



# A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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## 34<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

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

Date	Celebration	Readings
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>	Ez 34:11-12,15-17; Ps 22; 1Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Weekday	Apoc 14:1-5; Ps 23; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Saints Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	Apoc 14:14-19; Ps 95; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Weekday	Apoc 15:1-4; Ps 97; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Weekday	Apoc 18:1-2,21-23,19:1-3; Ps 99; Lk 21:20-28
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Weekday	Apoc 20:1-4,11-21:2; Ps 83; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Weekday	Apoc 22:1-7,2; Ps 94; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>First Sunday of Advent (Year B)</b>	Is 63:16-17,64:1,3-8; Ps 79; 1Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** We pray for all in all university, college and school chaplaincies in the diocese

**Public Mass is currently suspended at the churches of  
The Immaculate Conception, Stroud and  
Our Lady and Saint Thérèse, Painswick.**

(For more details please see the separate sheet available from our churches or 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.

**Feast of Christ the King:** In the film *Chocolat*, a small, French, Catholic community follow the rules of the Church to the letter of the law, but some villagers are often miserable, cruel, unkind, judgmental and critical of each other. When a young woman arrives in the town and opens a chocolate shop her way of life is frowned upon. Her desire to bring joy and happiness to the people of the town brings change in how people relate to one another. Eventually, the young parish priest, himself full of doubt, finally sees the truth. In his homily on Easter Sunday he preaches: *'I'm not sure what the theme of my homily, today, should be. Do I want to speak of the miracle of the Lord's transformation? No, not really, no I don't want to talk about his divinity. I want to talk about his humanity. I mean, you know, how he lived his life here on earth; his kindness, his tolerance. Listen, here's what I think. We can't go round measuring our goodness by what we don't do, by what we deny ourselves, what we resist and who we exclude. I think we have to measure our goodness by what we embrace, what we create and who we include.'* Next week is the start of Advent. We are still living with the pandemic and many people are tired, unsure of what Christmas will bring. But this we do know, Jesus entered our world to live amongst the most vulnerable in society, reaching out in compassion and love and mercy. Today's gospel encourages us to do the same.

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

Marilynne Morgan, Pauline Breslin, Antonietta Lazdans, Colin Keegan, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, Jean Barber Gisele Smart, Helen Hursthouse, Christopher Browne, Gerardo Capaldo, Michael Flint, Clare McDermott, Pat King, Margot Williams, June & John Privett, Olivia Bouzyk, Raphael Moore, Brian O'Donoghue, Mary Grant, Finley, Ursula & Desmond Kyne, Imelda Kucharzyszyn, Kitty McCoy, Lisa Knight, Francis Kerrigan, Monika Smit, Pilar, Rebecca Frazier, Lucia Mirkovic, Joan O'Donoghue, Sister Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sister Catherine, Bevan, Daryl Jackson, Lola Long, Grace Harper, Jamie Watt, Maggie, Woody, Thea Gregson, Gwen Kimpton, 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 & 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.**

**Opportunities for Private Prayer** in our churches this week are: **The Immaculate Conception from 10:00am until 12:00 noon on Sunday** (the church is unavailable for the normal private prayer on Wednesday this week); and **Our Lady and Saint Thérèse, Painswick from 8:30am until 9:30pm on Sunday**. Do remember that there is Sunday Mass and weekday Mass from Clifton Cathedral available every day at 9:30am on our diocesan website [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com), while one of the statements on behalf of the Bishops' Conference includes that 'We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6:00pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21 November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic'.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November is for 'Artificial Intelligence'**. We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

**This Sunday is Youth Sunday** and is a **Day of the Prayer for Young People**. Please visit <https://nationalyouthsunday.com> for information and resources.

**Next Sunday** is the First Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the Church's year. Sunday readings will be from Year B and weekday readings will be from Year 1. Mission Together Advent Calendars and other resources to help children live out the season of Advent can be downloaded from <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/advent-resources/>.

**Our Parish Christmas Raffle:** Only two weeks to go until we draw the raffle on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Have you got your tickets? More raffle tickets are available from the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday (10:00am - 3:00 pm). If you need raffle tickets delivered to you or counterfoils collected, please inform the parish office on Tuesday or Thursday with your details and this can be arranged. You can return counterfoils to the parish office or the letterbox if the office is closed. Top Prizes include: 1. Dinner, B&B at Double tree by Hilton Bristol; 2. 6 ft Nordmann Fir Christmas Tree; 3. Christmas Hamper; 4. Large Christmas cake; 5. Trio of wine; and many more prizes. Good luck everyone!

