



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



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Lent Week 5

Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year 2, Psalter Week 1

| Date | Celebration | Readings |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday 29th March | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | Ez 37:12-14; Ps 129; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 |
| Monday 30th March | Weekday of Lent | Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Ps22; Jn 8:1-11 |
| Tuesday 31st March | Weekday of Lent | Nm 21: 4-9; Ps 101; Jn 8:21-30 |
| Wednesday 1st April | Weekday of Lent | Dn 3:14-20,24-25,28; Dn 3; Jn 8:31-42 |
| Thursday 2nd April | Weekday of Lent | Gn 17: 3-9; Ps 104; Jn 8:51-59 |
| Friday 3rd April | Weekday of Lent | Jer 20: 10-13; Ps 17; Jn 10:31-42 |
| Saturday 4th April | Weekday of Lent | Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31; Jn 11:45-56 |
| Sunday 5th April | PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | Is 50:4-7; Ps 21; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66 |

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parishes of **St Catharine**, Chipping Campden with Moreton-in-Marsh
Our Lady & St Kenelm, Stow-on-the-Wold, with Bourton-on-the-Water.

**Public Mass is currently suspended at the churches of
The Immaculate Conception, Stroud and
Our Lady and Saint Thérèse, Painswick.**

We pray for all those within our parish and their intentions including: the communities at the Monastery of Our Lady and Saint Bernard, Brownshill and More Hall, Randwick; and all those connected with our schools.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

There are many, including Christians, who struggle to believe in the resurrection and yet it lies at the heart of our faith. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead as a powerful sign of the new life offered to us in faith. Jesus, himself, rose from the dead and we too have had the experience of rising to life in baptism. This eternal life continues to grow within us. Why is it then that sometimes we choose not life but death? We take the easy way out of difficult situations, even if it is the wrong way. We do not live according to the gospel but according to our own selfish motives. When we do this, we are more dead than alive. ***Today's gospel is an invitation to emerge from the tomb of all that keeps us imprisoned. It is a wonderful opportunity to rise once more to joy, love and freedom.***

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

Your prayers are asked for those who are housebound, residing in nursing homes, ill in hospital or sick:

Antonietta Lazdans, Colin Keegan, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, Jean Barber, Helen Hursthouse, Christopher Browne, Gerardo Capaldo, Michael Flint, Clare McDermott, Margot Williams, Gisele Smart, June & John Privett, Olivia Bouzyk, Raphael Moore, Brian O'Donoghue, Mary Grant, Finley, Nicky Golder, Ursula & Desmond Kyne, Imelda Kucharzyszyn, Kitty McCoy, Lisa Knight, Pat King, Francis Kerrigan, Rebecca Frazier, Lucia Mirkovic, Monika Smit, Joan O'Donoghue, Sr Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sr. Catherine, Daryl Jackson, Lola Long, Grace Harper, Jamie Watt, Maggie, Thea Gregson, Gwen Kimpton, Peter Tay, Woody, Ann Enright, Jill Chapman, Janie Wilmot, Kevin Sivell, Rian Harvey, Theresa Finneran, Niall Walker, Cecilia Redgrave, Christopher & Clifford Browne, Victor Vincent, Bevan, Stephen Carden, Murray Dolan, John Stephens, Phyllis Bruton, Marilyn Anderson, Chris Strong, Kate Thorley, Amanda Mullins, Pilar, Paul O'Keith, Simon Terry, John Cibulskas, Anna Dowdeswell, Stephen & Paul Coupe, Anthea Van Venroy, Maisie McGinley & all their carers.

***To add a name to this list please contact the office or email/phone the Editor
– please ensure you have the agreement of the sick person***

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL:
May those suffering from addiction be helped and accompanied

SUSPENSION OF SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

In common with the other bishops of England and Wales, Bishop Declan has issued a decree in light of the current Covid-19 situation. Within this decree it is clear that:

- The obligation of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed until further notice.
- All churches and chapels, as well as other places where regular Sunday and weekday public Masses are celebrated, are to suspend all public Masses.
- The faithful may choose one of the following alternatives to attending Sunday Mass:
 - Taking part may include watching a Sunday Mass online, or on television, and so receive Holy Communion spiritually; OR
 - Reflecting on the Sunday Liturgical text, reading the Bible or saying the Rosary

Although it was hoped that churches could remain open for private prayer, following the Prime Minister's statement on 23rd March, all churches in the diocese are to remain closed until further notice.

A possible form of prayer for use when Mass cannot be publicly celebrated can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/No-Mass-A4.pdf>.

Sunday and daily Mass readings can be found at <https://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>. Sunday Mass and weekday Mass from Clifton Cathedral is available every day at 9:30am on our diocesan website www.cliftondiocese.com. Other Masses & Celebrations can be found at www.churchservices.tv. Other Celebrations including some of those from Rome can be viewed at www.cbcew.org.uk.

Father Gary will be offering Mass privately during this time as 'the continued celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the church.' Requested Mass intentions will continue to be offered, generally on or near to the dates requested

While the parish administration continues, access to the parish office is restricted to appointment only. For those matters normally dealt with by the parish office please use the parish email or telephone **0784 249 5988** (Tuesday to Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm). **The normal parish telephone number should be used to contact Father Gary.**

All parish groups and programmes are suspended until further notice.

There will continue to be a weekly newsletter available on the parish website. Please make the details of the newsletter known to those who may not access the website.

Please speak with Father Gary regarding any other aspects of parish life or sacramental celebration.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: The First Holy Communion programme is suspended until further notice. At this time, it is uncertain whether it will be possible to celebrate the First Holy Communion Mass on 27th June. Similarly, it is uncertain whether the Confirmation Mass planned for Thursday 11th June will be possible. When conditions allow both programmes will be re-planned.

Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary takes place **this Sunday 29th March**: It will be celebrated around the country. The rededication prayers can be found at <https://www.behold2020.com/s/Prayers-of-The-Rededication.pdf>. These are ideally used at 12:00 noon on that day, but may be used at any time. At the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham the rededication prayers will take place at 12:00 noon at the beginning of the midday Mass. This can be seen at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>.

Prayer is always important. Even when we cannot be physically close, prayer unites us. As well as traditional prayers known to us there are also resources online: www.prayasyougo.org offers daily meditative prayer which some may find useful. Some in Stroud are committing to praying the rosary each Tuesday morning at 11:00am.

Baptisms and Marriages cannot take place in the usual way at this time. In any emergency contact Father Gary or Deacon Steve.

Funerals, according to present regulations, 'should take place at either the graveside or crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or cremation authorities. Arrangements should be made for a Mass *in memoriam* when congregations are allowed to gather safely'.

Pastoral Visits by clergy or lay people cannot take place in the normal way at present. Father Gary is happy to speak with people by telephone.

200 Club: The next draw has been postponed.

@stroudRCchurch: You can keep up to date with parish news by following us on Twitter.

Spiritual Communion: Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Editor: Richard McDermott, email: rj3mcd@yahoo.co.uk or by post; NB: To avoid disappointment, items for inclusion in the Bulletin; MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY MORNING at the Parish Office.