

## Diary

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Tree Festival at Trinity Methodist Church – the festival is open from 2-8 p.m. on Thursday, 2-5 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children. Rerefreshments are available. For more details, see the poster at the back of church.

**9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015:** A Pilgrimage to Medjugorje led by Sister Philomena Dunning. The cost of the pilgrimage is £439 on a half-board basis and sharing a room. For more details, refer to the poster in the church porch.

### Flowers for Christmas

As always, those who decorate our church with flowers will be pulling out all the stops for Christmas. To help them put on a worthy display, contributions towards the cost of flowers would be most welcome. Please put your donations in the slot marked "flowers" at the back of church. Thank you.

### Parish Christmas Fair - Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

Prize	Ticket Number	Name/telephone
knitted crib	2047	D. Henigan
bucks' fizz	1817	Hayley Connor

Unclaimed prizes will be at the back of church on Sunday or can be claimed from the presbytery (34, Kemp Street) during the week. Once again, many thanks!



### Evening Prayer for Christmastide

### Evening Prayer of the Church

will be celebrated here at **4 p.m.** on

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**New Year's Eve, (Mary, Mother of God) Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January**

On the two Sundays, there will also be Adoration of the Holy Eucharist & Benediction.

Welcome families and friends to St Mary's: join us in the Millennium Room for refreshment and community social time after 10.30 a.m. Mass.



## St. Mary's, Fleetwood

Presbytery: 34, Kemp Street, Fleetwood FY7 6JX

☎: 01253 873331

e-mail: [parish@stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk](mailto:parish@stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk)

website: [www.stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk)

Parish Priest: **Fr. Michael Murphy**

Deacon: **Rev. Bill Wright**

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Sunday Mass 8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

Weekdays except Mondays: 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Mass

Tuesday: 6:40 p.m. Rosary, 7 p.m. Mass

Mondays: 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer, 10 a.m. Celebration of the Word

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 10:30-11 a.m.

Adoration of the Holy Eucharist : Saturday 10:30-11 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2014

### Christmas Mass Times

As last year, the Christmas Mass times will be: **Christmas Midnight** preceded by carols from **11.30 p.m.**; the **Dawn Mass of Christmas** at **8.30 a.m.** and the **Day Mass of Christmas** at **10.30 a.m.**

This is a return to the tradition which originated in Rome in the sixth century, **Midnight Mass** was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Mary Major for the papal household. The **Dawn Mass** was celebrated for the diplomatic corps, especially the ambassador representing the Emperor who, by then, resided in Constantinople. A "**popular**" Mass was celebrated later in the day at St. Peter's Basilica for the people of Rome.

**Please could I encourage children to come to the 10.30 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day?** They will be very welcome and are invited to bring one of their toys with them (*preferably something small and not too noisy!!*).

Sadly, in the last thirty years or so, the provision of Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve has decimated the attendances on Christmas Day itself. This means that, in a generation, we have destroyed a tradition that goes back for 1,500 years! "Well done us"!!! Or, as an eminent liturgist friend of mine said, "There's got to be something wrong, Michael, when more Catholics go to Mass on Christmas Eve than on Christmas Day." Think about it!

On a practical note, if you are coming to Midnight Mass and have spare seats in your car, please could you sign the list at the back of church? On the other hand, if you want to come to Midnight Mass but need a lift to church, please sign the list for this at the back of church.

Father Michael



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## Liturgies for the week 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. December, 2014

<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	8.30 a.m.	Joe McCann <i>Anniversary</i> (B.M.)
	10.30 a.m.	The People of the Parish
	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Advent Evening Prayer, Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>Monday</b> (15 <sup>th</sup> ) of Advent week 3	10 a.m.	Celebration of the Word
<b>Tuesday</b> (16 <sup>th</sup> .) of Advent week 3	7 p.m.	Beryl Skitterall <i>Anniversary</i> (A.S.)
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>. December</b>	10 a.m.	Eileen Flatley <i>Anniversary</i>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. December</b>	10 a.m.	birthday intentions – Rita & Jack (J.E.)
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. December</b>	10 a.m.	Catherine & Richard Jones <i>R.I.P.</i> (L.J.)
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. December</b>	10 a.m.	In thanksgiving – <i>students</i> (W.M.)
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	8.30 a.m.	deceased members of Muscroft family
	10.30 a.m.	The People of the Parish
	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Advent Evening Prayer, Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>

