

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>	Monmouth
23rd February 2020		9.15 am	<i>Jean Coley Welfare</i>	Monmouth
Cycle A Page 139		11.00am	<i>Squires thanksgiving</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Monday	24th	9.15 am	<i>Lilian Lee</i>	Monmouth
Tuesday	25th	7.00pm	<i>Private Intention</i>	Ross-on-Wye
*** ASH WEDNESDAY ***				
ASH Wednesday	26th	10.00am	<i>Special Intention</i>	Ross-on-Wye Monmouth
		7.30pm	<i>Teresa & Benjamin Rees</i>	
		6.30pm	<i>Rosary</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Thursday	27th	10.00am	<i>Nell & Bill Rigby</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	28th	9.15am	<i>Sprackling family</i>	Monmouth
Saturday Mass at Usk Prison				
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Ross-on-Wye: Tuesday from 6.15-6.45 pm and Monmouth: Saturday from 5.15-5.45 pm				
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00 pm	<i>Special intention</i>	Monmouth
1st March 2020		9.15 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>	Monmouth
		11.00 am	<i>John McKnight</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Contributions to the newsletter by 12 noon Thursday please to: Tish at St Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye , stfrances.editor@gmail.com and Therese at St Mary's stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com				
PARISH ROOM HIRE: If you wish to book the Parish Room for an event please contact Ann McKnight: upperkern@gmail.com				
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES: Jon & Lindsay Wise Tel: 01989 764224				
8/2020 Parish of the Archdiocese of Cardiff – Registered Charity 242380				

St Frances of Rome

& St. Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth
Sussex Avenue, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5AL
01989 564514 (answer machine)

Parish Priest: Fr. Nicholas James e-mail: monmouth@rcadc.org
Tel: 01600 712029 <http://monmouthandrosscatholicchurches.uk>

7th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 23rd February 2020

The Father that Jesus knew looks amazingly like what most cultures would call "Mother." In Luke 15, the story of the prodigal son, Jesus makes his most complete presentation of the character of this Father, whom he called God. The father is in every way the total opposite of the male patriarch and even rejects his older son's appeal to a world of worthiness and merit. He not only allows the younger son to make choices against him but even empowers him to do so by giving him the money! After his bad mistakes, the father still refuses his right to restore order or impose a penance, even though the prodigal son offers to serve as a hired servant. Both his leaving and his returning are treated as necessary but painful acts of adult freedom. In every way he can, the father makes mutuality and vulnerability possible. As Sr. Sandra Schneiders says this new kind of father "refuses to own us, demand our submission, or punish our rebellion. Father God is one who respects our freedom, mourns our alienation, waits patiently for our return, and accepts our love as pure gift... God tries to educate the older brother, and through him all disciples who prefer the security of law to the adventure of grace." In an absolutely reeling conclusion, she states that the "power God refuses to assume over us is surely not given by God to any human being." Not even to the church, which must always live in the image of the heavenly Father. All this "women stuff" is not only important, it is the other half of conversion, the other half of salvation, the other half of wholeness that completes God's work of art. I believe this mystery is imaged in the Woman of the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation: "pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of child-birth... and finally escaping into the desert until her time."

Richard Rohr OFM

Please join us for Tea & Coffee after Mass
in the parish room. Newcomers & visitors are most welcome. Szívesen látunkgyere és csatlakozz hozzánk.
Sunteți bineveniți să fiți alături de noi. Witamy wszyscy.



HYMNS

706

924

772

770

Last Week's Offertory

Envelopes	£ 111.00
Loose plate	£ 89.28
Other	£ 30.61
Total	£ 230.89

Sick Parishioners: Please remember in your prayers: *Ivan Merritt, Claire Niven, Paul Bennett, Bridgit Frankland, Roger Crosby, Janet and Andrew Baily, Eithne Holcom, Pat Fennessy, Ruth Smith, Honor Houghton and Kathy O'Connor, Dennis and Elaine O'Connor.*

Anniversaries: *Catherine Finn, Thomas Penney, Mary Cheshire, Ruby Griffin, Ronald Short, Agnes Brooke, Keith Davies, Mary Meek, Daniel Toman and Mary Elliot.*

ASH WEDNESDAY – A day of obligation and penance, marked by fasting and abstinence from meat. There is Mass at 10.00am in Ross-on-Wye.

100 CLUB - 3RD DRAW after Mass today, 23 February 2020 in the Parish Room. The 2nd draw took place on the 26th January, 80 numbers now sold and entered into the draw. Results were: £100 - Pat Burbidge (No: 70), £25 - John Munnelly (No: 34) and £25 Sabastian Warwick (No: 90).

CHURCH CLEANING - There is no church cleaning on Thursday 27th. It will now be on 5th March.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION preparation at St Joseph's primary school at 3.30pm on Wednesdays. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on the 17th May at 11.00am. Please email admin@stjosephs.hereford.sch.uk if you would like your child to attend.

THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT' - on Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm. There will be a showing of the film 'The Sultan and the Saint' in the Parish Room. The film lasts just over an hour, with time for discussion over light refreshments afterwards. There is no entry charge entry, there will be a collection to cover costs.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY is offered during Mass every Sunday in term time. All children welcome. Witamy wszystkie dzieci. Mindenkit szeretettel várunk. Toți sunteți

HEREFORDSHIRE CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY - The next meeting of the HCHS will be on **Thursday 5th March** at 2.30pm in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey. Liz Pitman will give a talk entitled "Anne Denton: a Tudor tomb, a death and a commonplace book". Visitors welcome. Further information from bmwarde@aol.com

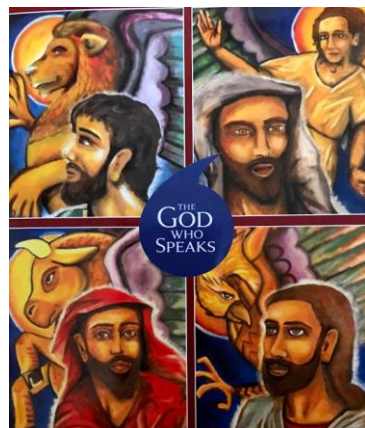
CHARITY RACE-NIGHT & ST PATRICKS NIGHT CELEBRATION – with all proceeds to "Aid to the Church in Need" is being organised by Monmouth Wydean Catenians on **SATURDAY 14th March**, with a 7.30pm start. Doors open at 7pm. The Venue is Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall, in Whitchurch Village. Numbers are limited and tickets are £10 per person, which includes Supper.

DATE	READERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	TEA & COFFEE
7 th Sunday of Ordinary Time 23 rd February 2020	Pat Burbidge	Erica, Jon & Lindsay	Erica P
1 st Sunday of Lent 1 st March 2020	Marion Contreras	Bernadette, Claire, Lynne	Bernadette

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - (WDP) will be held at Ross Baptist Church on **Friday 6th March** at 11.00am as part of Churches Together in Ross. The Service this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe. Everyone is very welcome to attend and refreshments will be available afterwards. Please make a note in your diary to join us.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – Monday 24 February – Sunday 8 March. The Fairtrade Foundation continues its mission to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly to earn a living income, starting with cocoa farmers in West Africa. One of the simplest ways to support them is by buying Fairtrade chocolate.



LENTEN LUNCHES will be held from 12.00 - 1.00pm on Fridays. This is a simple bread and soup lunch, with cake and a raffle with all donations going to CAFOD. If you can offer help, or for more information contact Bernadette. bernadette.meek@hotmail.co.uk Feb 28th, March 13th, March 20th, March 27th and April 3rd.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY – We pray That the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.