



# A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year 2, Psalter Week 4

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6:30pm ( <i>Saturday</i> ) 8:30am ( <i>Painswick</i> ) 10:00am	<b>Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Susan Diana Franklin R.I.P. Nicky Golder R.I.P. Thanksgiving and Petition
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10:00am	<b>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>	Abbot Martin
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6:00pm	Our Lady of Sorrows	Hélène McDermott
<b>Wed 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10:00am	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian	People of the Parish
<b>Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10:00am	Saint Edith of Wilton	Special Intention
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10:00am	Weekday	Private Intention
<b>Sat 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	No morning Mass	Weekday	
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6:30pm ( <i>Saturday</i> ) 8:30am ( <i>Painswick</i> ) 10:00am	<b>Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Mervyn Ind R.I.P. Des Harper & Peter Stephens R.I.P.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** We pray for the parishes of **Saint Peter**, Swindon and **Sacred Heart**, Royal Wootton Bassett

**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, Brownshill and More Hall, Randwick; and all those connected with our schools.

### **Twenty Fourth Sunday:**

Bud Welch, an American whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma bombing describes how he was eaten up with hate and a desire for revenge. When he realised that this hate inside was killing him, he started to think about his daughter and what she would have wanted. Being able to move forward when we have suffered comes when we are released from our pain. We need healing, we need to be able to forgive and we need to be forgiven. It is difficult because it can feel like a betrayal of the past. How can we let go and forgive? Forgiving another does not come easily to us. Harder still is the struggle we have seeking forgiveness for wrongs that we have committed. Yet the capacity to forgive and be forgiven is necessary if cycles of violence are to be broken. We do not have to do this alone. The love which God has for us also brings forgiveness and the chance to renew our relationships and begin again. It is a chance for us to have a different future one that is not dictated to by what has happened in the past. For Bud Welch it was his faith and his desire for healing that led him to forgive the killer. His act of forgiving, he says, 'freed him' more than it freed the killer. He found peace and freedom and the chance to once again think of his daughter with joy.

### **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 September** is for 'Universal Respect for the Planet's Resources'. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

**Second Collection** this weekend is for the **Holy Places and Christians in the Holy Land**. This is one of the three pontifical collections we take each year, the others being Peter's Pence (moved from June to 4<sup>th</sup> October this Year) and World Mission Sunday (on 18<sup>th</sup> October). There is a clearly marked collection box at the back of the church, along with the one for the normal parish collection. This collection normally takes place on Good Friday, but, as in many countries, including our own, it was not possible to celebrate the Holy Week liturgies in the normal way, Pope Francis approved it being transferred to this Sunday, near the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14<sup>th</sup> September). That Feast recalls three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary; and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II. But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation. This instrument of torture, designed to degrade the worst of criminals, became the life-giving tree that reversed Adam's Original Sin when he ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden.

**Thomas Lawes** is due to be ordained to the priesthood for our diocese on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11:00am at Clifton Cathedral. The current Covid-19 restrictions mean that there is limited entry to the Cathedral for this Mass. It will be streamed on our diocesan website [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com). We pray for him at this time.

**Rosary School Admissions** : If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2021 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of Gloucestershire County Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. For more details about admissions to our Rosary Primary School please visit <https://www.rosaryschool.org.uk/Our-School/Admissions/>.

**School Governors** : Could you be a School Governor? The Diocese is seeking to recruit people to serve on school governing bodies. If you believe in Catholic education, have enthusiasm and commitment, then you can make a valuable contribution to the governing body of a Catholic school. It also provides the opportunity to use your life/work skills and experience, for the benefit of the children in our schools. If you think you could serve as a Foundation Governor then please contact [bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com) or 07710094976 for more information.

**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.

**Marah Trust:** Marah drop-ins are still operating on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday offering food to take away only. All drop-ins are at the Scout Hut to better manage social distancing. Marah has a target of 200 regular donors of £3 per month by the end of 2020. It costs £3 to make a nutritional two course meal covering costs for ingredients, hall rental and equipment. The food is prepared and distributed by volunteers. To help Marah reach their target and for information about making donations please visit [www.marah.org.uk/donate.php](http://www.marah.org.uk/donate.php).

**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](mailto: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](http://www.cliftondiocese.com). Celebrations from Rome can also be found on 'Vatican Media Live' on YouTube. Our Bishops' Conference website [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> June has been postponed. Similarly, the Confirmation Mass planned for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.prayasougo.org](http://www.prayasougo.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.**