



Marple Bridge
(Hollins Lane)

The Catholic Community Newsletter
for the parish of
St Mary and **The Annunciation**
Marple Bridge New Mills



New Mills
(St Mary's Road)

Fr. Daniel Palmer

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17TH OCTOBER 2021

29TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Finley whose baptism took place recently.

Regular Confession times:

New Mills – after Sunday Mass. Marple Bridge – Saturday 1800 to 1820. Please ask. Other times available by appointment.

Parish Census forms are available at the back of church. It would be good if all parishioners fill in one of these forms, so that we have an up-to-date record, compliant with data protection regulations. Please do pass one on to anybody who you think needs to fill one in. The form can be posted upon request. A large print version is available upon request.

Please note: no Tuesday Mass this week.

		Place		Intention
Sat 16	1830	MB	Vigil Mass	Monica, Joan & Carol
Sun 17 29 th Sunday OT	0930 12noon	NM MB	Mass Mass	People of the Parish ---
Mon 18 ST. LUKE				
Tue 19				
Wed 20	1000	MB	Mass	Priest's Int.
Thu 21	1030	NM	Mass	---
Fri 22	1000	MB	Mass	---
Sat 23	1830	MB	Vigil Mass	Agnes & Jack Brady
Sun 24 30 th Sunday OT [2 nd Colln.: World Mission Sunday]	0930 12noon	NM MB	Mass Mass	People of the Parish <i>Int. to be confirmed</i>

It would help classes from St. Mary's school (New Mills) to attend Mass if the Thursday Mass were to be moved back to the pre-pandemic time of 10am (from 4th November). The Tuesday Mass could be kept at 10.30 for those coming by bus. Please do let me know any thoughts on this matter. Please be aware, however, that weekday Mass times are subject to change depending on the priest's commitments, although we will try to keep to a regular pattern as far as possible.

Safeguarding Representatives:

If anybody would like to purchase the next edition of the Diocesan Yearbook, please contact the parish office by the end of Sunday 17th October.

Churches Together (Marple): there will be prayer for the important COP 26 Conference in Glasgow, on Saturday 23rd October in Marple Precinct at 10.30 am. Father Bill has also offered for the Holy Spirit Church to be open on Friday October 22nd between 1 and 2 pm for quiet prayer.

On Sunday 17th October, at the end of the 12 noon Mass at Marple Bridge, there will be a short ceremony to mark the opening of the Synodal Process. A pastoral letter will be read this weekend. Please take one or two prayer cards for people who do not come to church.

Helpers are needed to support Helen Whelan in providing the Communion Breakfast at New Mills on November 20th - no previous experience necessary! Please speak to Helen or contact Jo Barber - 01663 743283

Train as a Relationship Counsellor with Marriage Care. Catholic Marriage Care is the largest faith-based relationship support specialist in the UK. We are looking for empathetic listeners who would like to train and volunteer with us at local centres as relationship counsellors. You could make a world of difference to couples and families. No previous counselling qualifications are required. For more information please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk/crc

OUR PARISH LUNCH - FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER (GORDON and ANN LYON) Thank you to everyone who completed the YES/NO survey last week and we are pleased to report it was a very positive outcome for us to proceed full steam ahead. New Mills Golf Club is a great venue with easy access, plenty of parking space and not too far from either church. We have now received an excellent lunchtime, 4 course menu, at a cost of £24 per person which appears to cater for a variety of tastes. The menus will be available at both churches this weekend and if you wish to join us for this meal, please take a menu home and return it, in the envelope provided, with full payment, to Pauline Gavin at New Mills by Sunday 21st November or to Ann/Gordon Lyon at Marple Bridge by the same date.

Right To Life UK urgent appeal The abortion lobby has already been successful at using the Coronavirus crisis to temporarily introduce home 'DIY' abortions. The policy has not only accompanied a large increase in the number of lives ended by abortion but has also been linked to a number of serious incidents where women's lives have been put at risk while performing their abortion at home. Our opposition is now eager to see more widespread changes to legislation enacted and we are currently facing major threats on both abortion and assisted suicide issues. Fighting both the abortion and assisted suicide lobbies over this period has already made a huge dent in Right To Life UK's limited resources. We are, therefore, appealing to you to please give as generously as you can to ensure we can defeat the abortion and assisted suicide lobbies in these upcoming battles. Every donation, no matter how small, will go towards saving the lives of the unborn and many others. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/give for more information and to donate now.

The message from last Sunday's Masses

On the census form is a section where you can offer to volunteer for various things. It is to this which I want to turn my attention. The pandemic has had a huge impact in so many ways. I would like to pay tribute to all those who helped keep our churches open during some very difficult and dark days. Truly we were a beacon of light, accessible to all (who booked in!) But now we need to think seriously about bringing back rotas and so forth. Of course, the more people who are on a rota, the less often their turn will come round. And if you would wish to help in the future, but are still concerned about COVID, that can be indicated on the form.

The question is for you as parishioners: at what level do you wish the parish to operate? At a basic or enhanced level? Admittedly, the basic level still covers a lot. The Mass first and foremost, but also

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confessions, visiting the sick, anointings, baptisms, weddings, funerals, blessings, and first communion preparation. But what of other things. How about flowers? They are not necessary for worship, but a lovely thing to have. But this needs volunteers. The same with refreshments after Mass: not strictly necessary, but important, so that a social time can follow the sacred time in Church. We also need people to clean the church, and help with the grounds, so that the House of God is kept in a fitting way. There are other things too. But these things are fundamentally up to you as parishioners. Do you want to keep things at a basic level, or at a higher one?

I am also keen that there be resilience, hence the desire for plenty of volunteers. This helps to free me from having to worry about so many things, so I can focus more on the core ministry. And if only a few people do things, and they wish to stand down or are unable to continue, who will take their place? Ideally, there should be a surplus of volunteers, not a deficit, so that things can thrive. We also hear a lot about how to be a more missionary parish, but I believe that we can only do this if there is a solid foundation 'in-house'. Let us not forget that we are blessed with good parish facilities at both churches, so it is good to make use of these.

So really, the ball is in your court, as to how you wish to go forward. I will help as I can, but it is up to you to take ownership of more things. I want to thank all those who do so much already, but now is the time, to borrow a phrase, to 'build back better'.

Finally, though, I must stress that the fundamental way in which you contribute to the parish is through worship, love of neighbour, and growing in holiness. If you are not able to help in some of the practical things, don't worry. Our housebound parishioners, for instance, are no less a part of the parish - because they contribute in the ways just mentioned. What is at the heart of the faith is not serving teas and coffees but serving God and neighbour. Today's appeal is not meant as any kind of a criticism of anyone, not at all. But it is a time to reflect: how I can help this parish operate, not just on a basic level, but an enhanced one.

Let us give glory to the Lord now and for ever. Amen.