**Stroud Foodbank** partner with over 27 agencies and charities and 14 schools in order to reach over 1000 people. This Christmas they aim to help the poorer families in our communities celebrate by putting together hampers, for which they need our donations. They are looking for sweets, chocolates, luxury crisps, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding, mince pies, hot chocolate, nuts, savoury crackers, gravy granules, dried stuffing, tinned ham and Christmas preserves. They request items be donated before 4<sup>th</sup> December as hampers are packed and delivered by 14th December. Items can be donated at their warehouse in Brimscombe or via some of the supermarkets in the area.

**Red Box Donations:** Throughout the year we support the missionary activity of the Church through the Missio/Mill Hill Red Box. Red Box holders are reminded that boxes should be returned for emptying at the end of November (or beginning of December if Mass resumes if this is easier) for the annual count. Those who do not wish to use physical money at this time, or prefer not to handle the Red Box can also donate in the following ways: send a cheque made payable to 'Missio – Mill Hill' either to the parish or to 'Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU'; by telephone on 020 7821 9755; or online at [www.missio.org.uk/redbox](http://www.missio.org.uk/redbox). When using any of these methods please ensure you state our parish name so that the contribution is correctly allocated.

**Sunflowers Suicide Support** are inviting everyone to share a light in the darkness by decorating their home, shop or business window including a form of light and a Sunflowers signposting hope note. A prize can also be won. To download the signposting hope note and for more details please visit <http://www.sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk/Light-up-December/>.

**Envelope 59:** Please will the person who uses collection envelope 59 please contact Father Gary or the parish office with their name, address & telephone number as these details are missing from our records.

**We remember in our prayers** Pasquale Lautieri and Thelma Williamson who died recently. We also pray for their families and friends.

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

### **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*

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 unfortunately been suspended. Hopefully it will resume in early December, but we await confirmation of this. Statements on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-from-the-president-and-the-vice-president-of-the-conference-on-the-prime-ministers-statement/> and <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-on-the-four-week-national-lockdown-and-a-call-to-prayer/>.

The Immaculate Conception Church will be open for private prayer on Sundays from 10:00am until 12:00 noon (the church is unavailable this week for the normal Wednesday opening), while the Church of Our Lady and Saint Thérèse, Painswick will be open for private prayers on Sundays from 8:30am until 9:30am. People visiting the church will need to observe the following:

- Only private, individual prayer is permitted (no directed or group prayers)
- Those under 16 are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult
- Those considered vulnerable should consider whether they feel it is safe for them to enter the church
- Those with Covid-19 symptoms, or any cough or cold symptoms must not enter the church
- If there are busy periods it may be necessary to wait outside the church until admitted by the stewards, and if there are people waiting then visits will be limited to 20 minutes
- At Stroud entrance to the church will be through the Walsingham door and exit will be through the main church door. At Painswick please observe social-distancing when entering or leaving
- Seating must be used as directed by the stewards and pews/seats will need to be cleaned after use. Not all areas of the church will be accessible.
- Social distancing must be maintained
- Hand sanitiser will be available and must be used upon entering and leaving the church
- Face coverings/masks need to be worn inside the church, unless exempt.
- There are no toilet facilities available at this time
- Directions from the stewards must be followed.

These measures should help everyone to have confidence in visiting our church, and also ensure that the permission to open our church is not withdrawn.

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>. This includes a prayer for Spiritual Communion, which can also be found on the weekly parish newsletter and the version of this guidance in our churches.

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.

Father Gary will be offering Mass privately during this time as 'the continued celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the church.' Requested Mass intentions will continue to be offered, generally on or near to the dates requested.

## **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.

**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](http://www.prayasyougo.org) offers daily meditative prayer which some may find useful.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** There is still no indication when it will be possible to prepare children for First Holy Communion or begin the programme for Confirmation in the normal way. If any parent or young person is particularly concerned about receiving these sacraments, they are welcome to discuss the situation with Father Gary.

**Baptisms and Marriages** cannot take place in the usual way at this time. For more information contact Father Gary or Deacon Steve.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and Sacrament of the Sick:** Please contact Father Gary in any serious need.

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

**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:** Some people previously enquired regarding parish finances, and how to contribute to the parish without the weekly collection. This is important as although our churches are closed for public worship, our parish continues to function and expenses continue to be incurred. Those who currently do not contribute via standing order and who would like to continue to support the parish financially during this time can use one of the following methods:

- 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.
- Send a cheque to the parish office (although these may not be presented to the bank for some weeks).
- Wait until public Masses resume.

These methods are for donations to the parish. They are not for second collections, which are postponed at present.

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