

Fr John – does not ‘write’ but ...

It is now more than a week and a half since Fr John hit a very deep low. More tired and drained than he has ever felt in his life, all he has wanted to do for the last week is sleep.

The following message was received from the Bishop last weekend and I can't help re-iterating it here! "Please assure the parishioners ... of the Bishop's continued prayers for Fr John and them, and his thanks for their constant support of their hard-working, dedicated and excellent Parish Priest during his illness."

Fr John is feeling much better. There is still a long way to go but ... on Wednesday he was allowed out of hospital! The pathology report shows that the cancer had spread to the lymph nodes but the Surgeon is as confident as he can be that he has removed all the dangerous tissue but, to be on the safe side, Fr John will be receiving a course of chemotherapy; the nature of which is still to be decided.

Sick and Retired Priests' Fund

At all masses this weekend there will be a retiring collection on behalf of all those priests who, after a lifetime dedicated to serving others, now require our help. Please be as generous as you can but, more important than the money, is that you pray for an increase in Vocations that others may come forward and offers themselves as others have done in the past.

Thursday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Known popularly as 'Candlemas', Mass today at New Mills celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem. Come along; present yourself before the Lord; take a candle and privately re-dedicate your own your own life to His best service

Next Sunday is Education Sunday

And ... we are grateful to all the young people who will be helping us to celebrate the Mass this day. This is a day when we can say 'thank you' for all that our teachers and ancillary workers do to ensure that the Catholic Education system is the envy of many.

Perhaps, this is a day on which we can encourage all the non-Catholic parents of children in our schools to come along to Mass with their children and demonstrate their appreciation of all that is being done to prepare our young people for a fuller life of responsibility in the world.

Adoration: 5.30 to 6.00pm Next Sunday 5th February

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in a church outside Mass. Our Lord promised to be with his Church "until the end of time" (Matthew 28,20).

One of the most powerful ways that this happens is through the Real Presence of the Eucharist. For the purposes of adoration, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the tabernacle and placed by a priest or deacon on the altar while a eucharistic hymn is sung. There then follows a period of silence, in order for those present to have a chance of listening to and speaking to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of this period, Benediction can follow, in which prayers are said, hymns are sung and finally, the celebrant blesses the assembled people with the host before reposing it in the tabernacle.

Come along! We will end with Benediction.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft sales will take place after all masses next weekend, 4/5th February

Churches Together

Marple and District: Thank you to all who came along last Sunday for the United Service. Our prayers are with Maureen Matthews as she sets about an ambitious program of events during her year of office in which there should be something for everybody. The candle display on the sanctuary has been retained that people might see just how many are involved in Churches Together.

New Mills: are planning their Lent Study Groups and will be using BBC study materials as will be used on Radio 4 (Mon-Fri & Sun) through Lent. The overall theme is FREEDOM - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's statement, "To be free is to be in love, is to be in the truth of God" is used as a starting off point for seems to me to be a Bible-based, but world-rooted journey.

Road Closure – Hollins Lane Retaining Wall

REMEMBER! For the next six or seven weeks there will be no vehicular access from the church to Town Street. Traffic will be permitted to come uphill only.

Last Week's Collection

Loose Change	£201.14	
Envelopes	<u>£547.80</u>	
Total	£748.94	Thank you all

Pray for the Sick and Housebound

Remember all those in our parish who are sick or housebound, especially

Chris Kirrane, 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, Joan Hines, Ellen Miller, George Heeds, Joan Whitley, Gerry and Vera Pickens, Eric Howard, George Jackson, Beverley Burke, Fr. Hugh Doherty, Theresa Hogg, Maureen Mitchell-Kirk, Jean Sorahan, Norah Pierce, Bernadette Tonge, Ian Sharples, Fr John Cairns.

Rest in Peace - Anniversaries

Theoadra Mary Hewitt, M Thompson, Gertrude Abell, E Towse, Albert Arnfield, Bernard McAlhone, M Daly, C Oates, John O'Byrne, Thomas Brindley, John Young, John Derek Schofield, Gertrude Body, Fr B Kevill, Catherine Nicholls, L Ryan, Josephine Thomson, B Liddle, Robert Andrew Bishop and Lucy Bailey

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