

DAY	FEAST	MASS	INTENTION	DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
SAT 19th	Advent Feria	12 noon 530pm	Tom and Eileen Brennan June Hughes	Young People's Adoration. 10am Confessions after both Masses and 415-515pm
SUN	Advent 4C	930am	For the Parish	
MON	Advent Feria			
TUE	Advent Feria	12 noon	Stan Cannon	Catechism: 4pm. Catechumenate: 730pm SM
WED	Advent Feria	12 noon	Paul Baraclough	Funeral Service 130pm: Edith McCaffery + SVP 730pm, Stella Maris
THU 24th	Christmas Eve	12 noon 530pm Midnight	Mary Williams Ann Green William Ormandy RIP	Children's Mass, Building the Crib, 530pm Carol Service: 1130 to Midnight Mass
FRI	CHRISTMAS DAY	930am	Jean Thomas	
SAT 26th	St Stephen	12 noon 530pm	James Hibbert Jean Jones	NO Young People's Adoration today Confessions after both Masses
SUN	Holy Family	9.30am	For the Parish	Altar Servers received into the Guild of St Stephen during the 930am Mass

Thanks for Last Sunday's Collection: £601, (falling nearly £500 short of what the Parish needs just to survive, according to an official survey. The situation is becoming desperate. PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION. THE PARISH CANNOT SURVIVE OTHERWISE)

Thanks for Feed my Lambs: £319 (feeding some 390 starving Sudanese children for a week) Well done!  
We are now providing an upgraded package of sandwiches for the homeless on Saturdays and Sundays, a package which includes cheese sandwiches and ham sandwiches, 250 grams of chocolate and some fruit. On Sundays we now add a bowl of hot soup as well. Please continue to contribute to the Poor Box.

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

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2009  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

SISTER JENNIFER, ALL THE SISTERS AT  
LORETO AND I WISH YOU ALL A VERY  
HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Parish Priest	Fr Antony Jones Email: antonyjones23@googlemail.com	01492 860546
Parish Sister	Sr Jennifer Flat 1, Seren y Mor, 8 Caroline Road	07909442305 01492 877778
Parish Secretary	Mandy Rodrigues mandyrodrigues1@googlemail.com	07919972842
Chair of Parish Council	Sarah Dennison john.denvic@tiscali.co.uk	01492 877088
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	

# Dear Parishioner,

I was innocently taking Sr Jennifer's dog, Iolo, for a walk. As we passed down Mostyn Street, I noticed a stall on the corner of the pavement with items for sale and two rather frozen looking ladies attending it, but with no customer anywhere in sight. Maybe it was the Christmas Spirit, but I decided that I would give them a bit of custom, no matter what they were selling. As I drew near, I saw that the stall was entitled, *Animal Lovers*, and was laden with handmade goods, all of a Christmas nature. On the ground, and leaning against the stall was an array of Fr Christmases, all very traditional, about eighteen inches high, hand made in red felt and sporting flowing white beards. They were very nice and I thought I might buy one. I would surely be able to think of someone to give it to for Christmas.

Seeing me approach, the stall holder rushed forward and, bending down, made a huge fuss of Iolo, asking what kind of dog he was. I thought this a little strange of a so called Dog Lover, but I told her that he was a whippet and, no, he wasn't small, that was the proper size for the breed. The fuss continued for a moment or two until it was abruptly terminated by a piercing cry, "Look, he's peeing on Fr Christmas". And, indeed, so he was.

In an attempt to assuage the situation, I clumsily attempted to introduce a bit of

humour, suggesting that the prospective buyer of the peed-on Fr Christmas would only assume that he was supposed to smell like that. But it went down like a led balloon. I thought I had better slip away. My goodbye received no reply.

As I continued my walk, with Iolo no doubt feeling much relieved, I found myself reflecting on the little incident that had just happened. Were they really animal lovers, or was their love for something else, I wondered. And as for me, why didn't I buy that whiffy Father Christmas? After all, I had gone to the stall with the intention of buying something, just for the sake of the freeing attendants. Nor would I have had any difficulty in finding someone to give it to—he was walking on a lead beside me.

My Christmas spirit had been doused (I choose my words carefully!) by the attitude of the stall holders. How easily we can affect a person's mood! How careful we must be to treat one another with kindness! They had upset me, but I had equally upset them. I thought how much we all have to learn. But history repeats itself.

God made a fuss of the Jews, his Chosen People, throughout the lead up to the coming of Christ, but they, metaphorically and systematically peed on

everything He tried to do for them. But did He stop loving them, did He stop making a fuss? Indeed He did not. He sent them his Son, and they abused Him too. And we Christians, on the whole, have behaved little better.

Christmas is the time we celebrate the fact that God, for no hope of personal gain whatsoever, bent down from Heaven and revealed how genuine his love for us really is. His Stall at Bethlehem is entitled *The Human-Animal Lover*. What an amazing thing is the message of Christmas, that God, the Eternal Spirit, should bend down from heaven and demonstrate such genuine love for us, mere animals that we are. No matter what we would throw at him, he would not stop loving us, not stop making a fuss of us, even though it would all lead to the extreme of Calvary. He would not take our No for an answer. The *Goodbye* of Adam and Eve, echoing down the ages, was not replied to. O come, let us worship Him this Christmas.

And let us try to bring someone with us, some Catholic who has lost touch with this wondrous mystery of "Christmas" which we celebrate not only on 25 December but on every Sunday of the year. Tell them we want them to "Come home for Christmas".

The collection at all the Christmas Masses will be for the School. The Welsh Assembly has granted the School

£220,000, with the proviso that the School finds just £15,000. This is fantastic news and major work will begin on the fabric of the School immediately after Christmas. A new roof, new windows, new doors, redecoration and lots more besides, will give the School the kind of uplift it has not had since it was built fifty years ago next year. So please be particularly generous with your Christmas collection.

The lessons for First Holy Communion will begin on 11 January at 4pm at Stella Maris. They are for all the children in Year 3, no matter what school they are attending. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 13 June at the 11am Mass.

Here are the dates of the lessons:  
11,18,25 January  
1,8,22 February  
1,8,15,22 March  
19,26 April  
10,17,24 May.

It is very, very important that the children attend, and attend promptly and regularly. Would parents please ensure that this happens. These lessons on the Eucharist and the place of the Mass in our lives as Catholics are essential. I hope the parents will also attend the special sessions to be arranged for themselves and to encourage their children to reverence the Mass by bringing them to it Sunday by Sunday.

God bless you, *Fr Antony*