

St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth

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

Parish Priest: Canon Nicholas James

email: monmouth@rcadc.org

Tel: (01600) 712029

<http://monmouthandrosscatholicchurches.uk>

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 20 November 2022

Mass Times & Intentions

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE 20 th November		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00 pm	<i>Peggy & John Dunne</i>	Monmouth
		9.15 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>	Monmouth
		11.00 am	<i>Holy Souls</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Monday	21 st	10.00 am	<i>Phyllis Webber</i>	Monmouth
Tuesday	22 nd		NO MASS	Ross-on-Wye
Wednesday	23 rd		NO MASS	Monmouth
Thursday	24 th	10.00 am	<i>George Ridge</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	25 th	10.00 am	<i>Gwendoline & Frank Parry</i>	Monmouth
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 27 th November		Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00 pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>	Monmouth
		Sunday 9.15 am	<i>Boase intention</i>	Monmouth
		11.00 am	<i>Elaine O'Connor</i>	Ross-on-Wye
Sacrament of Reconciliation				
From 5.15-5.45 on Saturday (before the Vigil Mass) in Monmouth From 10.30-11.00 am on Tuesday (after Mass) in Ross-on-Wye				
Contributions to the newsletter to: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday please stfrances.editor@gmail.com (Ross)				

"Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom"

The Christian faith is based on a solid conviction of the life of the world to come. Paul says, 'If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied' (Cor 15:19). Christ came to forgive and sanctify us. He came to teach us about the true nature of God. And he came to assure us of life after death. If you remove this third element, the other two are beside the point. What good to me is a God who forgives, if I become nothing at death? What good will my knowledge of the reality of God be, if I have only this life in which to meditate upon it? By this word we are enabled to receive that promise into our hearts, and let it strengthen us for the great struggle of our Christian life. We have the whole of eternity to aspire to, to long for. With that knowledge, we are not separated from those we love. We are not bereft but following after those we 'have loved long since and lost a while', in Newman's great phrase. And we are not bereft even of those we have never known in the flesh. Have you never felt close to the great heroes and saints as you have read their words and meditated upon their lives? We are not separated from them. I have often felt them beside me.

Nothing can ultimately separate us from the love of God, and those who are separated from us by death. So this word asks us to do two things: it asks us to look at Jesus, maybe for the first time. Look away from all else. Look only unto him. And then it asks us to look through Jesus into eternity, to the great homeland that awaits us, the land of the Trinity, deep heaven, a place prepared for us by our blessed Lord.

Richard Holloway

MONMOUTH COLLECTIONS: for 29/30 Oct; 5/6 Nov & 12/13 Nov amounted to:
Loose: £726.73 Gift Aid: **£275.00** Total: **£1001.73**
Standing orders for the month of October was **£1645.00**.

PLEASE PRAY for all those in our parish who are not well and would like to be remembered, especially: Bernadette Price, Elizabeth Allcock, Monica Mullan and Olivia Sherrington.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST: As usual, the dead list will be placed on the altar during the month of November.



SUPPORT THE SICK & RETIRED CLERGY FUND: Second collection this weekend. The diocese needs to raise £200K this year to honour its commitment to providing for our retired priests. They have devoted their lives in service to the Church and we ask that you make a small contribution to their needs in return. Envelopes, including Gift Aid declarations, are available at the back of the church. Or scan the QR code using a smartphone or donate online: <https://rcadc.org/donations/>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP – There will be a brief meeting for parents of children hoping to make their First Holy Communion at St Frances of Rome church on Sunday 11th December after 11.00am Mass.

RED BOXES: It is now time to empty the boxes again. Please bring your box and leave it at the back of the church. It will be returned with a receipt the following week. As always, it is important to ensure that your box is emptied even if the amounts of small change are lower than previously. Income taxpayers are reminded that they can gift aid the donations and HMRC will add 25p to each pound you donate. For a declaration form or if you would like to become a Red Box holder contact Martin Flach: 01989 763495 or martin.flach@btinternet.com

UKRAINE BLANKET APPEAL: The Mayor of Kyiv is appealing for blankets to help protect against the cold caused by Russian attacks on power supplies. If anyone has spare blankets, we would be happy to collect them and deliver them to the local organisation that runs humanitarian aid journeys into Ukraine. Please contact Nigel & Meryl Stewart: 0198956617 or n-mstewart@outlook.com

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE: The Social and Fundraising Committee will be selling raffle tickets at the back of church starting this weekend. Tickets are £1 each. Donations are still welcome and can be given to any member of the committee: Peter and Val Field, Frances Cloud, Lynne Derricott, Dave Andrews, Celeny Wicks, Veronica Scott or Father Nick. The raffle will take place on **18th December**.

HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS AT HOME AND ABROAD” On Tuesday, 29th November, at 4.30pm at The Blake Theatre, The Rt. Rev & Rt Hon Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth will speak on this subject. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS WINE TASTING. On Friday 2nd December at 7 pm. Tom Innes from Fingal Rock will host a wine tasting in the parish room. Tickets £15 to include wine, cheese & biscuits. Please sign the list at the back of the church so that we know numbers (which are limited by the room size).

MONMOUTH & DISTRICT FOODBANK: Please give generously especially at this time of financial hardship. Please leave items in the box at the back of church.



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: Saturday 10th December at 4.30 pm here at St Mary’s. If you would like to be involved, please contact Cath Coolican Smith on 07714 146810

WORLD GIFTS are a range of virtual charity gifts that help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Gifts from under £10. <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>



SYNOD: Please find the link to the Working Document for the Continental Phase: [Documento-Tappa-Continentale-EN.pdf \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org/documento-tappa-continentale-en.pdf). Archbishop Mark has asked that we all consider the following three questions:

“After having read and prayed with the DCS, which **intuitions** resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?”

“After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent’s perspective? Consequently, what are the **questions or issues** that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?”

“Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the **priorities, recurring themes and calls to action** that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?”