



Marple Bridge
(Hollins Lane)

The Catholic Community Newsletter
for the parish of
St Mary and **The Annunciation**
Marple Bridge New Mills
1 Hollins Lane St Mary's Road
SK6 5BB SK22 3BW



New Mills
(St Mary's Road)

Fr. Emmanuel Abbem (Parish Priest)

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Fourth SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

		Place		Intention
Sat 23 rd December	6.30pm	MB	Mass	People of the Parish
Sun 24 th December	9.30am	NM	Mass	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	5:30pm	NM		Christmas Carols
	6:00pm	NM	Mass	Christmas Family Mass
	8:00pm	MB	Mass	Christmas Eve Mass
Mon 25 th December	9:30am	NM	Mass	Christmas Day Mass
	11:30pm	MB	Mass	Christmas Day Mass
Thur 28 th December	10:00am	NM	Mass	
Fri 29 th December	10:00am	MB	Mass	
Sat 30 th December	6:30pm	MB	Mass	
Sun 31 st December	9:30am	NM	Mass	
Mon 1 st January	10:00am	MB	Mass	Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)

PLEASE PRAY for the sick: David Cochrane, Dorothy Graham, Mary Bradbury, Joan Bindley. To be added to this list, please contact the parish office or collect a form from the back of church.

This weekend is the only weekend in some when we are obliged to attend Mass twice in one weekend. Each Sunday, our weekly Easter, is a holiday of obligation, as every Sunday because it is the Lord's Day, the day of Creation and the day of Resurrection. The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day, is also a holyday of obligation and while the Solemnities of the Epiphany of the Lord, St Peter and Paul, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints are transferred to the Sunday if they fall on a Saturday or a Monday, as is the case for the Epiphany next month, and those of the Ascension of the Lord is always on a Thursday, Christmas is never transferred and is always celebrated on 25th December, no matter what day of the week it is, as it should be, and as all holydays were until forty years ago or so.

The obligation to attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent is fulfilled on Saturday evening in Marple Bridge at 6:30, or at any Mass on Sunday (9:30am at NM, and 12 noon at MB), and the obligation to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord is fulfilled at the Mass of Christmas Eve (Sunday 8:00 pm in Marple Bridge), the Mass of Christmas Day (Monday at 9:30 am at NM, and 11:30am at MB), and to answer a specific question: the 6.00 pm Mass on Sunday 24th December at NM and 8:00pm at MB **do not** 'count' for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day! And so, I look forward to seeing you on both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve/Day Masses which I will celebrate this weekend to enable us all to prepare for the Saviour's Birth on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and to celebrate his Birth at Christmas.

Thank you: I want to thank all of you for your prayers for me during my time away on retreat. I definitely prayed for all of you and your families. I thank Msgr. Jonathan Moore and Fr. Frank Carvill who graciously held the fort for me whilst I was away. I pray God to bless them both for always being there to help our parish. A huge thank you also, to all of you for your Christmas wishes, prayers, and cards. Your gracious and warm words are very encouraging to me. Your prayers give me a lot of energy and strength to continue on. I am deeply appreciative for all the love and affection you continue to show me. I pray God to bless you all and your families. If anybody has any gift for Fr. Emmanuel, please, you may put it in the collection bags.

I pray that you will have a fulfilling Christmas, and that those who will be working during these days will be able to make some time to spend with family and friends. Please enjoy yourselves - and pace yourselves as well! The obligation on Sundays and holydays also includes rest, relaxation - so please take that bit of it seriously as well! **If you can, please join us for refreshments after Sunday's 9:30 mass on 24th December. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served (along with usual teas and coffees. All to a musical background of Christmas carols.** With my love and prayer for everyone this Christmas (**Fr. Emmanuel**)

Bill Yates, for many years a stalwart member of this parish, died on 20th December. May God grant Bill eternal rest in heaven, and may God strengthen his wife, Val Yates and the entire family. The entire parish wish Val our love at this difficult time.

Crib Collection: This year's Christmas crib collection is dedicated to support the work of **Friends of the Holy Land in Gaza and Israel/ Palestine**. Please, let us be generous.