



A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

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

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

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

Twenty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle Year B, Weekday Cycle Year 1, Psalter Week 4

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
Sunday 12th September	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Anthony Derbree R.I.P. People of the Parish John Street R.I.P.
Monday 13th September	10:00am	Saint John Chrysostom	Thanksgiving and Petition
Tuesday 14th September	6:00pm	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Special Intention
Wednesday 15th September	10:00am 10:45am	Our Lady of Sorrows <i>Holy Hour</i>	Special Intention
Thursday 16th September	12:45pm	Funeral Mass	Silvia Zalums
Friday 17th September	10:00am	Saint Edith of Wilton	Maureen Gray
Saturday 18th September		Weekday	
Sunday 19th September	6:30pm (<i>Saturday</i>) 8:30am (<i>Painswick</i>) 10:00am	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mervyn (R.I.P.) & Maggie Ind and Family and Friends People of the Parish Regina Laimute Latkauskiene

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parish of: **Saint Thomas More**, Marlborough
with **Holy Family**, Pewsey.

**The public celebration of Mass continues this week.
The Sunday Obligation has not been reintroduced.**

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-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

'You are the Christ' says Saint Peter to Jesus in our Gospel today, but Peter needs to understand that Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, is destined to suffer and die, before rising again. When he tries to dissuade Jesus from the path of suffering, Jesus tells him that he is not thinking in God's way. Like Saint Peter and the rest of his disciples, we too need to become willing to renounce ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Jesus. Even if his way is not always easy, it is the only way worth taking, and while we may need to pass through suffering and death, our destination is the fulness of life of the resurrection. This risen life we show forth now by reaching out to those in need. True faith is expressed in action as Saint James reminds us in our second reading. Even now, as we say (or sing) in our psalm, we can walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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

Stephen Hassall, Conrad Newman, Jo Curtan, Dermot Mullen, Agnes Willis, Maggie Kieron, Tony Allsopp, Mary Paul, Virginia Couchman, Edward Johnson, Janet Strong, Maria Capicotto, Antonietta Lazdans, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, Jean Barber Gisele Smart, Helen Hursthouse, Gerardo Capaldo, Michael Flint, Clare McDermott, Pat King, Margot Williams, June & John Privett, Olivia Bouzyk, Raphael Moore, Brian O'Donoghue, Kitty McCoy, Finley, Pilar, Ursula Kyne, Imelda Kucharzyszyn, Lisa Knight, Francis Kerrigan, Monika Smit, Rebecca Frazier, Bevan, Lucia Mirkovic, Joan O'Donoghue, Sister Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sister Catherine, Daryl Jackson, Lola Long, Grace Harper, Jamie Watt, Maggie, Woody, Thea Gregson, 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 and all their carers.

To add a name to this list please contact the parish office – please ensure you have the agreement of the sick person.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September concerns an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Friendship Circle will resume on Tuesday 21st September at 1:00pm in the parish hall. New members are welcome.

Education Sunday: This Sunday is a day of prayer for students and teachers. We pray in a particular way for our Rosary Primary School, Saint Rose's School and Saint Peter's High School. We continue to need **foundation governors** for schools across our diocese. For more information please visit: <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/new-bishops-video-for-school-governors/>. This includes a video with contributions from various people including Rosy Savory, the headteacher of our primary school, whose contribution was filmed in our parish church.

Dare to Dream: Our diocesan series which began in Lent and Eastertide continues this month. Please visit <https://cliftondiocese.com/dare-to-dream/> for this week's reflection and video featuring Father Michael Healy. Next week's reflection which should be available from Friday was filmed on our parish church and features Father Gary..

First Holy Communion: There will be a First Holy Communion Mass on Saturday 2nd October at 11:00am for those children who began their preparation for First Holy Communion last year, and have resumed their preparation programme in the last few days. We pray for the children at this time, and everyone is welcome to the Mass on 2nd October. The programme for children (year 3 or older) who wish to begin preparation for their First Holy Communion will begin in November with a parents meeting on the evening of Wednesday 3rd November, with the first children's session on Saturday 6th November (10:00am - 12:30pm). There will be a further four children's sessions over the following months (along with a couple of parents meetings and other elements of the programme), with First Holy Communion Masses on the weekend 14th/15th May.

