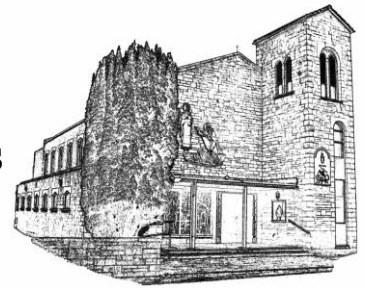


The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

The Presbytery, 12 Church Road, Selsey, West Sussex, PO20 0LS
Phone: 01243 604953

Parish website: www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20th/21st December 2014

Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	Edie Daly RIP	
Sunday	10.00am	For the Intentions of the Parish	
Monday		Weekday of Advent	
	10.00am		
Tuesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass
Wednesday		Weekday of Advent	No Mass

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

	6.00pm	Service of Readings and Carols	
	6.30pm	First Mass of the Nativity	
Thursday		Christmas Day	
	10.00am	Alan and Yolande Welch RIP	
Friday		St. Stephen	
	10.00am		
Saturday		St. John	No Morning Mass

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

	5.30pm	For the Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am		

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm.

[4th Sunday of Advent – page 90 in the Parish Mass Book]

STRAW FOR CRIBS: At the end of Mass the straw for the Church Christmas Crib will be blessed in preparation for putting the crib in place before we begin our celebration of Christmas on Wednesday evening. You are welcome to take a small quantity of the blessed straw to use in making your own crib at home and so make a link between the cribs in the Church and at home.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: The last Advent Service of Penance and Reconciliation this year will be at Our Lady of Sorrows, Bognor Regis on Monday beginning at 7.30pm. Six priests from local parishes will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for those who would like to make a Confession.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: Our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord begins on Wednesday – Christmas Eve – with a Service of Readings and Carols at 6.00pm followed by the first Mass of the Nativity at 6.30pm. All are welcome to mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall after this Mass. On Thursday there will be a Christmas Day Mass at 10.00am after which all will want to return home for their Christmas Day lunch and other traditional festivities.

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

One of the frescoes on the walls of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, that tell the life of St. Francis, is believed to be the earliest record of a Christmas Crib. The tradition is that St. Francis himself was the first person to tell the story of the birth of Jesus in this way: it at once reflects his well known love for animals and his mission to tell the story of Jesus to ordinary people in a way they could understand. As with all religious and devotional art the three dimensional crib depicts a profound truth in a way that is easy to understand and which, at the same time, fuels the imagination enabling people to have a deeper love for and appreciation of the truth shown in the work of art.

It has been reported in the media this year that only about one-third of schools in this country now have a traditional nativity play or presentation at the end of the Christmas Term. As so many people never forget their school nativities, and even remember the roles they played, this seems to be a great pity further distancing a growing number of people from any kind of understanding of the meaning of Christmas.

So it is important for all of us, especially for young families, to make a Christmas Crib in our homes – no matter how simple it may be. It will say something very important about us and our beliefs to all those who come to our home for Christmas drinks or to share a Christmas meal. It may well prompt a thought or two in the minds of our visitors and, possibly, even prompt a conversation giving an opportunity for us to witness to the true meaning of Christmas. It's impossible to imagine the impact throughout the ages, and all over the world, that this simple idea, first thought of by St. Francis of Assisi, has had on countless millions.

STONEPILLOW: The local charity that supports homeless and vulnerable people in West Sussex has become one of our parish Christmas Charities; the other is the Selsey Venture Bus. Proceeds from the Parish Supper and Sing-a-Long, and any donations made to our Christmas Message Board, will be divided between the two charities.

After this weekend our collection of Christmas Gift Boxes will be taken to Stonepillow, as well as any gifts of food for the Stonepillow larder. You can leave donations under the table in the porch.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: There is an invitation to a traditional Christmas Day lunch at Selsey Town Hall for anyone who might otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. There is a poster on the Notice Board and a leaflet to take home with contact details.

RED BOXES: Please return your Red Missionary Box to be emptied; a new one will be available as soon as possible afterwards.

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: The collection taken during Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is, by tradition, a personal gift to the parish priest.

PASTORAL MESSAGE: Next weekend – the Feast of the Holy Family – there will be a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Peter Smith, currently the acting Bishop of our Diocese.

PARISH SUPPER: A great time was had by all at the “musical supper” last Friday. A big thanks to all organised, prepared and contributed to it in any way: a splendid evening and the proceeds – £242.85p – will be divided between our two Christmas Charities (see above).

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Max Foresheew, Tricia Green, Christina Hackett, Nell Hassett, Billy Jones; Dave Mortby, Peggy Owens, Samantha Phillips, Ken Wass, Theresa Watson and all in the parish who are sick.

Please speak to Fr. John if you would like the parish to pray for you, or for someone in your family.

Collections:	13 th /14 th December	Offertory Collection	£385.40p
		Church Maintenance Fund	£100.72p
		Christmas Supper and Sing-a-Long	£242.85p