

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I do thank you most sincerely for all your Christmas greetings and good wishes. I am most grateful. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and pray that it will be filled with the deep joy and peace that our saviour brings!

*With my love and prayer,
(Fr.) Michael*

CLERGY DEANERY CONFERENCE CHRISTMAS DINNER

As noted on last week's newsletter, on Tuesday we hosted the Christmas Dinner for all the local clergy. Sixteen of us sat down to an immensely enjoyable and lovely meal. Sincere thanks to Tony Whiteside, our master chef! Many thanks to Jo Wright for her wonderful desserts and for hours of washing up! Thanks also to Doreen and Kathleen for all their help in setting up and laying tables and for hours of drying dishes, crockery and cutlery! Finally, as always, thanks to Bill for all his help in organising it and care in looking after all our guests. But we did however ignore the suggestion from some of the clergy that they should come here every time!

ST MARY'S 200 + CLUB WINNERS

For 18th December 2016

No.35 Maureen Shaw £ 50

No. 131 Linda Lofthouse £ 15

LAST SUNDAY

Mass Attendance: **174**

8:30 –84

10:30 – 90

Offertory: £ 427.24

Candles: £ 116.47

Books/Papers: £ 15.98

St. Anthony: £ 5.00

Building Fund: £ 19.62

World Needy: £ 49.29

PARISH MASS BOOK + YEAR A

Volume 1 – Pg.

Week beginning 1st January

Church Cleaning

Children's Liturgy

L. Reader & A. Morgan

Refreshments after Mass

Jo & A.N.Other



St. Mary's, Fleetwood

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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.**

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

25th December 2016

Today, O God of light, your loving kindness dawns, your tender compassion shines upon us, for in our Saviour, born of human flesh, you reveal your gracious gift of our birth to life eternal.

Fill us with wonder on this holy day: let us treasure in our hearts what we have been told, that our lives may proclaim your great and gentle mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.

Sunday 25th December		
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	9.30 a.m.	Jack Wilding (J.W.)
MONDAY 26th St. Stephen	12.10 a.m.	Deceased members of the Donnelly & Taylor Families (K.T.)
TUESDAY 27th St. John	12.10 a.m.	Denis Lupton R.I.P. (A.L.)
WEDNESDAY 28th The Holy Innocents	10.00 a.m.	Eveline Wilding (J.W.)
THURSDAY 29th St. Thomas Becket	10.00 a.m.	Stephen & Emily Nolan (J.N.)
FRIDAY 30th The Holy Family	10.00 a.m.	Hannah Mitchell (P.&D.F.)
SATURDAY 31st Seventh Day of Christmas Octave	10.00 a.m.	Anne & Jim Baines (J.&B.W.)
Next Sunday 1st January 2017	8.30 a.m.	People of the Parish
Mary, Mother of God	10.30 a.m.	Gerald Pendleton Anniversary (M.J.M.)

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**: Peter Collins (brother of Fr. John Collins), Mary Francis, Tom Keleher, Charlotte Porter **and also those whose anniversaries are this coming week**: Canon W.Watterson, Jack Wilding, Jack Horsfall, Dennis Halloran, Joseph Donnelly, Jeff Roscow, Mary Wilding, Eileen Ann Standish, Bridgit Withey, Wynne Harrison, Barbara Josephine Whiteside, John Houten, James Keane, Edith Mary Twiggs, Caroline Frances Polke, Pattie Melville, William Egan

THE WORD AHEAD - Next Sunday's Gospel

Read **The Gospel for Sunday 1st January 2017 New Year's Day**
Luke 2:16-21 The Child in the Cattle-Trough

The cosy picture of the bright-eyed child in the clean wooden manger (with the ox and the ass peeping in from a respectful distance) is misleading. The picture should be one of destitution. There was no room for the new-born in the normal living quarters, and the worried mother had to lodge him in the only space available, a feeding-trough for cattle, perched on top of their fodder. That was where the ragged sheep-minders found him. They too were the poorest of the poor, no sheep of their own, just hired for the night. Perhaps they got a drink of goats'-milk or a crust of bread for their shivering pains. Matthew does at least have the baby worshipped by those rather splendid Wise Men from the East, with their noble and symbolic gifts. No gifts forthcoming from today's rough crew. As we worry about our post-Christmas waistlines, it makes us reflect on where true blessedness lies, and who are the chosen ones of the Lord. Surely God could have rustled up more suitable worshippers for his Incarnate Son than these scruffy down-and-outs? No, I'm afraid not.

Why is the poverty of Mary and Jesus so strongly stressed?
Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Diary

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

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.**

A Great Big Thankyou to all those who in any way help out during the year in our parish -Altar servers, church cleaners, flower arrangers, meeters and greeters, collectors, musicians and readers. Ministers of the Eucharist and to anyone else who helps in any way. **Your work and assistance is in invaluable.**