



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Beeches Green • STROUD • GL5 4AA • (01453) 762442

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Deacon: Steve Bentley Tel: (01453) 751101 Parish Administrator: Marilynne Morgan Tel: 0784 249 5988

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Twenty-Eighth Week of Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle Year B, Weekday Cycle Year 1, Psalter Week 4

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
Sunday 10th October	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Twenty- Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Canon Des Millett R.I.P. People of the Parishes First Holy Communion Children
Monday 11th October	10:00am (<i>Stonehouse</i>)	Saint John XXIII	Cecilia Boyle R.I.P.
Tuesday 12th October	6:00pm	Weekday	Special Intention
Wednesday 13th October	10:00am 10:45am	Saint Edward the Confessor <i>Holy Hour</i>	The Lavin Family
Thursday 14th October	No Mass	Our Lady of the Rosary	
Friday 15th October	No Mass	Saint Teresa of Jesus	
Saturday 16th October	No Morning Mass	Weekday	
Sunday 17th October	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Twenty- Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Peggy Street R.I.P. Thea Gregson

Diocesan Prayer Link: On this weekend when our Diocese is praying for us, we are thankful for all the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us, and pray that, together with all the parishes of our deanery and diocese, we may give priority in our lives to God and his Kingdom.

**The public celebration of Mass continues this week.
The Sunday Obligation has not been reintroduced.**

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.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'The word of God is something alive and active' we are told at the beginning of today's second reading, and we need to allow his word to sink ever deeper into our hearts and minds, and to ask the Lord for wisdom to understand it, and love to live it out. We are called to bear fruit in abundance and we can only do this as we should by being united with God and being ready to do whatever he asks of us. In our Gospel we have the encounter between Jesus and the rich young man. We are told that Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him. He does the same to us. He invites the young man to take the next step in his journey of faith, but he was not ready at that time to take it. The Lord continually encourages us to follow him faithfully and be ready to give up what distracts us from him. This is the way to the fulness of life and true happiness. We pray to God with the psalmist: 'Fill us with your love that we may rejoice'.

YOUR PRAYERS are asked for those who are housebound, in nursing homes, in hospital or sick including:

Stephen Hassall, Conrad Newman, Jo Curtan, Dermot Mullen, Agnes Willis, Maggie Kieron, Tony Allsopp, Mary Paul, Virginia Couchman, Edward Johnson, Janet Strong, Maria Capicotto, Antonietta Lazdans, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, Gisele Smart, Helen Hursthouse, Gerardo Capaldo, Michael Flint, Clare McDermott, Pat King, Margot Williams, June & John Privett, Olivia Bouzyk, Raphael Moore, Brian O'Donoghue, Kitty McCoy, Finley, Pilar, Ursula Kyne, Imelda Kucharzyszyn, Lisa Knight, Francis Kerrigan, Monika Smit, Rebecca Frazier, Bevan, Lucia Mirkovic, Joan O'Donoghue, Sister Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sister Catherine, Daryl Jackson, Lola Long, Grace Harper, Jamie Watt, Maggie, Woody, Thea Gregson, Peter Tay, Ann Enright, Jill Chapman, Janie Wilmot, Kevin Sivell, Theresa Finneran, Niall Walker, Murray Dolan, Cecilia Redgrave, Christopher & Clifford Browne, Victor Vincent, Stephen Carden, John Stephens, Phyllis Bruton, Marilyn Anderson, Chris Strong, Kate Thorley, Amanda Mullins, Paul O'Keith, Simon Terry, John Cibulskas, Anna Dowdeswell, Stephen & Paul Coupe, Anthea Van Venroy, Maisie McGinley and all their carers.

To add a name to this list please contact the parish office – please ensure you have the agreement of the sick person.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October concerns missionary disciples. We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

First Holy Communion: Congratulations to those children who received Holy Communion for the first time last Saturday. The 10:00am this Sunday is their sending forth Mass. The children are welcome to wear their First Holy Communion clothes, and there will be a celebration for them in the parish hall after Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to come to the hall after Mass. Application forms and timetables for the new First Holy Communion programme are available. Please return these to Father Gary, Deacon Steve or the parish office by 1st November. This programme is for children (year 3 or older) who wish to begin preparation for their First Holy Communion. It will begin with a parents meeting on the evening of Wednesday 3rd November, with the first children's session on Saturday 6th November (10:00am - 12:30pm).

Day for Prayer, this Sunday, for prisoners and their dependents.

Prayers for World Peace will be offered in the Church of Our Lady & St Thérèse, Painswick on Monday 11th October at 12:00 noon. All are welcome. This is part of a Week of Prayer for World Peace (10th - 17th October).

Holy Hour on World Mission Sunday, 24th October at 4:00pm at Saint Joseph's Church, Stonehouse. There will be tea and coffee in the parish hall afterwards.

Synod: The 2023 Synod of Bishops is being inaugurated this weekend in Rome, and there will be an opening ceremony in each diocese next weekend. We are encouraged to use this week for prayer for the Synod. There is an additional sheet available with details of the prayer intentions and a prayer. For more information about the Synod please visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/>, or visit <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-10/pope-francis-discourse-moment-reflection-eve-inauguration-synod.html> for information about the moment of reflection led by Pope Francis on Saturday 9th October.

