

Diary

"Understanding our Faith" - next meeting will be Friday 13th January at 4p.m. in the presbytery. All welcome.

Monday, 19th December: Rehearsal for St. Mary's School Carol Service at 10:30a.m. in church.

Tuesday, 20th December - St. Mary's School Carol Service, 6p.m. in church. Everyone welcome

Tuesday, 20th December: Clergy Deanery Conference Christmas Dinner here at St. Mary's

Wednesday, 21st December: Cardinal Allen School end of term Mass at 9.30a.m. in school. (N.B. Celebration of the Word in church at 10.00 a.m.)

THURSDAY, 22ND DECEMBER – Christmas Church Cleaning

It would be nice to give the church an extra clean just before Christmas. If you have time to spare on Thursday 22nd December, your help would be greatly appreciated. We will clean after the 10 o'clock Mass.

ST MARY'S 200 + CLUB WINNERS

For 11th December 2016

No.68 J & S Donnelly £ 50

No. 84 Mary Kay £ 15

LAST SUNDAY

Mass Attendance: **168**

8:30 –85

10:30 – 83

Offertory: £ 580.01

Candles: £ 122.96

Books/Papers: £18.40

St. Anthony: £ 6.60

Building Fund: £ 18.55

World Needy: £ 45.05

PARISH MASS BOOK + YEAR A

Volume 1 – Pg. 90

Week beginning 25th December

Church Cleaning

Children's Liturgy

Judith & Maureen

Refreshments after Mass

No named group



St. Mary's, Fleetwood

Presbytery: 34 Kemp Street, Fleetwood, FY7 6JX.

Telephone: **01253 873331**

Email: **parish@stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk**

Web: **www.stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk**

Priest: **Fr. Michael Murphy**

Deacon: **Rev. Bill Wright**

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.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th December 2016

Eternal God, in the psalms of David, in the words of the prophets, in the dream of Joseph your promise is spoken. At last, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, your Word takes flesh.

Teach us to welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel, and to preach the good news of his coming, that every age may know him as the source of redemption and grace.

Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.30 a.m.	Joe McCann (B.McC.)
	10.30 a.m. 4 p.m.	People of the Parish Evening Prayer and Benediction
MONDAY 19th	10.00 a.m.	Mary Gill (J.&B.W.)
TUESDAY 20th	10a.m.	Frank & Liz O'Donnell (F.&M.)
WEDNESDAY 21st	10.00 a.m.	Celebration of the Word
THURSDAY 22nd	10.00 a.m.	Marjorie Carus (A.A.)
FRIDAY 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Richard Hearty Anniversary (M.H.)
SATURDAY 24th First Mass of Christmas (preceded by carols at 5:30p.m.)	10.00 a.m.	Patricia, Margaret & Pat McGinley (D.&K.)
	6.00p.m.	Marjorie Ettles (M.J.M.)
	12 midnight	People of the Parish
Next Sunday 25th December The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	9.30 a.m.	Jack Wilding (J.W.)

Please remember in your prayers



»**all the sick**, especially: Elsie Clapp, Patsy Coll, Catherine Dale, Marianne Delaney, Teresa Drake, Sarah Finley, Marion Gerrard, Jacob Gray, Veronica Greer, Joseph Higgins, Mary Holden, June Jagger, Rosemary Lovatt, Alison Lyon, Gerry McCaul, Michael O'Sullivan, Trevor Sandford, Mary Schon, Joe Scott, Mark Surelock, Winifred White, Baby Zephen (Mumbai)

»**the housebound and those in care**, especially: David Ball, Peggie Ball, Thomas Ball, Bessie Burns, John Donnelly, Florrie Garrett, Brenda McCaul, Walter Myerscough, Marjorie Richardson, Doris Roberts, Monica Syms, P. Warwick



>>**those who have died recently**: Mary Buckley, John Clifford, Mary Francis, Charlotte Porter **and also those whose anniversaries are this coming week**: George Green, John Wright, Jack McGinty, John MacDonald, Richard Greer, Alan Thompson, Joe McCann, Alexander Kay, Pat Power, Stephen Ball, Norman Muscroft, Elizabeth Russell, Yvonne Butler, Barbara Dickins, Mary Scott, Katie Gilchrist, Richard Hearty, Annie Hallworth (Jnr.)

THE WORD AHEAD - Next Sunday's Gospel

Read **The Gospel for Sunday 25th December 2016**
Christmas Day Luke 2:1-14 The Birth of Jesus

The Gospel above (which we read at Midnight Mass) reminds us that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus stresses especially the poverty of the family: Christ comes to the poor and is greeted by the poor. Mary and Joseph are displaced persons, and can find no decent place for the baby to be born. There is no space in the living-quarters and he has to be put in a feeding-trough among the animals. He is greeted not by the rich presents of the magnificent wise men from the East, but by impoverished hired shepherds, guarding flocks in the winter night. He is born to be the patron of the homeless and of displaced persons. But Jesus is also the fulfilment of the hopes of the Old Testament. The families both of John the Baptist and of Jesus are eminently faithful to the prescriptions of the Law, waiting for the salvation promised to Israel. In the Temple Jesus will be greeted by Simeon and Anna, the representatives of fidelity to the Old Law. The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem shows that he is born as the heir to the promises to David, that God would build David a house of everlasting sovereignty, whose king would be the Son of God and would call God his Father.

What does the Christmas story tell us about Jesus?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING - Anyone who would like to help with arranging flowers for Christmas is very welcome after the 10:00a.m. Mass on Friday, 23rd December.

200 CLUB - In recent years membership of the 200 Club has fallen, and it is felt that the amount of prize money needs to be reduced, as from January 2017. Please consider joining the 200 Club if you are not already a member. It costs £1 weekly. There is a minimum of £65 prize money each week. **JUST A REMINDER TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO PAY ANNUALLY - YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE IN JANUARY. THANK YOU.**

Any donations towards the cost of **flowers for Church Decoration for Christmas** would be greatly appreciated. Please give donation to Fr. Michael or Bill. Thank you.

Bill's Christmas cards are on sale at the back of church.