

Mass Times with Intentions

Sat	16 th Dec	6.00 pm VIGIL MASS	Frances Hodges	Monmouth
Sunday 17 th December		9.15 am	People of the Parish	Monmouth
		11.00 am	Barbara & Arthur Clarke	Ross-on-Wye
Mon	18 th Dec	9.15 am	Machin intention	Monmouth
Tues	19 th Dec	7.00 pm	Private intention	Ross-on-Wye
Wed	20 th Dec	9.15 am	Walsh intention	Monmouth
Thur	21 st Dec	10.00 am	David Norman Rogers	Ross-on-Wye
Fri	22 nd Dec	9.15 am	Maureen Murray (welfare)	Monmouth

Saturday Morning – Mass at Usk Prison

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat	23 rd Dec	6.00 pm VIGIL MASS	People of the Parish	Monmouth
Sunday 24 th December		9.15 am	Terry Tregaskis	Monmouth
		11.00 am	Charles Lumb	Ross-on-Wye

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monmouth: Saturday evenings at 5.15 pm to 5.45 pm

Ross-on-Wye: Tuesday evenings at 6.15 pm to 6.45 pm

** Tuesday 19 December after Mass in ROSS from 7.30-8.30 pm **

** Wednesday 18 December in MONMOUTH from 7-8.00 pm **

Contributions to the newsletter to: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday please

St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth and

St. Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye

(Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff - Registered No: 242380)

Parish Priest: Fr. Nicholas James

email: monrossrc@gmail.com

Phone: (01600) 712029

<http://monmouthandrosscatholicchurches.uk>

Gaudete Sunday

17 December 2017

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 you."

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Intr. 1. 

G Audete * in Domino semper : iterum dico,

Monmouth Collections

Gift Aid	Loose Plate	Sick & Retired Clergy
£130.00	£201.43	£103.00

Please remember in your prayers:

Joan Humphreys, James Boyle, Simon McGrath, Billy Mann, Sheila MacEwan, Jill Lloyd, Harry Bradbear, Esther Gallagher, Bernadette Price, Liam O'Keefe, Bill Rowan, Margaret Kelly, Mary Iles, Tessa Kemp, Arthur & Angela Barge, Duncan Wills and all members of our parish who are sick.

Please remember also all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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. The twinned toilets are in the Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Nepal (2) and Pakistan. <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

THANK YOU: The Social and Fundraising Committee wishes to thank all those involved in the success of two fundraising/social events which have taken place in the past few weeks. The Autumn Fayre held at Bridges raised a total of £1532.92 and the Wine Tasting, which was a great evening and enjoyed by all those attending, raised another £100 for Parish funds.

SVP: Meeting next Wednesday, 20 December after the 9.15 Mass.

USED STAMPS FOR THE LEPROSY MISSION: Please save your used stamps to bring in for this charity; it's an important part of their fundraising efforts.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Would any families with children in Year 4 (or aged 8 by April 2018) wishing to make their First Holy Communion next year please contact Fr Nick. We are hoping to start classes in February 2018 and would like to know numbers and get contact details.

WINTER PICK ME UP CONCERT: On 13th January 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in the Glover Music School, Monmouth, there will be a Concert by Eleanor Perks (piano) & Francis Newman (violin) **TO HELP WITH THE COST OF MAINTAINING OUR PARISH ORGAN.** Tickets: £15 or £10 if you're 25 or under, are obtainable from P-J Shaw

(01600) 713000 or stephen.shaw26@btinternet.com WINE and NIBBLES are included in the ticket price.

LIVESIMPLY: Reaching out: **Saturday 20 January:** there will be a meeting with our Muslim brothers and sisters in the afternoon (3-5 pm). This will include a tour of the church, an opportunity for dialogue and a shared meal. All most welcome.

Mass times for The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ



<i>Christmas Eve</i>	7.00 pm	<i>People of the Parish</i> Carols from 6.30 pm	<i>Ross-on-Wye</i>
	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>Brian Cookson</i> Carols from 11.30 pm	<i>Monmouth</i>

<i>Christmas Day</i>	9.15 am	<i>Margaret & Tim Regan</i>	<i>Monmouth</i>
	11.00 am	<i>Nomie & Frederick Colbert</i>	<i>Ross-on-Wye</i>

Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers this week:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Welcomer</i>
<i>16th Dec</i> <i>17th Dec</i>	<i>Chris Cherry</i> <i>Helen Quinn</i>	<i>Max Peters</i> <i>Margaret Johns</i>	<i>Don & Ann Harvey</i> <i>Babs Jones</i>
<i>23rd Dec</i> <i>24th Dec</i>	<i>Anne Dunne</i> <i>Lynne Derricott</i>	<i>Patricia Milling</i> <i>Cath Sherrington</i>	<i>Shelagh Adams</i> <i>Juliet Sweeting</i>
<i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Elizabeth Cherry</i> <i>Martin Flach</i>	<i>P-J Shaw</i> <i>Richard Tonkin</i>	<i>Mrs Pat Munday</i> <i>Fay McGrath</i>