

DAY	FEAST	MASS	INTENTION	DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES
SAT 30th	Feria	12 noon 5.30pm	Irene Ruddleston Cathy Owen	Young People's Adoration 10am <b>Confessions</b> after both Masses and 4.15-5.15pm
SUN	Sunday 4C	9.30am	For the Parish	
MON	Feria			<b>First Holy Communion Lessons, 4pm, SM UCM, 7.30pm, Stella Maris</b>
TUE 2nd	The Presentation of Our Lord	6.30pm Candlemas Procession	Liz Pantlin and Jack O'Shea	Catechism: Years 7 and 8, 4pm Stella Maris PC Steering Committee, Presbytery, 5.30pm Catechumenate 7.30pm
WED 3rd	Feria	12 noon	Pauline and Brian Stewart	SVP 7.30pm, Stella Maris Eucharistic Adoration 8-9pm
THU 4th	St Thomas Aquinas	12 noon 9.30 School 4pm House M	Albert Rendell RIP Convent of Mercy Intention Jean and John Sweeney	Open House. 2-4pm Outreach with Sr Mary 7.30pm Stella Maris
FRI 5th	St Agatha	12 noon	Mary Hendrick RIP (MM)	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 12.30-4.15pm Holy Hour 3pm. Benediction 4pm
SAT 6th	St Paul Miki and Companions	12 noon 5.30pm	Sick Clergy Leaming Family RIP (MM)	<b>FAMILY PENITENTIAL SERVICE 10AM</b> <b>Confessions</b> after both Masses and 4.15-5.15pm
SUN	Sunday 5C	9.30am	For the Parish	

**FINANCIAL REPORT.** Thank you most heartily for all monies received during the week. We know the times are hard. **Fact:** The Parish's running costs per week are £1475, including a savings margin for immediate maintenance (see letter). Last week's collection: £956 (a great leap forward but falling short of what the parish needs by £519) **Last week's collection included £281 gift-aided. This will yield a further £79 to Parish Funds from tax relief.** **Fact:** If you "Gift-Aid" your collection you will add a further 28p to every pound you give. Ring Peter Lewis, 546705, **Fact:** Stella Maris is a success story. It not only pays for itself but contributes to parish funds **Feed My Lambs: £531. On top of this the Parish of Old Colwyn has collected £260 for FML**

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

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

## 31 January 2010

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

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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*t's a bit early to say, but you seem, by your comments, to have taken on board the sermon I preached to you last week about the parlous state of the Parish Finances. As I said to you, I disliked preaching that sermon just as much as you disliked listening to it. But there are times in our lives when there is no getting away from things. This was such a time.

I would like to clarify one matter which may not have come over clearly in my sermon. I said that we need £1075 to meet the running costs of the Parish. That is completely right. We need £1075 on the plate to meet the running costs of the Parish.

The Parish actually needs £1400 per week, but the extra £325 comes from such things as baptism, wedding, funeral fees, the sale of votive candles, Stella Maris and the odd donation or legacy we sometimes receive.

**The £1400 a week money needed to be set aside for future essential maintenance works, not least of which is the car park. This equates to about £400 a week. We therefore need £1800 a week to be secure both now and in the immediate future. This means that the weekly offertory collection should be £1475. We now have a concrete figure to aim at. Quite a challenge, but let us all do our level best, for the sake of the Parish and for our Holy Catholic Church.**

The Finance Committee will be addressing you next Sunday with a view to reinforcing the Gift Aid Scheme in the Parish. This adds 28p to every pound you give. But in this too we have slipped back an awful lot since we last promoted it three years ago. Please take an active interest in the parish finances by checking and pondering the Financial Report as it appears weekly on the back page of the Newsletter.

**W**e have received from the Bishop the date for Confirmation. It is Wednesday, 14 July, at 730pm.

As usual there will be four preliminary sessions with me. These sessions will all be at 730pm on Thursdays at Stella Maris. Here is a list of dates:

17 June: "Baptism"  
24 June: "Confession"  
26 June Sat: Confessional Service 10am  
1 July: "Mass"  
8 July: "Confirmation"

All these four sessions, together with the Penitential Service, are required for anyone intending to be confirmed.

The sessions on Tuesday afternoons at Stella Maris, under the direction of our Confirmation Catechists, Mrs Margaret Hunt and Mrs Fleur Williams, are not essential for the reception of the Sacrament, but they are very important and should in fact be attended by **all** children in Years 7 and 8. We are so

grateful to these Catechists who give their valuable time to this important work. During these two years, the young people are taken through the Creed and the Seven Sacraments of the Church. It is the kind of preparation for Confirmation that I cannot possibly hope to achieve in my four short sessions. It is more than just preparation for Confirmation; it is preparation for life—the children are given a mature understanding of the Faith. This is why I urge parents to ensure that their children attend.

But coming back to the four sessions immediately preceding Confirmation, the sessions that I will be conducting myself. As usual, the children should be accompanied by their parents and by their Sponsors.

**P**lease make sure that the Sponsors are dedicated and practising Catholics. It makes no sense at all to have Auntie Mary as sponsor if Auntie Mary has fallen from the Faith and is a continual bad example in this respect to the child concerned.

The same is equally true of sponsors for Baptism. So often those chosen as sponsors are anything but sponsors, quite incapable of inspiring any kind of Christian devotion or spiritual growth in the child, for the simple reason that they have next to no Christianity in their own lives. We should be much more careful about this. In most European countries a person is only allowed to sponsor a child for Baptism or Confirmation if he or she can produce a written reference from the local priest

asserting that he or she is practising the Faith. I think we will adopt the same practice here.

**T**alking about Baptism, let me tell you something about our Baptism Team. First of all, it consists of Antonello and Susie Mosca, Bernadette Davies (nee Lemon) and Marie Dixon.

Bernadette and Marie meet the parents and sponsors of the child to be baptised on the day the child is presented to the Parish, which is now two Sundays before the Baptism. They meet after Mass, over a cup of coffee, at Stella Maris.

The following week the parents and sponsors meet with Antonello and his wife Susie, same time, same place. Antonello, who has a degree in Catholic Theology, and wife Susie lead the parents and sponsors into a deeper understanding of what this wonderful Sacrament is all about. Bernadette and Marie deal more with the practical issues of bringing the child up in the Faith, teaching them to pray, bringing them to Mass. I am so grateful to this team.

In addition to these two sessions, I visit the home prior to these lessons and have a general discussion with the parents on what they are undertaking, its importance and their privilege.

Please keep these teams of Catechists, together with Mrs Dingsdale, our First Communion Catechist, in your prayers.

God bless, *Fr Antony.*