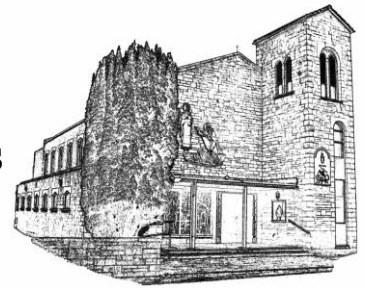


The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Wilfrid

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

Parish website: www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

27th/28th December 2014

Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	For the Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am	Kitty McHugh (anniversary)	
Monday		St. Thomas Becket	
	10.00am		
Tuesday		Weekday within the Christmas Octave	No Mass
Wednesday		Weekday within the Christmas Octave	No Mass
Thursday		Mary, the Holy Mother of God	No Mass
Friday		St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen	No Mass
Saturday		Weekday in Christmas Time	No Morning Mass

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

	5.30pm		
Sunday	10.00am	For the Intentions of the Parish	

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm.

[The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – page 105 in the Parish Mass Book]

PASTORAL MESSAGE: There is Pastoral Letter this weekend from Archbishop Peter Smith, currently the acting Bishop of our Diocese. Reflecting on the Holy Family of Nazareth he has a Christmas message for us on the value and importance of family life.

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION: All donations to this year's Crib Collection will be sent to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre who sponsor charities in the Holy Land that care for and support children in need in Jesus' own land. [The local children's charity, the Cabrini Children's Society, formerly the Catholic Children's Society, no longer exists in its previous form.]

NEW YEAR BREAK: Please note that there will be no Mass in the parish on Friday morning: Fr. John will be taking a slightly delayed post Christmas break.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: Next weekend we will celebrate the Lord's Epiphany marking the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem. A tradition on the Epiphany is to bless water for use in the blessing of families and homes at the beginning of a new year. Please bring a small bottle, or similar vessel, if you would like some blessed water to take home. A sheet will be available with a suggested service for use at home.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Max Foreshew, 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.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE

“May I begin by thanking everyone for all the gifts and cards that I have received this Christmas? The personal messages in some Christmas cards have been particularly encouraging with a number expressing thanks for the contribution they believe I have made to the parish in recent years bringing a renewed “life” and “spirit” to the community. The truth, of course, is that only what already exists can be renewed. So I am happy to pass on the words of appreciation expressed by the few to everyone as we all share in the renewal and continuing growth of our parish community. And I add my own thanks to those of others to everyone for their contribution to the life of the parish: you are the parish which would not be here but for your presence and your commitment.

What has bound the parish together in 2014, as in the previous couple of years, has been largely the efforts around raising funds to put the Church in good order. The fundraising group set itself the very ambitious target of raising £10,000 for the year and very nearly hit it! The result is that this year, having paid all the major bills for repairs, we came out of debt to the bank and now enjoy a modest surplus. As a consequence the Finance Committee has recently agreed to the next stage in the programme of maintenance – replacing the high level windows on the car park side of the Church where the wooden frames have rotted and allow in water when the weather is severe. This will be done in the next month or two with enough money in the bank to pay the bills without going into debt again. It looks as if we will be able to continue fixing the weak points in the fabric of the Church without going “into the red.” So, may I thank everyone, but particularly the fundraising group and all their occasional helpers, for this amazing achievement?

Fundraising is not the only activity that has contributed to the renewal of the parish. During the year we formed a “liturgy group” – a meeting of those involved in preparing and celebrating our worship. They plan together the way we mark the major feasts and seasons of the year, as well as the celebration the liturgy week by week. Their efforts began to show in small ways throughout Advent and Christmas and will continue to grow from these small beginnings. The group also recommended that we look at how we can be more welcoming at Mass: this, too, is beginning to bear fruit.

A small team of volunteers assisted me in the spring, providing vehicles and muscle power, to complete my move from Littlehampton to Selsey. I was most grateful to them as they helped bring to an end my regular “commute” and midweek absence from the parish. While my temporary accommodation is not ideal it is a step forward and, of course, gives me much more time to devote to the parish.

In 2014 we celebrated the funeral rites of twelve parishioners, some of whom have throughout their lives made a significant contribution to the life of the Church and, latterly, to the life of this parish. Others, however, had retired to Selsey some years ago and seem never to have become actively involved in this parish. We have taken steps to be more welcoming at the Church door and now we need to extend this further by finding ways to help people realise that the Church can be as important to them in retirement as ever it was earlier in their lives when working and raising their family – a project for 2015!

I began with thanks for your kindness this Christmas: I end with thanks for your help and support in so many ways throughout the year – it is always very much appreciated.

May I again wish you a Happy Christmas and every Blessing for the New Year?”

Fr. John

Collections: 20th/21st December

Offertory Collection
Church Maintenance Fund

£357.36p
£52.46p