

# St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth

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

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Mass Times & Intentions				
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020	<b>Saturday</b> 6.00 pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>	<b>Monmouth</b>	
	9.15 am	<i>Jean Coley (welfare)</i>	<b>Monmouth</b>	
	11.00 am	<i>Squires thanksgiving</i>	Ross-on-Wye	
<b>Monday</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	<i>Lilian Lee</i>	<b>Monmouth</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	<i>Private intention</i>	Ross-on-Wye
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am * 7.30 p.m *	<i>Special intention</i> <i>Teresa &amp; Benjamin Rees</i>	<b>Ross-on-Wye</b> <b>Monmouth</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	<i>Nell &amp; Bill Rigby</i>	Ross-on-Wye
<b>Friday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	<i>Sprackling family</i>	<b>Monmouth</b>
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	<b>Saturday</b> 6.00 pm	<i>Special intention</i>	<b>Monmouth</b>	
	9.15 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>  <b>St David</b>	<b>Monmouth</b>	
	11.00 am	<i>John McKnight</i>	Ross-on-Wye	

Contributions to the newsletter by 12 noon Thursday please to: [stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com)

Confessions on Tuesday evening in Ross 6.15-6.45 pm and Saturday evening in Monmouth 5.15-5.45 pm.

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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 labor, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth . . . and finally escaping into the desert until her time.

**Richard Rohr**

*Monmouth Collections*

<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Loose plate</b>
£88.00	£191.25

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Joan Humphreys, James Boyle, Simon McGrath, Billy Mann, Sheila MacEwan, Jill Lloyd, Bernadette Price, Liam O’Keefe, Margaret Kelly, Mary Iles, Arthur & Angela Barge, Duncan Wills, Nigel Poole, Olivia Sherrington, Honor Houghton, Pauline Collier, George Schandlinger, Helena Machin and all members of our parish who are sick and those who care for them.

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

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.

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** – Monday 24 February – Sunday 8 March.

**A JOURNEY WITH ST PAUL:** continues on **Tuesday 25 February** at 10 am in the parish room at St Mary’s.

**THIS WEDNESDAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF LENT**



**ASH WEDNESDAY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

A day of penance marked by fasting and abstinence from meat.  
 Masses are: 10 am in Ross-on-Wye  
 7.30 pm in Monmouth

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – **Friday 28 February** here at St Mary’s RC church at 6 pm.

**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day** – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

The **DEANERY STATION MASS** in on **Wednesday 11 March** at 7 pm at Our Lady & St Michael’s Parish in Abergavenny.

**THE TWO MARYS’ COMMUNITY LUNCH** is held in St Mary’s Priory on the second Thursday of the month. Next date is 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**CHARITY RACE-NIGHT & ST PATRICKS NIGHT CELEBRATION:** on **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> March** at Whitchurch & Ganarew Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 per person, which includes supper, are available after Mass. For details contact Dave Andrews: 01600 712194 or Glyn Jones: 01600 775607.

**THE EASTER EXPERIENCE:** Public Performance at 5pm on **Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>** and (6 performances for local primary school children on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am, 10.45 am and 1.30 pm, starting at the Methodist Church Hall). Everyone welcome. Contact Mary Boase for more details on: 01600 715076.

**EARTH HOUR** is on Saturday 28 March.

The Cycle of Prayer: During Lent, we are invited to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments (especially on the Sundays of Lent); Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Penitents and Wanderers.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Welcomer</b>
22 February 23 February	Barbara Demi Liz Alford	Jerry Fox Diana Turnbull	Mrs Kath Beavis Theresa Kelly
29 February 1 March	Val Field Chris Cherry *	Mike Hargaden Children’s Mass	Mrs Cawthorne Martina Davies