The 200 Club: The draw for August has now taken place. There were 122 paid members. The winners have been notified. The 200 club is enjoyed by many parishioners and also contributes to parish funds. If anyone thinks that they owe money, or would like to join, please contact the parish office for more details.

Health Centre Parking: The health centre is due to be used for vaccination clinics most Saturdays and some Sundays (including 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st October) until at least the end of the year. When the clinics are taking place there is no parking at the health centre for those using the church. The Saturday clinics are due to continue until 8:30pm. The car park at Saint Rose's School may be used for parking by those coming to the church for Saturday evening Mass and Sunday morning Mass (it must not be used on other days/times).

Dare to Dream: Our diocesan series continues. Please visit <https://cliftondiocese.com/dare-to-dream/> for this week's reflection and video featuring Canon Gregory Grant.

Dates for your Diaries: Our **Christmas Fayre** is planned for Saturday 27th November (9:30am – 1:00pm). Christmas Draw tickets will be available by the end of this month. Also we hope to have the **Carols by Candlelight** service on Wednesday 22nd December at 6:30pm. Please put these dates in your diaries – both events are lovely parts of our parish life.

Catechists Online Meetings: The diocese is seeking to gather catechists, experienced and inexperienced, to meet online to share ideas and to possibly receive a little bit of formation at the same time. Please visit <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/calling-all-catechists-across-the-deaneries/> for more details. As can be seen from this link, catechists from our parish are encouraged to 'attend' this Tuesday 12th October (7:30pm – 8:30pm) if possible (although are welcome to 'attend' on other dates if more convenient), and need to register by emailing adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

We remember in our prayers Helen Wasykiw (mother of Deacon Bogdan) who died recently. Her funeral Mass will be at Saint Peter's, Gloucester on Thursday 21st October at 10:00am. We also pray for her family and friends.

Parish Information during Covid-19: There is a separate sheet available with information regarding the celebration of Mass and other aspects of parish and sacramental life during this time (it is included as pages three and four of the version of the newsletter available from our website).

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SITUATION REGARDING SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

In common with the other bishops of England and Wales, Bishop Declan has issued a decree in light of the 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.
- 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

Public Mass continues in our churches. Some of the restrictions hitherto in place are slowly being relaxed, although this relaxation may be paused or reversed if national or local conditions warrant this. All measures are intended to enable people to confidently and safely participate in the celebration of Mass:

- The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is **not** being reintroduced at this time. Those who prefer not to come to the church for Mass at this time are not obliged to do so.
- Hand sanitiser will be available upon entering and leaving the church.
- It is strongly recommended that face coverings/masks are worn (unless exempt).
- An area of the church continues to be marked for social-distancing. Those seated in those areas should wear face coverings/masks.
- When moving around the church appropriate social-distancing should be maintained.
- Singing will be slowly reintroduced, whether by the whole congregation or by the choir alone. When singing it is particularly recommended that face coverings/masks are worn by members of the congregation until infection levels reduce. Initially the Gospel Acclamation and Great Amen will be sung.
- The Mass continues to be adapted in various ways including the omission of the sign of peace and the distribution of Holy Communion will be under one kind.
- Those wishing to receive Holy Communion or a blessing should come forward in a considerate way, enabling those who wish to observe social-distancing.
- While it is recommended that Holy Communion should currently be received on the hand, those choosing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue and/or kneeling may do so. It may be preferable that those receiving on the tongue or kneeling should receive last. At Stroud they are welcome to wait in the Lady Chapel, and after the priest has distributed Holy Communion to those receiving on the hand and those receiving at their seats, he will come to the Lady Chapel to distribute Holy Communion.
- The collection will be taken at the end of Mass, although people are encouraged to use standing orders or online methods.
- The parish hall facilities are not currently available, but a phased reopening of these facilities should be possible in the coming weeks.
- Directions from the priest, deacon and stewards must be followed.

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. Celebrations from Rome can be found on 'Vatican Media Live' on YouTube. Our Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk is a source for details of celebrations in our country and beyond.

Spiritual Communion: Prayer of Saint 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.*

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

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.

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.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Preparation for these sacraments should resume in the Autumn. If any parent or young person is particularly concerned about receiving these sacraments, they are welcome to discuss the situation with Father Gary.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals can be arranged. For more information contact the Father Gary, Deacon Steve or the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is available in the church by appointment. It may not be possible to celebrate the sacrament before or after Mass as Father Gary has extra responsibilities in preparing for Mass which he cannot delegate at this time.

Pastoral Visits by clergy or lay people can take place, but with certain guidelines regarding frequency and safety. Contact Father Gary to arrange visits, and he is also happy to speak with people by telephone. Please contact Father Gary to request the Sacrament of the Sick.

Parish Finances: Although public Masses have resumed, and there is a collection at the end of the weekend Masses, we are encouraged to use methods which avoid physical cash if possible. Those who currently do not contribute via standing order may like to consider the following:

- Set up a standing order via online banking. Please contact the parish for the necessary details.
- Donate via the 'Paypal' button on the parish website. Donations can be gift-aided if applicable. You do not need your own paypal account to use this service. We believe that the cost to the parish for donating in this way is 1.4% and 20p per donation.

Some second collections are being taken at the end of Mass.

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