### *Please remember in your prayers*



» **all the sick**, especially Peggie Ball, Pastor Steve Bond, Deborah Carr, Fred Chew, Roy Clarke, Patsy Coll, Marianne Delaney, Laura, Joanne & Sarah Finley, Jacob Gray, Wynne Harrison (*a friend of Kathy's*), Joseph Higgins, Alison Lyon, Michael O'Sullivan, Andrew Pearson, Joe Scott, Margaret Smith, Mark Surelock, Winifred White;

» **the housebound and those in care**, especially: David Ball, Thomas Ball, Hilda Brookes, Mary Davies, John Donnelly, Florrie Garrett, Dennis Halloran, Gerry & Brenda McCaul, Sheila Mullen, Walter Myerscough, Betty Poole, Joan Rayworth, Marjorie Richardson, Doris Roberts, Monica Syms, P. Warwick and Nellie Wilson;



» **those who have died recently, especially John Ball, John Balshaw Brooks, Eileen Mary Draper** (*Father Peter's mother*), **Jack McGinty** (*a friend of Michael's*) and **those whose anniversaries are this coming week**: Stephen Ball, David H, Bamber, Mary Winifred Bistow, Nancy Blair, Ernest Carr, Donald Currie, Florence Gater, Holly Gray, George Green, Richard Greer, baby Alexander Kay, Joe McCann, Frank O'Donnell, Kathleen Oldfield, Pat Power, Alan Thompson, Anne Wilson, Robert Joseph Winstanley, John Wright.

### *Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, Youth Section, 2015*

Travel by coach or 'plane to Lourdes joining 80 other young people from across the Diocese. Get to know each other and serve the sick and elderly. You will love it. Check it out at [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk) under Events. **Please note**, last year, the pilgrimage was full long before the closing date so don't delay in getting forms filled in and deposits sent off! For a booking form, ask Father Michael.

The pilgrimage is from 24<sup>th</sup>. to 31<sup>st</sup>. July, 2015, and will be led by Bishop Michael. **For the adult section**, please see the posters at the back of church.

## Next Sunday's Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (21<sup>st</sup>. December)

### Luke 1 : 26-38 the Annunciation

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the final Sunday of Advent always focuses on Mary. What was the young girl Mary doing when the message came? Kneeling in prayer? Feeding the sheep? Fetching water? Sweeping the mud floor? What was she thinking? Engaged to be married, surely about her approaching wedding to Joseph and about the children she would mother. Then came the message which she could accept or refuse, the message on which hung the future of the world: her child would be different from all others. How 'different'? Her thoughts were turned back to the promise to David. It had been read to her so often in the Bible and now the words echoed in her mind as she listened to the angel say, 'His reign will have no end'. This would all be the work of the Spirit which she had so often heard about in Isaiah: 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you', the Spirit which was to come upon the Servant of the Lord, the Spirit of Emmanuel, 'God with us'. Her young body was to grow, nourish and develop this child. Then she would have the child in her arms to cherish and shape as both Son of God and her own son.

**What sort of person was Mary? Would you have liked to get to know her? What is God's plan for you?**

### ST MARY'S 200 + CLUB WINNERS

#### for 7<sup>th</sup>. December

117	Julie Banks	£50
179	Eugene Duffy	£15

Mass Attendance: 184 (83, 101)

Offertory: £524.48

Candles: £103.86

Books & Papers: £6.236

St. Anthony: £4.91

Flowers: £12.39

World Needy: £49.44

Building Fund: £20

Cafod Fast Day: £81.50

Cafod Ebola Crisis: £75

Cafod work with children: £75

### PARISH MASS BOOK + YEAR B-

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*Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup>. December*

### *Church Cleaning*

*Group 2 Kathleen McGinley's group*

*Liturgy of the Word with Children*

*L. Reader & A. Morgan*

*Refreshments after Mass*

*Kath & Maureen*

### *The S.V.P. Food Bank*

Whilst you're out shopping, please spare a thought for the local families who will be short of food this Christmas. Think about buying a little bit extra and donate it to the food bank. Donations can be placed in the large box near the church door. Thank you!