

Fr John writes: *Luke 13: 1-9. A call to repentance and the reminder that God is merciful and will provide a second chance. Does God send tragedies to punish us? Jesus' hearers question him on the injustice of God. Were the Galileans, killed by Pilate, sinners? No! But we must be ready for the unexpected. We are called to a new way of living. The passage ends with a parable on the unexpected mercy of God - he does not cut down the fig tree but waits. Maybe next year it will bear fruit.*

Deanery Station Mass

The first of our Deanery Station Masses will take place this

Thursday 11th March at St. John Fisher, Chapel en le Frith beginning with Exposition and confessions at 7pm and Mass at 7.30pm. The collection taken up before mass begins is for the various Diocesan charities. The second Station Mass will take place on **Thursday 25th March** at All Saints, Glossop with Exposition and confessions at 7pm and Mass at 7.30pm.

CaFE Lenten Course

Our Lenten CaFE course, 'LIFE TO THE FULL', continues at 7-45 p.m. Tuesday in New Mills Parish Hall, with 'Cakes with Royal Icing' for our fourth session 'OUR ROYAL INHERITANCE' Our Lenten journey continues for the next two Tuesdays, between 7-45 p.m. and 9-30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to any of the sessions, which all have short filmed inputs from speakers, and brief discussion times, to help us all in bringing the 'BIBLE ALIVE'... Refreshments and drinks will be served each week.

Kevin Gradwell's Ordination

Firstly may I thank all of you who turned out for our Holy Hour last Wednesday evening - it was fantastic to see a full church and parishioners from across the parish. I know Kevin was also very pleased and grateful to see such a response - thank you. Thank you also to all who helped to provide refreshments in the Old School afterwards; it helped complete what was a beautiful evening. Please keep in your prayers Kevin and also his wife Susan as he now lives out his new ministry as Deacon. I have informed him that once he is ordained and due to looking after the four churches, I will be using his gifts and talents almost immediately. Kevin will assist at the 11.15am mass today as Deacon and I've asked him to say a few words also. On behalf of the whole parish may we congratulate Kevin on his ordination and wish him all of God's blessings throughout his ministry!

St. Patrick's Dance

Our Paddy's Night dance will take place next Friday in the Parish Hall, New Mills from 7.30-11pm. Tickets are on sale this weekend only so if you wish to purchase a ticket, then please do so, price £2 each. Bring your own beverage/glasses and food for a shared table.

Sacristy Access New Mills

Please note that access through to church via the Sacristy is permitted to authorised personnel **ONLY**. The Sacristy is **not** an access to the church or Parish Hall. The appropriate church or hall doors should be used as the entrance to those buildings by all other people. It has come to my attention that some visitors have been using the Sacristy as an access to the Parish Hall and tripped up on the steps. I take **no** responsibility for any unauthorised person using this access and therefore can those who do have the combination to come through the

Sacristy door ensure that they and they alone are the only person to do so. They can then open the appropriate doors for all others who wish to use the church. Access to the Parish Hall should only be through the hall doors and not the Sacristy.

Offertory Envelopes

New Offertory envelopes will shortly be ready for collection for the next financial year. From 1st April 2010 there will only be one parish bank account - Jim Howell and Joe Hennigan will be making a short announcement at all masses this Sunday but please contact the parish office if you need any further information.

Taize Prayer

There will be a Taize prayer evening at St. Mary's Church, Marple Bridge on Wednesday 17th March at 7.30pm. All welcome.

A Retreat for Holy Week

"Entering the Empty Tomb" - a retreat led by Paula Bailey and Ken O'Riordan at the Diocesan Centre, Mornington Crescent, Mackworth DE22 4BD on Saturday 27th March from 10.00am-3.30pm. Cost £10 (bring a packed lunch). Booking forms available at the back of church.

Ceilidh

There will be a fund raising Ceilidh in the Parish Hall, Marple Bridge on Saturday 20th March at 7.30pm to raise funds for a young parishioner George Heeds "Especially for you Fund". For tickets or more information please call Clare or Stuart Manley.

Day of Reflection

The sisters of Our Lady of Evron are leading us on a parish day retreat on Saturday 5th June from 10.30am to 4.30pm at their centre in Stockport. The cost for the day will be £24.50 which includes a two course meal. Anyone who would like to go, but would find the cost difficult to find, please let us know or if you would like to pay a little at a time, that too would be fine. Please put your name on the list at the back of church - there is a maximum of 25 places and a deposit of £5 will be needed as soon as possible. For further information please contact Maureen Bell.

Pope's Visit to U.K

The Secular Society of Great Britain has an online petition opposing the Pope's visit to the UK in September this year. However, there is also a petition supporting the visit. Please go to <http://www.petitiononline.com/PopeinUK/petition.html> and sign the petition supporting the visit. Thank you.

Romero Film

To mark the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the film "Romero" will be shown in the Parish Hall, New Mills, on Wednesday 24th March at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Churches Together in New Mills Lent house groups

The next Lent Group sessions take place on Wednesday 10 March at 28 St George's Road; 17 March at Lily Bank Spring Bank; 24 March at 44 Mellor Road. It would be lovely to see you! Please ask me for further details. Brenda Mastin.

Last week's collections

Marple Bridge: Envelopes £247.50 Loose £148.92
New Mills: Envelopes £335.10 Loose £92.82
CAFOD: £642.29

Thank you!

Pray for the Sick and Housebound

Remember all those in our parish who are sick or housebound, especially: Chris Kirrane, Arthur Mertz, George Cairns, Eileen Middleton, Neville Middleton, Marion Howard, Monica Norton, Dorothy Graham, Betty Ledwich, Nigel Barron, Eileen Grace, Margaret Mary Jackson, Katherine Cowan, Richard Greiner, Celia Crean, Mary Heaton, Joan Hines, Matt Jennings, Ellen Miller, Therese Coop, George Heeds, Joan Whitley, Gerry Pickens, Eric Howard, George Jackson, Beverley Burke, Susan Gradwell

Rest in Peace

Anniversaries

Herbert Hall, Vera Gover, Hugh Doherty, Elizabeth Crowley,
Philis Robson, Frank Beighton, John Butterworth,
Sarah Green, Bernadette Woolley

*May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*