



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

✉ stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com 📞 stroudcatholicchurch.com



Parish Priest: Father Gary Brassington - gary.brassington@clifftondiocese.com

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Caroline Rush ✉: PSR.stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com

26th Week of Ordinary Time

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

| Date | Mass Times | Celebrations | Intentions |
|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday 27th September | 6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am | Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Deceased members of the Kelly Family Antony Lerpinière R.I.P. |
| Monday 28th September | 10:00am | Weekday | Father Thomas Lawes |
| Tuesday 29th September | 6:00pm | Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael | Special Intention |
| Wed 30th September | 10:00am | Saint Jerome | Maggie Ind |
| Thursday 1st October | 10:00am | Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus | Special Intention |
| Friday 2nd October | 10:00am | The Holy Guardian Angels | Special Intention |
| Saturday 3rd October | No morning Mass | Weekday | |
| Sunday 4th October | 6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am | Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time | People of the Parish Pope Francis Regina Laimute Latkauskiene R.I.P. |

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parishes of **Christ the King**, Thornbury and **Holy Cross**, Wotton-under-Edge

The public celebration of Mass continues this week.

The Sunday Obligation has not been reintroduced.

Social-distancing measures apply, including reduced capacity.

(Sheets with details of these are available from our churches or with this newsletter online)

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

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

In the parable of the two sons Jesus asks us to think whether our words and actions are in agreement. It is easy to talk, to pronounce and to make statements. It is more difficult to give time, effort and attention. Every Sunday at Mass we profess our faith, a faith which through our Baptism we are commissioned to live out in the daily activities of our lives. It is easy for us to say the words of the Creed, but it will be by our actions that will demonstrate our commitment to working for the reign of God during the week. Jesus values a few small acts more than many fine words.

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, 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, Sister 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.**

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October is for 'The Laity's Mission in the Church'. We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

Fratelli Tutti is to be the title of the next encyclical letter of Pope Francis, which will be issued next Sunday 4th October and will be available from the Vatican website www.vatican.va. The encyclical will be dedicated to 'fraternity' and 'social friendship'. The title is a direct quotation from Saint Francis (taken from the *Admonitions*, 6, 1: FF 155) and this Italian phrase will be the universal title of this letter addressed to the whole of humanity. It will be signed by Pope Francis on the tomb of the Saint next Saturday evening, the vigil of his feast day. His feast would be celebrated as a solemnity in Assisi and so would have precedence over the Sunday of Ordinary Time. In most churches in England and Wales this is not the case.

Second Collection next weekend for **Peter's Pence**. This annual pontifical collection is normally held around 29th June, but this year has been transferred to this weekend. Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need. The collection for the proceeds from the **Cafod Harvest Fast Day** (normally the first Friday in October) will be taken on 10th/11th October (visit <https://cafod.org.uk> for more information and resources for adults and young people).

Month for Mission : We are encouraged to see the month of October as a month particularly dedicated to prayer and support for the missionary work of the Church, with its highpoint being **World Mission Sunday** on the penultimate Sunday (this year 18th October). There are daily reflections in the new Mission Today magazine (available at <https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Mission-Today-Autumn-2020.pdf>). During this month Children may like to use the calendar available from <https://missiontogether.org.uk/download/4839/?v=4840>, while there is a weekly Gospel sheet for children, accessible near the end of webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/home-and-parish-resources/>, throughout the year.

The 200 Club draws have recommenced, with the delayed February draw having taken place recently. There were 192 paid members and the three winners are being 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

The Evangelist is the magazine of Saint John's Seminary, Womersley, which is the seminary for many of those preparing for priesthood for our diocese. Some copies have been sent to the parish, and they may be obtained from Father Gary or Deacon Steve. We pray for all seminarians and their formators, particularly those for our diocese and for the rest of England and Wales. Eighteen men from our countries and beyond begin their propaedeutic (foundation) year for formation at the Royal English College, Valladolid, Spain, this week. This is where Father Gary went to seminary for six years and he is currently a trustee.

Supporting those in Need: While we are mindful of financial changes we may be facing as individuals and families and also our parish finances, 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. Organisations to consider include Missio (please visit <https://missio.org.uk/donate/>), Cafod (<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>), Saint Vincent de Paul Society (<https://www.svp.org.uk/covid-19-crisis-appeal>) and Stroud Foodbank (<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>). Cafod boxes and money can be returned to the parish, as can any full Missio APF/Mill Hill Red Boxes.

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 version of the newsletter available from our website).

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

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.

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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 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. If seeking to attend Mass please be aware that the following instructions apply (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.
- 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 and face coverings/masks are to be worn (unless exempt).
- Hand sanitiser will be available and must be used upon entering and leaving the church.
- Those attending Mass will have to use the pews/chairs 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.
- There will be one reader for the first reading, psalm and second reading who will be provided with single-use gloves. The reader may remove their face covering/mask while actually reading.
- 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. The communicant should unloop their face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving back to their pew or chair in an orderly manner.**
- 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.

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.

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.

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. For more information 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.

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.

Second collections are postponed at present.

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