



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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15th Week of Ordinary Time

Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year 2, Psalter Week 3

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
Sunday 12th July	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Paddy, Peggy & Michael R.I.P. End of the Pandemic People of the Parish
Monday 13th July	10:00am	Weekday	Special Intention
Tuesday 14th July	<i>Private Prayer from 10:00am until 12:00 noon</i>		
	6:00pm	Weekday	Thanksgiving
Wednesday 15th July	9:30am	Saint Bonaventure	Special Intention
Thursday 16th July	10:00am	Weekday	Janine Ligato R.I.P.
Friday 17th July	10:00am	Weekday	Private Intention
Saturday 18th July	No morning Mass	Weekday	
Sunday 19th July	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Harry Edmond & Nellie Trinder Vocations to the Priesthood People of the Parish

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parishes of **Saint Dunstan**, Keynsham and **Saint Bernadette**, Whitchurch

The public celebration of Mass continues this week.

The Sunday Obligation has not been reintroduced.

Social-distancing measures apply, including reduced capacity.

(Please see below for more details)

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.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

One positive aspect of the last few months has been the attention that people have been able to give to their gardens. The planting and sowing of seeds have seen a resurgence as families have had an unusual amount of time to nurture growth and watch their efforts flourish. In today's Gospel we hear about a different kind of seed – the seed of God's Word. Just as some of the seeds we sow do not flourish, so it is with God's Word, unless we allow it to take root in us and bear fruit. If this is to happen, we need to be open to hearing the Word and enable it to enter our heart. During this year of 'The God who Speaks' we are encouraged to delve deeper into the Scriptures. The more we do this, the more we will allow the Word of God to dwell in us and be the seed that bears fruit in abundance. Our desire to respond to the Lord in and through the Scriptures will be seen in our words and actions that encourage others to want to know Jesus and live by his Word.

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, Sister Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sr. Catherine, Bevan, 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, Murray Dolan, Cecilia Redgrave, Christopher & Clifford Browne, Victor Vincent, Stephen Carden, 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.**

Message from Father Gary

It has been good that we now have Mass with a congregation, and I do thank all those who have helped to make this possible, those who helped to get the church ready and obtain the necessary diocesan permissions and, of course, the stewards and those who clean the church after each celebration. There will be Masses every day this week (please note the slightly earlier Mass time on Wednesday this week) and an opportunity for private prayer on Tuesday morning. Saturday morning Mass is not being reintroduced at this time. I include again below the current instructions regarding public Mass in our churches:

- 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.
- Numbers will be severely restricted so that the two-metre rule can be observed. There are **33 places** in Stroud. Some of these can be for more than one person if they are from the same household. The capacity at Painswick is **22 individuals**.
- Once the designated church capacity is reached further people may not be admitted.
- Social distancing must be maintained.
- Hand sanitiser will be available and must be used upon entering and leaving the church.
- Face coverings/masks may be used, but are not compulsory if the two-metre rule is maintained.
- Those attending Mass will have to use the pews as indicated by the stewards.
- The Mass will be adapted in various ways including the omission of: the prayers of the faithful; procession of the gifts; and the sign of peace. The collection will be taken at the end of Mass, although people are encouraged to continue to use standing orders or online methods.
- At least initially altar servers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will not exercise their ministry during Mass, and access to the sacristy before and after Mass will be limited to the priest, deacon and stewards. The sacred vessels will be prepared by the priest and deacon.
- There will be one reader for the first reading, psalm and second reading who will be provided with single-use gloves.
- There will be no singing.
- Before the distribution of Holy Communion the priest will raise the Sacred Host and say: 'The Body of Christ', and then everyone may respond 'Amen'. He will then raise the chalice and say: 'The Blood of Christ', and then everyone may respond 'Amen'. This will remove the need for any dialogue when each communicant comes forward.
- **Holy Communion must be given silently in the hand only, with the communicant standing, and avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward for Holy Communion by the stewards, always aware of the regulations on social distancing. When they approach the priest or deacon (or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion) they should do so with arms at 'full stretch' so that there is a good distance between the priest and the communicant. Their hands, palms upwards, one on top of the other, should be extended as flatly as possible. Having received Holy Communion, communicants should move back to their pews or chairs.**
- At Stroud there will be a designated route for entering and leaving the church.
- At Painswick please observe social-distancing when entering or leaving.
- After Mass the church will be closed for cleaning.
- There are no toilet facilities available at this time.
- Directions from the priest, deacon and stewards must be followed.

All measures are intended to enable people to confidently and safely participate in the celebration of Mass.

Ecumenical Liturgy of the Word : There is an ecumenical prayer 'Zoom' meeting every Sunday at 5:00pm. Please contact Malcolm Savidge (malcolmandjudith@yahoo.co.uk) for the registration number and code.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July is for '**Our Families**'. We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance. As Pope Francis has reminded us elsewhere: 'Let us choose the way of Jesus. It is a way that demands effort, but the way that brings peace'.

Sea Sunday is normally celebrated at this time of year and is a day of prayer for seafarers. This year it is being postponed until December due to COVID-19. However it is good for us to also remember those who live and work at sea at this time, and to be aware of the additional challenges they are facing due to the pandemic. Seafarers are commonly recruited from poorer countries where wages are lower. They work in difficult and often dangerous conditions suffering from loneliness, spiritual deprivation and even exploitation as they transport the goods we use and consume every day. The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS) is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain and it reaches out to seafarers who visit our ports each year, offering pastoral and practical support and care. It depends on voluntary donations to continue its work; it takes the love of Christ to seafarers in the name of the Church, recognising them as our brothers and sisters in need. AoS makes a real difference to the lives of seafarers. Everything AoS does is on behalf of Britain's Catholic community. Their ministry cannot continue without us. Although the collection for the AoS which would normally take place on this day is being postponed we can still donate online. Please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk for more details about their work, the effect of the pandemic and to make a donation.

Supporting those in Need: While we are mindful of financial changes we may be facing as individuals and families and also our parish finances (see below), it is also important that we consider how to support others who may be in need. There are many organisations, both church-based and otherwise, who can merit our support. Both prayer and financial support are required. Church organisations to consider include:

Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): This does important work in many parishes around our diocese and country, offering support to those who need it. More details, and how to donate, can be found at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/covid-19-crisis-appeal>.

Missio: In many areas of the world, it will be the Church that responds to the medical and pastoral needs of people who are suffering. Pope Francis has established an emergency fund to help people and communities tragically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. He asks us to consider what each should contribute to help the Church overseas, through Missio. More details, and how to donate, can be found at: <https://missio.org.uk/donate/covid-19-emergency-fund/>.

Cafod: Our agency for overseas development is also seeking to respond to the needs of those overseas where conditions include: fragile health care systems; less developed infrastructure; less state welfare support; inferior housing and sanitation; as well as general poverty. For details of Cafod's Coronavirus emergency appeal please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>.

Cafod boxes and money can be returned to the parish, and any full Missio APF/Mill Hill Red Boxes can also be returned.

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

Parish Finances: Although public Masses have resumed, and there will be 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.

Second collections are postponed at present.

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*

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 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.
- 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 has resumed in our churches, although as stated above there is no obligation to attend.

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

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.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: The First Holy Communion programme is suspended until further notice. The First Holy Communion Mass planned for 27th June has been postponed. Similarly, the Confirmation Mass planned for Thursday 11th June has also been postponed. When conditions allow both programmes will be re-planned.

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.

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

Funerals may be celebrated within strict regulations. Arrangements may be made for a Mass *in memoriam* when congregations are allowed to gather safely.

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

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