this, but he may. He is the Lord. I have only to open my heart and my hands and just stay there long enough for the Lord to come.

Peter G. van Breemen, S.J.

Collections for week ending 14/6/09

Church	Gift Aid	Loose
Monmouth	£152.00	£205.00
Llanarth	-	£166.00

Second Collections

Please note that there will be second collection this week for the Development Project Fund and next week, 28th June, for **Peter's Pence**.

The Skenfrith Coffee morning.

This went very well and the weather was perfect. £330 will be sent by Fr Nicholas to the Ethiopian parish he visited and £400 goes to help Fistula victims in Addis Ababa Hospital. Very many thanks

Ceilidh

To be held on 17th July, with Mr Wheelock & Band, at Bridges Community Centre at 7.30pm. This will be our biggest fund raiser of the year. Adults £10, Youths 12/18 years £5 and children under 12 free. This includes a Ploughman's Supper. Ideally we need to sell 100 tickets so please ask your family and friends to come along. Tickets will be available after all Masses next week and the following four weeks.

Debt Counsellor

Dave Cooper, an experienced debt counsellor, will visit Monmouth to run a 3-hour course on how to be a Christian budget counsellor for anyone in Monmouth who is interested. It will be run at Monmouth Baptist Church on Saturday 27th June from 10.00am until 1.00pm. There is no cost, but there will be a donations basket. It's for anyone who wants help with debt, or wants to help others with debt. People who want to go **MUST** contact Alex Cole (07787 112629 or alex16cole@hotmail.co.uk) beforehand. This course is being run with a view to setting up a low-level Christian budget counselling service within Monmouth.

Grave threat to vulnerable people - please write to House of Lords

Amendments have been tabled in Parliament to sanction suicide for terminally ill people. The effect of this will be to down-grade the status of people near the end of life, and moves like this are the thin end of the wedge leading to euthanasia for disabled and elderly people. Please write to one or more members of the House of Lords - as many as you can - by 30th June. At **The House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW** asking them to oppose any move to give approval to assisting suicide or euthanasia. Further information can be obtained from SPUC, 3, Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London SE11 4AB, email: information@spuc.org.uk Tel: 020 7091 7091, web: www.spuc.org.uk/

Parish Development Fund

The project is progressing to plan. The principal events are:

- The demolition phase is now complete,
- The archaeologist is carrying out her watching brief, and
- Re-plastering has commenced in the church prior to re-decoration.
- The replacement lighting/wiring has been completed.

As mentioned previously there will be a monthly collection for the development fund this weekend. Thank you again for your great generosity and support.

Message from the SVP

The annual Parish Community Mass and Tea organised by the SVP will be held in the Agincourt Hall, Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth, on Tuesday 7th July 2009, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m. This event is organised primarily for parishioners who have difficulty getting to church ~ something we all have a problem with at the moment, come to think of it! ~ but all parishioners, with their families and friends, are very welcome! Fr. Nicholas will celebrate Mass at 2.30, and this will be followed by tea. If you'd like to help by making something for tea (cakes, scones, sandwiches), please contact Helen Quinn,. For help with transport, please contact Agnes Charnock, For any other queries, please contact P-J Shaw,

Can anyone remember..... the 'cloister' in the church garden, the fireplace in the Flower Room', how the church was heated before the radiators were installed.? Does anyone have any old photos of the interior of the church, the Flower Room, the garden or the St John Kemble Room? Perhaps you know someone who may remember previous changes that were made to the church - particularly in the 1960's. If so please contact Felicity on 01600775656 or email flysstaylor@yahoo.co.uk.

LLANARTH NEWS

Music Practice - There will be a short music practice after Mass today for anyone who is available to stay.

Faith-Sharing Group(s) - This week's meeting is 'A Journey with St Paul' at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Church Farm. All welcome.

Mass to confer the ministries of lector and acolyte - Saturday 4th July, 12 noon - We look forward to this special event and to welcoming our visitors from Cardiff and Newport. Afterwards we will be serving a light lunch in the Mansion House. Please sign up if you intend to come. If you are able to help with providing food/drink, please sign the list at the back of the church. If you have any queries, contact Judith.

Church Restoration Appeal - In aid of our current appeal, framed photographs of our beautiful Llanarth church are available in all different sizes. Also blank greeting/note cards. Please consult the notice board for details or contact Michael Woodward 07. Also please take some appeal leaflets from the back of the church and pass on to friends who might be interested in supporting.

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Welcomer
Sat.20 th June Sun.21 st June	Mr Peter Field Mr Roger Ruston	Mrs Kath Fallon Mrs M. Kelly	Ann & Don Harvey Mike & Patsy Thompson
Sat.27 th June Sun.28 th June	Mrs Pat Hill Mrs Mary Boase	Mr Jerry Fox Mr Michael King	S.Adams & E. Badham Vic & Mary Williams

Mass Times for Week 20th to 28th June 2009

Sat. 20 th June	6.00pm	Mass - Special Intention	Monmouth Boys School
Sun. 21 st June	9.15am	Mass - Special Intention	Monmouth Boys School
	11.00am	Mass - Special Intention	Llanarth
Mon 22 nd June	No Mass Ss John Fisher & Thomas More		
Tue 23 rd June	9:30am	Mass - Holy Souls	Bridges Centre (Wye Room)
Wed 24 th June	10:30am	Mass -Sr. Angela Mary Verney Nativity of St. John the Baptist	Llanarth
Thu 25 th June	7.30pm	Mass - Special Intention	18 Maddox Close, Osbaston
Fri 26 th June	10.30am	Mass - Patrick Walsh	Llanarth
Sat 27 th June	No Morning Mass		
The Feast of Ss Peter & Paul			
Sat 27 th June	6.00pm	Mass - Roy Munday RIP & Thomas Dunn RIP	Monmouth Boys School
Sun 28 th June	9.15am	Mass - People of the Parish	Monmouth Boys School
	11.00am	Mass - Special Intention	Llanarth

HAVE A LOOK AT OUR REVAMPED WEBSITE!

www.monmouth-catholic.org

The new site has sections on:

- Our Church - its location, history
- Up-to-date information on Mass times and parish activities
- Latest newsletter - normally available on the Friday with information on the following week's Masses, rotas etc
- The Development Project
- Social & Fundraising
- Photographs of parish events
- Parish Who's Who
- Parish Groups

Keep in touch with what's going on in St Mary's RC Church, Monmouth! Any comments on the contents or suggestions for improvement, please, to Anne May.