

St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth

& St. Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye

Parish Priest: Fr. Nicholas James
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Mass Times & Intentions				
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 7 th January 2018		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00 pm	Roy Munday	Monmouth
		9.15 am	People of the Parish	Monmouth
		11.00 am	Brendan O'Driscoll	Ross-on-Wye
Monday	8 th	January	Patrick John Walsh The Baptism of the Lord	Monmouth
Tuesday	9 th	7.00 pm	Fred Dorsett	Ross-on-Wye
Wednesday	10 th	9.15 am	Frederick Colbert	Monmouth
Thursday	11 th	10.00 am	Smith intention (with school)	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	12 th	9.15 am	Tregaskis family (deceased)	Monmouth
Saturday morning Mass at Usk Prison				
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				
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 14 th January 2018		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00 pm	Peggy & John Dunne	Monmouth
		9.15 am	Meryl Linnane	Monmouth
		11.00 am	People of the Parish	Ross-on-Wye
Contributions to the newsletter to: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday please				

The Epiphany of the Lord

7 January 2018

The Matthean infancy story is not only gospel (the good news of salvation) – it is the essential gospel story in miniature. And so, when we look back at the history of Christianity, perhaps we can understand better now 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 offense 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

Monmouth Collections

Gift Aid	Loose Plate	Comboni Mission Appeal
£169.00	£ 295.95	£173.66

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.



SVP: The members of the parish S.V.P. Society would like to thank all those who stripped the twig of its labels & generously provided gifts & donations. These have all been gratefully received. This comes with our best wishes for the coming year.

LEPROSY MISSION: Please bring in your used stamps and put them in the box at the back of church near the shelves for hymn books.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Last call for any families with children in Year 4 (or aged 8 by April 2018) wishing to make their First Holy Communion this year. Please speak with Fr Nick. We are hoping to start classes in February.

LIVESIMPLY: First meeting of the New Year is on Thursday 11 January in Monmouth. Meeting at 7.00 pm followed by a Praying Simply workshop at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

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.

MUSLIM ENCOUNTER - Saturday 20 January: there will be a meeting with our Muslim brothers and sisters in the afternoon between 3 and 5 pm. This will include a tour of the church, an opportunity for dialogue and a shared meal. Everyone most welcome to attend. Please sign the list at the back of church to indicate your interest (for catering purposes).

100 Club 2018 - Annual subscriptions are now due. We once again hope that all current members will renew their subscription(s). If anyone does not wish to do so, would they please let us know by the end of February as this will give us a chance to resell the number(s) by the time of the first draw to be held in March. Would those members, not paying by bank standing order please pay the £12 per number as soon as possible by cash, cheque made payable to 'St Mary's 100 Club' or by bank transfer to A/C 00417396 Sort code 309571 (Ref is your name). Please put payments in an envelope with your name, mark it 100 Club and hand to Fr. Nick or Geoff Quinn. We will no doubt have some spare numbers that we will need to sell by mid-March to be included in the first draw, so if anyone would like to join or take an extra number we would love to hear from you. The cost is £12 p.a. for each number. There are 4 draws per year and, assuming all 100 numbers are sold, each draw pays 1 prize of £100, 2 of £25 and £150 to general Church funds. Many thanks in advance. Any questions or queries please contact Geoff Quinn on 01600 713728.

CHARITY RACE-NIGHT & ST PATRICK'S NIGHT CELEBRATION organised by Monmouth and Wydean Catenians on Saturday 17 March - at 7.30 pm at Whitchurch Village Hall. Proceeds to St Mary's parish and MS Society. Tickets £7 to include supper, available from next week.

Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Welcomer
6 th Jan 7 th Jan	Anne May Martin Flach	Bob Tomkins Children's Mass	Mrs Cawthorne Diane du Bois
13 th Jan 14 th Jan	Ali Szwagrzak Helen Quinn	Jerome Vaughan Liz Alford	Mr & Mrs Keyton Theresa Kelly