

News from St Michaels Catholic Church leading up to Christmas 2011

We are now approaching the last week of Advent and the preparation for Christmas. We are all busy at this time of year but we should stop and think about the true meaning of Christmas and what it should mean to each and every one of us. For me, Midnight Mass or Christmas Day Mass gives me the chance to be at peace with myself away from the bustle of every day life, to give thanks for the birth of Jesus who came to save the world over two thousand years ago. Seeing the Baby in the crib, listening to the readings and singing the carols retelling the Nativity story, I think back to when I was a child, going to Mass and the excitement of opening presents on our return, and what Christmas means to me now. As a child I remember the crib we had in our home, a tradition I have always carried on in my own home. Coming out of Church on Christmas Eve, the stars in the sky, snow falling, the Christmas tree lit up, greeting family and friends alike with a Happy Christmas wish, without a care in the world. As we celebrate Christmas, we must remember those who are ill, bereaved and lonely, in the belief that the new born Baby Jesus will bring them hope and joy at this time.

We should also remember those who have to work, doctors, nurses, those in the forces, the emergency services, in prisons, hotels and not forgetting our clergy. Last Thursday, our Parish Priest Fr Michael Davies conducted the funeral of Kathleen Fletcher, on Friday he Baptised Zachery Poprawski and on Saturday conducted a service for Gerard and Jennifer John who renewed their wedding vows in front of their friends who were unable to attend their wedding in Australia. Gerard and Jennifer were delighted with their service and thanked the parish for allowing the service to go ahead in such a lovely church. Fr Michael is Parish Priest to two churches so carries out many services at his parish church of St Peter's in Cirencester as well as a Sunday and Wednesday Mass here in St Michaels.

Fr Michael will be busy at Christmas celebrating Mass here in St Michaels on Christmas Eve @ 6.00pm and on Christmas Day @ 9.00am. There will be carols before the 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Fr will also be celebrating Mass at St Peters Church Cirencester on Christmas Eve @ 8.00pm and on Christmas Day @ 11.00am.

The Parishes of St Michaels and St Peters wish you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Elaine Wright

Parish Administrator @ St Michaels Catholic Church, Tetbury