Confirmation: It is hoped that Bishop Declan will visit our deanery to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation during 2022. Application forms are available for young people in Year 9 or above. These need to be returned to Father Gary, Deacon Steve or the parish office by the end of September so that decisions about the preparation programme and the celebration(s) with the Bishop can be made. The forms can also be returned to school chaplain, Mandy Baker, at Saint Peter's High School.

Catechists Day: On Saturday 25th September our Diocesan Adult Education Department is seeking to draw together catechists from around our diocese, as well as those involved in parish formation and evangelisation, as a way of offering an opportunity for conversation and formation, focusing on family catechesis. David Wells and Ingrid La Trobe will help to reflect on the role of parents in catechesis and give catechists the confidence to enable them to be the first teachers of their children's faith. The day will take place at Saint John the Baptist Parish centre, Trowbridge, and will start at 11:00am and finish around 4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided from 10:30am, but those attending need to bring a packed lunch. Numbers will be limited for the day so please register early via the Adult Education email: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

Clifton Diocese Safeguarding Officer: The Catholic Diocese of Clifton is committed to safeguarding and this vacancy (part-time – 21 hours per week, Wednesday to Friday) provides an opportunity for a skilled and experienced professional to join the Safeguarding team. The Safeguarding Officer role supports the ongoing development of safeguarding across the Diocese, the management of cases, and working with the Safeguarding Coordinator, responses to safeguarding issues that arise. The successful applicant will need to have a comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding legislation, policy procedure and best practice guidance and come from a background of either Social Work, Health, Probation or Policing, with specific experience in safeguarding. For further information/informal discussion about this role please contact Becky Cawsey, Safeguarding Coordinator, Clifton Diocese on 0117 954 0993. Closing date for receipt of applications is 17th September.

We remember in our prayers Silvia Zalums (Funeral Mass on Thursday at 12:45pm) who died recently. We also pray for her family and friends.

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 the version of the newsletter available from our website).

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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 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 continues in our churches. Some of the restrictions hitherto in place are slowly being relaxed, although this relaxation may be paused or reversed if national or local conditions warrant this. 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.
- Hand sanitiser will be available upon entering and leaving the church.
- It is strongly recommended that face coverings/masks are worn (unless exempt).
- An area of the church continues to be marked for social-distancing. Those seated in those areas should wear face coverings/masks.
- When moving around the church appropriate social-distancing should be maintained.
- Singing will be slowly reintroduced, whether by the whole congregation or by the choir alone. When singing it is particularly recommended that face coverings/masks are worn by members of the congregation until infection levels reduce. Initially the Gospel Acclamation and Great Amen will be sung.
- The Mass continues to be adapted in various ways including the omission of the sign of peace and the distribution of Holy Communion will be under one kind.
- Those wishing to receive Holy Communion or a blessing should come forward in a considerate way, enabling those who wish to observe social-distancing.
- While it is recommended that Holy Communion should currently be received on the hand, those choosing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue and/or kneeling may do so. It may be preferable that those receiving on the tongue or kneeling should receive last. At Stroud they are welcome to wait in the Lady Chapel, and after the priest has distributed Holy Communion to those receiving on the hand and those receiving at their seats, he will come to the Lady Chapel to distribute Holy Communion.
- The collection will be taken at the end of Mass, although people are encouraged to use standing orders or online methods.
- The parish hall facilities are not currently available, but a phased reopening of these facilities should be possible in the coming weeks.
- 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 be found on 'Vatican Media Live' on YouTube. Our Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk is 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.

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 offers daily meditative prayer which some may find useful.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Preparation for these sacraments should resume in the Autumn. If any parent or young person is particularly concerned about receiving these sacraments, they are welcome to discuss the situation with Father Gary.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals can be arranged. For more information contact the Father Gary, Deacon Steve or the parish office.

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 can take place, but with certain guidelines regarding frequency and safety. Contact Father Gary to arrange visits, and he is also happy to speak with people by telephone. Please contact Father Gary to request the Sacrament of the Sick.

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.

Some second collections are being taken at the end of Mass.

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