

DAY	FEAST	MASS	INTENTION	DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
SAT 28th	Feria	12 noon 530pm	Fred O'Loughlin RIP Roy Connolly RIP	<b>Monthly Penitential Service: 10am</b> Confessions after both Masses
SUN	Advent 1C	930am	For the Parish	<b>Baptisms 12 noon</b>
MON	St Andrew Apostle			
TUE 1st	Feria.	12 noon	Sick Clergy	Catechism: Years 7 and 8, 4pm Stella Maris Catechumenate 730pm, Stella Maris
WED 2nd	Feria	12 noon	Roy Cardus RIP	School Governors. Full Meeting. 7pm SVP 730pm, Stella Maris Eucharistic Adoration. 8pm-9pm
THU 3rd	St Francis Xavier	12 noon	Chris Kelly RIP	Penitential Service: School: Yrs 5 and 6 Open House, 2-4pm, Stella Maris <b>Outreach with Sister Mary Childs, 730pm</b>
FRI 4th	Feria	12 noon	Bishop Edwin	Exposition of Bl. Sacrament from 1230—415pm 3pm Holy Hour; 4pm Benediction
SAT 5th	Feria	12 noon 530pm	Brenda Hartson RIP Kathleen Murray	<b>Young People's Adoration. 10am</b> Confessions: 415pm-515pm; after both Masses
SUN	Advent 2C	9.30am	For the Parish	

Thanks: Last Sunday's Collection: £608, which is a long way short of what the Parish needs just to survive.  
 Thanks: Feed my Lambs:£280 (feeding some 350 starving Sudanese children for a week) Well done.  
 The Feed my Lambs Christmas Gift Cards are available in the Sacristy  
 Welcome to **OUTREACH**, our new prayer group based on the following Sunday's liturgy and led by **Sister Mary Childs IBVM**. Outreach will meet every Thursday at 730pm at SM. All are most welcome.

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

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2009  
Advent Sunday

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

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# Dear Parishioner,

**T**oday, not so much 1 January, is New Year's Day for us. Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we begin a new year of grace, the Church's New Year.

As I said my prayers this morning, these words from the Prophet Habakkuk jumped out at me:

Even though the fig does not blossom,  
nor fruit grow on the vine,  
Even though the olive crop fail,  
And fields produce no harvest,  
Even though flocks vanish from the folds  
And stalls stand empty of cattle,  
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord  
And exult in God my Saviour  
The Lord my God is my strength.  
He makes me leap like the deer,  
He guides me to the high places.

The olive and the fig, the cattle, the sheep and the harvest—to the ancient world these were everything necessary for survival—yet even if all these should fail, the Prophet declares that he would still rejoice and even exult in the Lord.

He doesn't say that should all these fail he would pray to the Lord for help or petition the Lord for miracles; no, he says simply that he would continue to rejoice in the Lord and exult in the God who has become his Saviour.

Habakkuk was certain of one thing: that God was firmly on his side. This bred in him a sense of total confidence and happiness. Positive thinking, we might call it today, but positive thinking firmly grounded in the Lord.

It was the idea of joy that struck me. Let everything fail, and he declares that he would still be joyful, still would exult in the Lord. How often we fail to be joyful even when we have almost everything going for us!

We don't need the psychologists to tell us that we function better when we are happy and content with what we have. So, in the words of St Paul, "let us rejoice in the Lord" this coming year, happy in the Lord, no matter what.

Because the Holy Name of Jesus means Saviour, Habakkuk's words in Hebrew read: "I will rejoice in the Lord and exult in God my Jesus", although he didn't realise at the time the significance of his words. Everything is OK, for the Lord Jesus is on our side.

So let us count our blessings and give thanks for them; for all the people who are dear to us; for all the blessings of home and family; for the blessings of a secure peaceful society; but most of all for God our Jesus and for our wonderful involvement with Him in his dreams for the world through our membership of his Church. Could we make this frame of mind our resolution for this

coming Year of Grace?

**B**ishop Edwin has sent us the Peace Lamp which he promised and which is a personal gift from him to the Parish, as a thank you for your kindness to him at his Golden Jubilee.

The idea, initiated in the Holy Land itself, is to set up such a Peace Lamp in every church across the world, with the invitation to pray for the Christians in the Holy Land and for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The production of the lamps provides work for Christians whose numbers are in step decline and whose very livelihoods are severely threatened. They need our support in almost every way, but especially by our solidarity with them in prayer. The sill where the Peace Lamp stands will be suitably decorated in due time. So, please, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem".

**W**e inherit the blessing of our membership of the Catholic Church from people who have passed it on to us and from others again who were prepared to die for it. One such person was St John Roberts of Trawsfynnedd, whose 400th anniversary of martyrdom we celebrate this year. The Bishop invites you to a Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at Dolgellau on 10 December at 6pm, to begin the year-long celebration in the Diocese of this important anniversary. We hope to arrange a coach. Please sign up if you would like to go. We need to know ap-

proximate numbers by next Sunday evening.

**T**he Bishop has also asked that the following notice be put in the Newsletter:

As you know, there has been public disquiet over certain well-publicised cases involving assisted suicide, and the Director of Public Prosecutions is consulting over new guidelines in this area. There is no intention of changing the law—that is a matter for Parliament—but there is a grave danger that the new guidelines might just do that in effect.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is having a public consultation, which will close on 16 December. The Bishops' Conference has already responded, but I ask that you respond in your own name. Please do so by visiting the Bishops' Conference Website and follow the links: [www.catholic-ew.org.uk](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk).

**A**nd finally: Our nun-proof wall. Despite the persistent rain, work on it has continued undaunted. Rob Williams, much in demand across the town as a precision joiner and meticulous builder, has worked very hard and well, as we knew from experience he would. It will take far more than a holy nun to demolish it now!

God bless you, **Fr Antony**