

**St Annes RC
Church
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St Mary
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and

The Annunciation
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& St Thomas
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NEWS FROM THE PARISH

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please remember in your Masses and Prayers Trudy Newton, Shelia Farnsworth, Alwyn Moffatt, Kath Fallon and Yvonne Casey who have died recently, may they rest in peace. Amen.

FR GREG WRITES: At the start of this new year let us begin with a simple devotion across all of our Churches.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Before Mass.

Before each Mass in each of our churches, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This offers a precious opportunity to arrive a little earlier and spend time in quiet, prayerful silence before Jesus, truly and fully present in the Eucharist. In the stillness of adoration, we are invited to place ourselves before the Lord—bringing our thanks, our needs, our joys, and our struggles—preparing our hearts to celebrate the Mass more deeply. All are warmly encouraged to make use of this time of grace, whether for a few moments or longer, as we listen, pray, and rest in the presence of Christ.

Fr Benjamin Sunder will be away for the next few weeks, enjoying a well-earned rest and spending time with his family in India. During his absence, Fr Frank Carvill will celebrate the weekend Masses in New Mills and Marple Bridge, as well as the weekday Masses in Marple Bridge.

The Baptism of the Lord: Beloved and Sent The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close and gently turns our gaze toward the public ministry of Jesus. At the River Jordan, Jesus steps into the waters alongside ordinary people—sinners, seekers, and the hopeful. Though sinless himself, he chooses to stand with us.

As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard: *“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”* Before Jesus has preached a sermon or performed a miracle, he is named and claimed in love. His identity comes not from what he does, but from who he is. This moment reminds us of our own baptism. Each of us, too, has been claimed by God, washed in grace, and called his beloved sons and daughters. Baptism is not simply a moment from the past; it is a living reality that shapes who we are today. We are marked as people who belong to Christ and are sent to share in his mission.

The Baptism of the Lord also calls us to humility and service. Jesus does not stand apart, but enters fully into human life. As baptised people, we are invited to do the same—to walk with others, to serve quietly, and to be signs of God’s love in everyday life. As we move into Ordinary Time, may this feast renew our awareness of who we are: deeply loved by God and called to live out that love in the world.

MANY THANKS Fr. Frank and Miriam would like to say thank you for their many Christmas cards, gifts and warm wishes received from parishioners. Your kind and generosity are very much appreciated.

FOODBANK Thank you to everyone who contributes to the Food bank at the back of St Marys Church MB. The food is taken to the Pantry Food Bank at Connect Building on Queen Street (opposite Marple Cinema). The Pantry opens every Saturday morning from 10am until noon. Also a big thank you to Gloria Tomalin for arranging the collection at church.

BANK DETAILS: A number of parishioners have asked for our bank details so that they can set up standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity. Sort Code: 30-96-18 Account : 03900906 Name of account: St Mary & Annun Marple Bridge & New Mills Bank: Lloyds plc.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this Sunday 11th January for Sick and Retired Priests.

