



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  
Fr. Kevin Gradwell (in retirement)

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19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE HOLY FAMILY (TWO WEEK BULLETIN)

**Face coverings** are once again compulsory in churches under law and also in the parish halls when not eating or drinking.

**Confession:** New Mills – after Sunday Mass. Marple Bridge – Saturday 1800 to 1820 (except Christmas Day). Please ask.

**There will be a group clean of the church** at New Mills on Tuesday 21st after 10.30 Mass. Please come along if you'd like to help.

Sat 18	1830	MB	Vigil	Conor Hall RIP
Sun 19 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	0930 12noon	NM MB	Mass Mass	People of the Parish Deborah Whitehouse
Mon 20				
Tue 21	1030	NM	Mass	<b>Followed by church cleaning</b>
Wed 22	1000	MB	Mass	Anthony Cortvriend RIP
Thu 23	1000	NM	Mass	---
Fri 24 Vigil of the Nativity	1730 <b>1800</b> 2000 <b>2030</b>	NM <b>NM</b> MB <b>MB</b>	Carols <b>Mass</b> Carols <b>Mass</b>	--- Dec. mem. Roach & Hunt fams.
Sat 25 The NATIVITY of the LORD (Holy Day of Obligation)	<b>0900</b> <b>1045</b>	<b>NM</b> <b>MB</b>	<b>Mass</b> <b>Mass</b>	People of the Parish Tom Delaney RIP <b>No evening Mass</b>
Sun 26 The Holy Family	0930 12noon	NM MB	Mass Mass	People of the Parish
Mon 27 St John				
Tue 28 Holy Innocents				
Wed 29 St Thomas of Canterbury	1000	MB	Mass	---
Thu 30 Within Christmas Octave	1000	NM	Mass	---
Fri 31 Within the Oct.	1000	MB	Mass	---
Sat 1 Jan 2022 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	1830	MB	Vigil	Priest's Int.
Sun 2 Second Sunday after Christmas	0930 12noon	NM MB	Mass Mass	Benefactors of the Johnson Fund People of the Parish

**Please note that the Christmas offering** is paid into parish funds, including any gift aid envelopes that state otherwise. If you wish to make an offering to particular clergy, please send this to the parish office.

**Restarting the sick list.** We must be careful to ensure that people give permission for their name to be added, as people may not wish their sickness to be made widely known. To ensure this is the case, forms are available at the back of church to give this permission, which need to be signed by the person themselves, or if this is not possible, by one able to give this permission.

**Sacramental Programme 2022 (First Confession and First Holy Communion):** Sessions begin on January 9<sup>th</sup> with a parents' meeting after 9.30 Mass at New Mills. This is for the parents of children at both New Mills and Marple Bridge. The application forms are available in both churches. Please bring the child's baptismal certificate to this meeting.

**Volunteers at New Mills** Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help out with differing roles at New Mills. We hope that as we move into the new year we will have a growing band of people helping on our new rotas. We need more people to help with Children's Liturgy, stewarding/welcoming, cleaning, reading, refreshments, grounds maintenance, and organising them all! None of the roles are difficult, or too time consuming. The more people involved the easier it becomes. If you haven't already offered, there is still time to help! Please speak to Joe Hennigan, or message him via the Parish Office.

**Our second whole parish Synod meeting** will take place at 7pm – 8.15pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January, at the main parish hall at Marple Bridge. This is a very important meeting, in which we will ask the Holy Spirit to help us discern the future for our parish. In particular, we need to discuss the establishment of some sort of parish leadership team, whether that is a Parish Council or some other structure. This meeting is open to all, although there is a special invitation to those who would like to be part of such a structure. Below are some reflections from the first meeting, although we now must take this forward with concrete proposals. Can you help?

- Numbers increasing post-pandemic, though still down on previously
- The parish lunch is an attempt to get people together
- A social committee would be useful to provide joint events across the parish
- The need to attract younger people to Church. An idea to ask them what they would like
- The need to 'relaunch' the parish after the various lockdowns and restrictions
- Helping to foster community by publishing anniversaries of death and the list of who is sick (although there are privacy matters that need to be sorted)
- The need to reach out to ecumenical partners and work with them.

**To join the electronic mailing list, contact [news@stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk](mailto:news@stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk)**

## **Clarification on the Sunday Obligation**

The Bishops' Statement *Honouring Sunday* reflected the pastoral situation of public worship in the light of the pandemic situation at this time. The Bishops have asked for all Catholics to reflect on their personal circumstances with respect to their attendance at public worship. Questions have been raised regarding the status of the Sunday Obligation. The Code of Canon Law states that "Sunday... is the primordial holy day of obligation" (Can. 1246§1) and "the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass." (Can. 1247)

At the beginning of the pandemic, from Friday 20th March 2020, the Bishops of England and Wales recognised that the participation of the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration was prevented due to grave cause because of the inception of the covid-19 pandemic and stated that the Sunday obligation could not be fulfilled due to the inherent danger of the faithful gathering in churches for the Eucharistic celebration. On Monday 23rd March 2020, HM Government mandated the closure of places of worship along with other locations.

The Bishops, now having reflected on the current situation in England and Wales, recognise that the causes and effects of the pandemic are still present to such a degree that the absolute duty for all to freely attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration cannot yet be fulfilled so they have asked that all Catholics now reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist to their own life of faith and take into consideration their personal circumstances and the reasons as to whether they can now attend the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration or otherwise. Should a person feel that grave cause honestly persists in their personal circumstances, there is no sin associated with their non-attendance at Mass, and they are encouraged to devote themselves to prayer at home. This may be achieved either through personal prayer or by participating with a live-streamed celebration of Mass from a Church.

**A blessed Christmas and New Year to you and your families.**