



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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29th Week of Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year 2, Psalter Week 1

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
Sunday 18th October	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish Nicky Golder R.I.P. Evangelisation of Peoples
Monday 19th October	10:00am	Weekday	Mervyn Ind R.I.P.
Tuesday 20th October	6:00pm	Weekday	Bernard Kelly R.I.P.
Wednesday 21st October	10:00am	Weekday	Maggie-Jo Ormonde R.I.P.
Thursday 22nd October	10:00am	Saint John Paul II	Christopher Hackett R.I.P.
Friday 23rd October	10:00am	Weekday	Special Intention
Saturday 24th October	No morning Mass	Weekday	
Sunday 25th October	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Gilberte McCarthy R.I.P. People of the Parish Maria McClarkin R.I.P.

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parish of **Saint George**, Warminster

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 Ninth Sunday

Jesus is very clear that we are called to serve God and be a good citizen at the same time. God works in and through every stratum of society to build community. We are instruments of God's love and desire for unity. Rarely, except in situations of social justice, do we find ourselves in conflict with what the law asks of us and what our conscience is telling us. When we do, we must speak out, but with compassion, with love and with respect. God needs each one of us to serve the wider community, to build relationships wherever we are. Witnessing to God's presence by my own life gives dignity and worth to those around me.

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

Marilynne Morgan, Antonietta Lazdans, Colin Keegan, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, Jean Barber, Gisele Smart, Helen Hursthouse, Christopher Browne, Gerardo Capaldo, Michael Flint, Clare McDermott, Margot Williams, 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.**

This Sunday is World Mission Sunday which unites Catholics all over the world in prayer and celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people – 'Here I am, send me!' is the theme. We are also encouraged to give what we can to the **second collection** for Missio, the Pope's organisation for supporting world mission. We will be supporting missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. There are some copies of the magazine Mission Today at the back of the church which contains an envelope for gift-aiding contributions. Apart from the collection Missio can be contacted on 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or via www.missio.org.uk to give a single gift or set up a direct debit (and gift aid donations if possible).

'Fratelli Tutti' - the title of the new encyclical letter of Pope Francis: was issued Sunday 4th October and is available from the webpage www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html. The letter is dedicated to 'fraternity' and 'social friendship'. In the encyclical the Pope tells us that 'Saint Francis expressed the essence of a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives'. His letter is addressed to the whole of humanity.

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.

Mother Teresa Group: The group would like to thank all those who have supported them, but ask that in the current Covid-19 climate if people would **not** send them anything further at this time.

Safety and Wellbeing at Home: Many of us will be spending more time at home as the days become shorter and colder. Here are a few organisations who could support you in keeping safe/well this autumn and winter:

Warm and Well - managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency on behalf of seven local authorities in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire Warm and Well offers energy efficiency advice to households and administers grant funding on behalf of the local authorities and other funders: 0800 500 3076 (9:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday) or www.warmandwell.co.uk.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service provides a free service to those who cannot fit their own smoke alarms. Please call 0800 180 4140 to book your 'Safe & Well' home visit.

Stroud District Foodbank is available for those who cannot afford food. You can contact any of the following agencies who issue vouchers: Citizens Advice, P3, Stroud District Council Housing, Independence Trust, CGL, children's centres, health visitors and social services. They also work with schools and doctor's surgeries.

The 200 Club: 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.

Standing Order Donations: From the Diocese to our parishioners who kindly donate by monthly Standing Order. The way in which Standing Order donations are made to the parish needs to change because of the introduction of a new computer system being used by the Diocese to make Gift Aid claims. The new system requires that donations are paid directly into the Parish bank account rather than via a diocesan bank account. The Diocese will shortly be writing to all current Standing Order Donors asking them to complete a new Standing Order (or, if preferred, a Direct Debit) made payable directly to the parish and to cancel their existing Standing Orders paid to the Diocese. This change will benefit the parish as they will receive your donation directly each month without this processing delay. Your donation is extremely valuable to your parish and the Diocese, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

We remember in our prayers Bernard Kelly who died recently. We also pray for his family and friends. Due to Covid-19 restrictions attendance at the funeral is limited. However, it is hoped that a memorial Mass will be arranged in the future. Mass will be offered for Bernard this Tuesday at 6:00pm.

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).

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.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.