

Mass Times & Intentions				
17 th Dec 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday		Vigil Mass 6.00pm	Frances Hodges	Monmouth
		9.15am	People of the Parish	Monmouth
		11.00am	Barbara & Arthur Clarke	Ross-on-Wye
Monday	18 th	9.15am	Machin intention	Monmouth
Tuesday	19 th	7.00pm	Private intention	Ross-on-Wye
Wednesday	20 th	9.15am	Walsh intention	Monmouth
Thursday	21 st	10.00am	David Norman Rogers	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	22 nd	9.15am	Maureen Murray (welfare)	Monmouth
Saturday morning Mass at Usk Prison				
Sacrament of Reconciliation				
** Tuesday 19th December after Mass in ROSS - 7.30-8.30 pm ** ** Wednesday 18th December in MONMOUTH - 7-8.00 pm **				
24 th Dec 2017 4 th Sunday of Advent		Vigil Mass 6.00pm	People of the Parish	Monmouth
		9.15am	Terry Tregaskis	Monmouth
		11.00am	Charles Lumb	Ross-on-Wye
Sunday evening Mass is celebrated regularly at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Hereford at 6.30pm. 101 Belmont Road, Hereford HR2 7JR				
Editors: Janet & Stephen Baker - stfrances.editor@gmail.com Please send items for the Ross newsletter by 12 noon Thursday or items for the Monmouth newsletter: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday				
If you wish to book the Parish Room for an event please contact Ann McKnight upperkern@gmail.com				

Newsletter 51/2017

St Frances of Rome

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3rd Sunday of Advent, 17th December 2017

Gaudete Sunday

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present and His final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord — Christian joy — as well as the mission of St. John the Baptist and his connection with Advent.

Theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing -- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death -- can take that love away." Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of Joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't done to prepare for Christmas, people should think of all the good things life has given them."

Rejoice in the Lord always.



HYMNS

94

113

99

105

SICK PARISHIONERS: Please remember in your prayers: *Rita Katrak, Ivan Merritt, Claire Niven, Paul Bennett, Bridgit Frankland, Eileen & Roger Crosby, Joyce Wight, Margaret Collinson, Neil Hillyer, Kathy O'Connor, Mary McCrory, Fausta Scarand, Janet and Andrew Baily, Margarete Denton, John McKnight, Mike Fennesey.*

We remember those whose anniversaries occur about this time: *Margaret Niven, Frances Hodges, George Clarke.*

Gaudete Sunday: today, 17th December, coffee and mince pies will be served in the parish room after Mass. Everyone is invited, and the second **100 Club draw** will take place.

LIVESIMPLY UPDATE: Thanks to your support, our two parishes have been able to twin six toilets (£60 each) which is helping

people in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy.
<https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

FAITH SHARING GROUP: at 12.00 on Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

ADVENT 2017

WALK WITH ME: Our watchwords for Advent are: Watching, Waiting, Hearing, Hoping, Seeing and Believing. They are repeated time and again in our prayers and hymns for this season, as well as in the beautiful prophecies of the Old Testament. These words reach their climax in the response of Mary who pondered and treasured these things, storing them up in her heart.

The Christian life teaches that no time is wasted when we serve God; our service of God is the sanctification of time.

The **Walk with Me** meditations offer us the time and space to do these things. Why not sit quietly with *Walk with Me* for a few minutes each day? Why not give a copy to a friend, relative or work colleague?

The booklets are available at the back of the church £1



Poinsettias for Christmas: as in previous years we are invited to donate a poinsettia, perhaps in memory of a loved one, to help make the church beautiful at Christmas. Please place your donation in the parish room anytime this week, or bring it to Mass next Sunday.

Ross Food Bank: seasonal items are very welcome at this time. Please place tinned and dry goods in the box at the back of the church.

Milk Bottle tops: Happy Christmas and thank you to everyone for their kindness in supporting **'Guide Dogs for the Blind'** over the last year. The box for plastic milk bottle tops can be found in the parish centre hallway.

Rotas	Readers	Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Tea & Coffee
3rd of Advent 17th Dec 2017	John & Brenda	Mike, Christine, Claire	Katherine U
4th of Advent 24th Dec 2017	Joan Mason	Jon, Lindsay, Maureen	Pat & Kath

Readers and Coffee rota: new rotas for Jan-June 2018 are available at the back of the church.

ASSISI & ROME PILGRIMAGE likely to be September 2018, at a cost of about £865 (£190 single supplement) - If you are interested in finding out more (no commitment at this stage) please let Fr Nick know or send an email to Honor Houghton – honor.houghton@hotmail.co.uk

Mass times for The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Carols	Ross-on-Wye
	7.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>	
	11.30pm	Carols	Monmouth
Midnight Mass	<i>Brian Cookson</i>		
Christmas Day	9.15am	<i>Margaret & Tim Regan</i>	Monmouth
	11.00am	<i>Nonie & Frederick Colbert</i>	Ross-on-Wye