

Dear Parishioner,

**EIN HARGLWYDDES SEREN Y MÔR
OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
LLANDUDNO**

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2009

*may we know Christ more clearly
love him more dearly
and follow him more nearly*

DAY	FEAST	MASS	INTENTION	DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
SAT 21st	Presentation of Our Lady	12 noon 530pm	Sister Jennifer Mary O'Mahoney RIP	Children's Adoration 10am Confessions after both Masses
SUN	Christ the King	930am	For the Parish	Baptism Receptions at Mass
MON 23rd	Feria			
TUE 24th	St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions.	12 noon Requiem	Anne Arrowsmith RIP	Catechism: Years 7 and 8, 4pm Stella Maris Catechumenate 730pm, Stella Maris
WED 25th	Feria	12 noon	Gladys Hibbert RIP	School Governors. Personnel + Curriculum. 7pm SVP 730pm, Stella Maris Eucharistic Adoration. 8pm-9pm
THU 26th	Feria	12 noon 930am Sch 4	Desmond McConn RIP Leeming Family MM	Rosary, 1130am Open House, 2-4pm, Stella Maris
FRI 27th	Feria	12 noon	Colin Clarke RIP	Exposition of Bl. Sacrament from 1230—415pm 3pm Holy Hour; 4pm Benediction
SAT 28th	Feria	12 noon 530pm	Fred O'Loughlin RIP Roy Connolly RIP	Young People's Adoration. 10am Confessions: 415pm-515pm; after both Masses
SUN	Advent Sunday C	9.30am	For the Parish	Baptisms 12 noon

Thank you for Last Sunday's Collection: £689of which £220 was gift-aided = £61 tax refund to Parish)

Thank you for Feed my Lambs:£231 (feeding some 300 starving Sudanese children for a week)
Well done.

The Feed my Lambs Christmas Gift Cards are available in the Sacristy

Newsletter designed by Owen Williams

2008/9 The Year of the Child in our Parish

Parish Priest	Fr Antony Jones Email: antonyjones23@googlemail.com	01492 860546
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Parish Secretary	Mandy Rodrigues mandyrodriques1@googlemail.com	07919972842
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School Head	Elaine Dingsdale penaeth@bwilliamdavs.conwy.sch.uk	01492 875930
Stella Maris	John and Sarah Dennison john.denvic@tiscali.co.uk	01492 877088
Property Manager	John Dennison john.denvic@tiscali.co.uk	01492 877088
Parish Website	www.llandudno-catholic-church.org.uk	

You will notice that the boundary wall is being completed after all, and this because of your very kind response to my emergency appeal at last Sunday's Masses. No lottery winner came forward, but instead a small number of people with big-hearted generosity who contributed a total of £4315, a sum that will enable the wall not only to be completed but completed with the quality and durability befitting a church as old and beautiful as ours. As a community, we are deeply grateful to these generous benefactors. It is reassuring to know that our wall is now nun-proof!

It's interesting that we have been worrying about the building up of a wall at the very time when Europe is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the pulling down of a wall! I was in Berlin in 1990, the year after the wall's breach, and the joy that prevailed there was still very perceptible. That wall had stood for years as a sign of division; a wall that kept people in and kept other people out. Now it was down; unification within Germany and reunification across Europe could now happen. The future was bright with possibilities.

It was very like the metaphorical wall that St Paul spoke about to the Ephesians (2:11-22) and which he said Christ had demolished. The wall that separated the Jews from the rest of mankind, the wall that seemed to indicate that God's love was selective, loving only his Chosen People and leaving the rest of us to rot. But it wasn't like that at all. And when Christ came, it became so obvious that Christ's salvation was for everyone that his Church soon became known as Catholic, (all-embracing), open to men and women of every nationality and culture, to the influential and the marginalised, to the rich and the poor; no one an outsider in the Church of Christ.

Christ has so demolished the wall which separated people that the Church stands in the world as the uniquely unifying principle, the only organisation that can potentially unite us all. Only in and through the Catholic Church, spread as it is across the globe, and united as it is within itself and under the leadership of the Holy Father, can any man or woman, no matter who they are or where they live, enjoy membership of a world-wide family where all members are equally valued and equally respected, where

justice and truth are practised and preached.

*That being the case, you could reasonably conclude that a boundary wall is just what the Church does **not** want. There are no social boundaries in Catholicism, so why should there be a symbol of division, a wall, outside its building?*

Because there always has been! And why? Not to keep people out, but to create a holy space. The ancient Christian churches were usually built in the form of a squared figure 8. The front section was an open courtyard or a covered way, which they called the “atrium” and which often enclosed a fountain, while the back section of the figure 8 was the church itself. They regarded the front area as a place of transition, a peaceful space that would gently quieten your mind and spirit as you passed through it in readiness for the celebration of the Sacraments. People would sit there, quietening their souls, while the bustle and turmoil of the outside world would gently give way to the peace of the church.

No, I am not suggesting that you start sitting around the murky puddles that all too frequently form in our car park, nor that you should stay there a moment longer than you need to, futilely trying to quieten your soul while people manoeuvre their vehicles into their parking places and visiting nuns knock over the wall.

No. Let the church be both atrium and church: both ends of the figure 8. It is a psychological impossibility to switch off, as we do a light, the troubles and cares of our lives and instantly switch on to the mysteries of God. We need space. That’s why I ask you to be quiet before Mass and try to come a bit early. It is not so important if we talk in church afterwards, but before Mass we need time, priest and people alike, to still our souls and prepare ourselves for our great encounter with God in the Holy Mass.

Many are the psychologists and therapists who tell us that we should do the same sort of thing, not only before we begin our worship of God, but also before we start our day. A quarter of an hour to twenty minutes of silence before the busy round of the day’s activities works absolute wonders and has to be experienced to be believed.

So say the modern psychologists. But the Church has been saying so for centuries. Begin your day with God. That is where you belong. For those few minutes you are exactly where you should be, exactly what you were made to be, God’s child, consciously in his hands. No wonder it is so effective. You may laugh and say, “That’s OK for you, Father, in the quiet of the presbytery, but you try it in my house when the kids are getting up!” I take the point. But that quarter of an hour doesn’t have to be when the kids are getting up; when it comes to calming our souls and being with God, any time will do. But were you to get into the habit of spending twenty minutes completely silent in the conscious presence of God, you would find it a practice you wouldn’t give up for the world.

If you read this and say, “Well, perhaps I will and perhaps I won’t”, then you are sitting on the fence, or even on your wall, and that will do you about as much good as that holy nun did to ours. God bless,

Fr Antony.

*God bless you, **Fr Antony.***