

Mass Times & Intentions				
The Epiphany of the Lord 7th January 2018		Vigil Mass 6.00pm	<i>Roy Munday</i>	Monmouth
		9.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>	Monmouth
		11.00am	<i>Brendan O'Driscoll</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Monday	8th	9.15am	The Baptism of the Lord <i>Patrick John Walsh</i>	Monmouth
Tuesday	9th	7.00pm	<i>Fred Dorsett</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Wednesday	10th	9.15am	<i>Frederick Colbert</i>	Monmouth
Thursday	11th	10.00am	<i>Smith Intention</i> <i>(with school)</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	12th	9.15am	<i>Tregaskis family (deceased)</i>	Monmouth
Saturday morning Mass at Usk Prison				
Sacrament of Reconciliation Monmouth: Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm Ross-on-Wye: Tuesday 6.15pm to 6.45pm				
2nd Sunday of Ordinary time 14th January 2018		Vigil Mass 6.00pm	<i>Peggy & John Dunne</i>	Monmouth
		9.15am	<i>Meryl Linnane</i>	Monmouth
		11.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>	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 <i>Please send items for the Ross newsletter by 12 noon Thursday</i> <i>or items for the Monmouth newsletter: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday</i>				
If you wish to book the Parish Room for an event please contact Ann McKnight upperkern@gmail.com				

01/2018

St Frances of Rome

Sussex Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5AL

01989 564514 (answer machine)

& St. Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth

Archdiocese of Cardiff Registered Charity 242380

Parish Priest: Fr. Nicholas James **e-mail:** monrossrc@gmail.com

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The Epiphany of the Lord 7th January 2018

The Matthean infancy story is not only gospel (the good news of salvation) it is the essential gospel story in miniature, so when we look back at the history of Christianity, perhaps we can understand better why this infancy narrative has been one of the most popular sections of the whole Jesus story, one of the best known and of worldwide appeal.

This was due not only to the appreciation of a good story that was satisfying to emotion and sentiment, it also reflected a Christian instinct recognising therein the essence of the good news – that is, that God made himself present to us (Emmanuel) in the life of one who walked on this earth, indeed so truly present that this one, Jesus, was his Son.

This revelation was an offence and contradiction to some, but salvation to those who had eyes to see. Of the latter the Magi are truly the forerunners, the anticipation of all those who would come to worship the risen Jesus proclaimed by the apostles. The Book of Numbers presented Balaam as one from the East who could say, "I see him, but not now," since the star would not rise from Jacob until David's time.

So also the Matthean Magi, in seeing the star of the King of the Jews at its rising, see (but not now) the one whose kingship would not be visible historically until he had hung on the cross beneath the title *The King of the Jews* and would not be communicable until he had been elevated to God's right hand through the resurrection.

Raymond E. Brown

HYMNS	
152	
146	
170	
153	

Collections 31 st December 2017	
Envelopes	£81.04
Loose plate	£151.01
Other	£33.07
Total	£265.12

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, Eithne Holcom.*

We remember those whose anniversaries occur about this time: *John Abbott; Jan Zawadzki;*

Albert Hancox; Patrick Connor; James Farrell; Freda Mcguire; Aileen Ray; Martin Keefe; Brendan O'Driscoll; Anthony Haskew.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP: meets **today** at 4.45pm Sunday, 7th January 2018. We pray especially for the parish, the sick and the lonely, the housebound, deceased members of our community and their families, followed by the Rosary in the church. All are welcome to join us.

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/>

LIVESIMPLY/PRAYING SIMPLY: First meeting of the New Year this coming Thursday 11th January 2018. The meeting will be at 7.00pm followed by workshop at 7.30pm. All welcome.

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING: the next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th January 2018 after the 10am Mass to discuss fundraising for the year. Last year was a low key year regarding fundraising, but we need to make a BIG effort in 2018. This is an open meeting for all parishioners who are free at this time – please come and add your ideas.

Events planned for this year so far: *Saturday 17th March, St Patrick's Night Celebration; Wednesday 30th May – Parish Outing to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales.*



100 CLUB DRAW: The next (3rd) Draw will take place on Sunday 21st January 2018.

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

Rotas	Readers	Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Tea & Coffee
The Epiphany 7th Jan 2018	Josie O'D	Mike, Christine, Claire	Bernadette
2nd Sunday 14th Jan 2018	Robin & Ann	Jon, Lindsay & Honor	Lynne

Ross Community Larder: many thanks for everyone's contributions last year – they really do make a difference to people's lives. January can be a very lean month for many, so please keep up the good work by adding a further grocery or household item to the food bank box at the back of the church. Thank you.

Christmas Cards

Each year a number of cards left at the back of the church don't get picked up and it's difficult to know who they are for when only a Christian name is on the front and no sender's name on the back.

Please would check if your cards are still there? If so, please consider adding the recipient's full name on the front and the sender's full name on the back so they can be returned if necessary.

Thank you.