

Diary

Sunday, 7th December: The Second Sunday of Advent – why not join us for some quiet, prayerful time, in celebration of this season of joyful hope, at **Advent Evening Prayer, Adoration of the Holy Eucharist and Benediction at 4 p.m.?**

Tuesday, 9th December: St. Mary's School Key Stage One Nativity Play – there are two performances at 2 & 6 p.m.

Deanery Advent Talk – Reflections on the Themes of Advent, given by Martin Bennett at 7 p.m. at English Martyrs' Parish Hall, High Cross, Poulton. All a welcome!

Sunday, 14th December: Blackpool Male Voice Choir - sadly, we have had to postpone this concert until the spring/summer.

Thursday, 18th to Saturday, 20th 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. Refreshments are available. For more details, see the poster at the back of church.

9th to 16th 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.



Parish Christmas Fair - Unclaimed Raffle Prizes

Prize	Ticket Number	Name/telephone
star Prize £100	2602	Nikla Diamante
red wine	4617	E. Hughes, 17, Laidleys Walk
chocolate biscuits	0913	Elaine Porteus
blue handbag	0912	Elaine Porteus
game	0189	M. Carter
bucks' fizz	1817	Hayley Connor
Fox's biscuits	0170	M. Carter
D.V.D. game	0822	875822
white wine	4654	777578

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!

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

website: www.stmarys-fleetwood.org.uk

Parish 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.

Second Sunday of Advent 7th 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



Liturgies for the week 7th – 14th December, 2014

Second Sunday of Advent	8.30 a.m.	Annie Peoples <i>R.I.P.</i> (B.M.)
	10.30 a.m.	The People of the Parish
	4 p.m.	Advent Evening Prayer, Adoration & Benediction
Monday (8th) The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10 a.m.	Celebration of the Word
Tuesday (9th) of Advent week 2	7 p.m.	Frank & Liz O'Donnell (F.G.)
Wednesday (10th) of Advent week 2	10 a.m.	Alexander & Winifred Welch (E.W.)
Thursday (11th) of Advent week 2	10 a.m.	Jeanette Toole, husband and family
Friday (12th) of Advent week 2	10 a.m.	Winifred White <i>sick</i> (M.S.)
Saturday (13th) St. Lucy	10 a.m.	Deceased Hearty family (M.H)
Third Sunday of Advent	8.30 a.m.	Joe McCann <i>Anniversary</i> (B.M.)
	10.30 a.m.	The People of the Parish
	4 p.m.	Advent Evening Prayer, Adoration & Benediction

Please remember in your prayers



» **all the sick**, especially Peggie Ball, Pastor Steve Bond, Deborah Carr (*Maureen McGarvey's daughter*), Fred Chew, Roy Clarke, Patsy Coll, Marianne Delaney, Kathy Eaglesham, Laura Finley, Jacob Gray, 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 Balshaw Brooks**, and **those whose anniversaries are this coming week**: Robert Albion, Joseph Drury, James Goulding, Doreen Greenwood, Margaret Hearty, Alan Houghton, Margaret Ann Kennedy, Josephine Sparks, Alex Welch.

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 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 24th to 31st 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 Third Sunday of Advent (14th December)

John 1 : 6-8, 19-28 a voice crying in the wilderness

So, John the Baptist came as a witness to the light. In today's gospel reading, he seems rather to refuse witness. He is quite negative, answering with a stalwart and repeated 'No!'. He witnesses only that 'There is one standing among you whom you do not know'. It is not always easy to find Jesus. All the way through the Gospel of John there are misunderstandings about Jesus; people fail to recognise him for what he is: there's the Samaritan at the well, Nicodemus in the night, Mary Magdalene beside the empty tomb, even Peter and the disciples as they fish on the Lake. We can easily become so wrapped up in our own troubles and worries that we fail to recognise the one figure who can provide the solution to them, although he is standing among us, the one who 'has the words of eternal life'. He may come to us in a way we do not like, as a corrective - blocking or diverting the way we have chosen. He may come as suffering, disappointment, failure or bereavement. All of these may be acts of God's love, to show us the way, though we cannot see it at the time. It is just like John the Baptist, saying steadily 'No!', until eventually we turn around and see Christ as our true light.

How can I find Jesus in the crowded events of my busy life? He often comes in unexpected ways. Is he in the quiet voice of a friend? Is he in the anger of someone I have annoyed? Is he in the rebuke of someone who knows me better than I know myself? Is he in my failures and frustrations?

ST MARY'S 200 + CLUB WINNERS

for 30th November

67 Andrew Lydon £100

Mass Attendance: 194 (84, 110)

Offertory: £560.39

Diocesan Poor Missions: £92.10

Candles: £89.17

Books & Papers: £6.06

Flowers: £6.39

World Needy: £74.91

Building Fund: £2,500 (bequest)

£20 in memory of Dennis Lupton

PARISH MASS BOOK + YEAR B-

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Week beginning 14th December

Church Cleaning

Liturgy of the Word with Children

J. Halloran, J. Stevenson & M. Baldwin

Refreshments after Mass

Jo & Marion

Parish Property Matters – an update!

Before the painting of the railings begins in the New Year, some repairs to them are needed. Very helpfully, Jim Godfrey has suggested some local firms to do the work. I am waiting for them to come back to me with quotations. Audrey Armour has also kindly provided me with details of a firm she used and was highly satisfied with. Through the prison service, I have already received a quotation from a firm in Kirkham. Thank you for the much-needed help. *Father Michael*