

Masses and Services

30th December 2017 - 7th January 2018

Ramsey

Saturday	6.30 pm	Parishioners
Sunday	11.00 am	Deceased Parishioners of 2017
Monday	New Year's Day 10.00 am	Thanksgiving for favours received
Tuesday	10.00 am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Jordon Family
Thursday	10.00 am	Private Intention
Friday	10.00 am	Gerald McLarnon
Saturday	12.30 pm	Benefactors
	6.30 pm	Thornton & Chapman Families
Sunday	11.00 am	Parishioners

Peel

10.00 am	Communion Service
9.00 am	Felipe Yul Barnabel
Midday	Private Intention
Midday	Stephan Barlow
10.00 am	Communion Service
Midday	Formby Intention
Midday	Rev. L. Leadley
10.00 am	Communion Service
9.00 am	Martin Dempsey Moore

Confessions

Ramsey : Saturday after 12.30pm Mass and 5.45 - 6.15pm ; Wednesday 7.00 pm

Peel: Sunday 8.30- 8.50am

Last Week's Donations

Ramsey £607.42 Christmas Masses £1,135.40 Christmas Hamper Raffle £241.00

Peel £147.19 Christmas Masses £400.41

Feastdays of the Week

Monday	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.
Tuesday	Sts. Basil & Gregory, Bishops & Doctors of the Church
Wednesday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Deepest thanks to all who by their hard work ensured that both churches looked so beautiful at Christmas. You put much effort into it, but the results are wonderful.

Fr. Brian wants to express in the strongest terms his deep thanks to all who sent him cards and gifts for Christmas. The thoughtfulness and generosity of those who gave gifts was truly remarkable. Profound thanks to all.

May 2018 be a year of many graces for all.

Please let me know if you would like any birth, marriage or christening notifications put in this newsletter. Some members of the parish have asked to be notified of such occasions, but your privacy is respected. I will gladly put in such notifications if asked. Would you like to help with the Sunday coffees? Are you interested in helping with the flower arrangements in Church? Maybe 2018 is the year YOU become more involved in your parish instead of leaving to the few. Any comments or suggestions on this newsletter?

Please contact: Gail Fletcher-Cooke Tel: 812014/423112 or gfc@manx.net



Prayer of the Faithful: 'Let the little children come to me,' says the Lord,
We respond: **'and do not forbid them.'**

Readings for the week

Monday: Num 6:22-27; Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, and 8; Lz Gal 4:4-7; G Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 97:1, 2-3ab, 3cd, 3cd, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6; Ps 97:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; G Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 97:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 99:2,3,4,5; Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5: 5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 (or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23,31-34,36,38)

Ramsey

Small Children at Mass

Remember that the first two pews in the Church are marked "Reserved for small children and their families". This permits the children to see more and enable the adults to explain to the children what is going on.

Collection Envelopes

These weekly collection envelopes for 2018 are available now in the Narthex. Please take a pack.

Jesus' coming is an invitation to conversion, Pope Francis says

On Tuesday Pope Francis said there is a strong link between the death of St. Stephan, the Church's first martyr, and the birth of Christ, who came to offer a message that is often uncomfortable and calls us to convert.

"Jesus' message is uncomfortable and inconvenient for us, because it challenges worldly religious power and provokes consciences," the Pope said Dec. 26, adding that after his coming, "it's necessary to convert, to change mentality, to renounce thinking like before...to convert."

Speaking to pilgrims present in St. Peter's Square during his Angelus address for the feast of St. Stephan, which is celebrated the day after Christmas, the Pope noted how it might seem like there is no relation between Jesus' birth and Stephan's death, however, "there is a strong link." When he preached, Stephan put the leaders of the people "into crisis," Francis said, because "he firmly believed and professed the new presence of God among men."

In telling the leaders at the time that Jesus would destroy the temple and change the customs that Moses handed down to them, Stephen understood that "the true temple of God is now Jesus, eternal Word come to live in our midst, (who) became like us in all things, apart from sin."

Despite the accusation that he was preaching the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and therefore facing death, Stephen stayed "anchored" in the message of Jesus until his last breath, with his final prayers being "Lord Jesus, welcome my spirit" and "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

These two prayers, Pope Francis said, are "a faithful echo" of those said by Jesus on the cross, when he prays: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

"These words of Stephan were only possible because the Son of God came to earth and died and rose for us," he said, adding that before this happened, "they were humanly impossible expressions." The Pope then noted that the Risen Christ is the only mediator between God and man, and he intercedes for us not just at our death, as he did for St. Stephan, but in every moment of our lives.

"Without him, we can do nothing," Francis said, explaining that as our mediator, Jesus reconciles us not only with God the Father, but also with each other.

"(Jesus) is the font of love, which opens us to communion with brothers, to love each other, removing every conflict and resentment," he said, adding that "resentments are an ugly thing, they do so much harm and the do us so much harm!"

This, he said, is the miracle of Jesus: that he removes these resentments and "makes it so that we love each other."

Francis closed his address asking that Jesus, who was born for each of us, would help us to assume "this dual attitude of trust in the Father and love of neighbour; it is an attitude that transforms life and makes it more beautiful and more fruitful."