A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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First Week of Advent

Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year 1, Psalter Week 1

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
Sunday 27th November	6:30pm ***(Saturday)*** 8:30am ***(Painswick)*** 10:00am	**First Sunday of Advent (Year A)**	Conboy Family R.I.P. People of the Parishes Michael & Lucia Mirkovic R.I.P.
Monday 28th November	10:00am ***(Stonehouse)***	Advent Weekday	Special Intention
Tuesday 29th November	6:00pm	Advent Weekday	Private Intention
Wednesday 30th November	6:00pm	**Feast of Saint Andrew**	Father Nick Tranter R.I.P.
Thursday 1st December	10:00am 7:00pm	Saint Alexander Briant *Reconciliation Service*	Bishop Mervyn Alexander
Friday 2nd December	9:30am ***(Woodchester)***	Advent Weekday	Christine Gordon R.I.P.
Saturday 3rd December		Saint Francis Xavier	
Sunday 4th December	6:30pm ***(Saturday)*** 8:30am ***(Painswick)*** 10:00am	**Second Sunday of Advent**	Peggy, Paddy and Michael McNally R.I.P. Rachel R.I.P.. People of the Parishes

Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the parishes of: Saint Joseph, Stonehouse; and the Annunciation, Woodchester.

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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November 2022 is for children who suffer. We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

We continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine: Donations for the Cafod Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, which will go to help the people of Ukraine and also others around the world affected by war and conflict, can be made at https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis.

YOUR PRAYERS ***are asked for those who are housebound, in nursing homes, in hospital or sick including:***
Margaret Holman, Clare Barton, Andy Hughes, Ian Spencer, Maggie Ind, Stephen Hassall, Conrad Newman, Jo Curtan, Mary Paul, Virginia Couchman, Edward Johnson, Janet Strong, Maria Capicotto, Antonietta Lazdans, Vivienne Tarn, Sarah Williams, 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, Ursula Kyne, Imelda Kucharzyszyn, Lisa Knight, Francis Kerrigan, Monika Smit, Rebecca Frazier, Joan O'Donoghue, Sister Quentin, Peter Ollis, Peter McCombie, Anne Allen, Sister Catherine, Daryl Jackson, Grace Harper, Jamie Watt, Thea Gregson, Peter Tay, Ann Enright, Jill Chapman, Janie Wilmot, Kevin Sivell, 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, 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.

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the Church's year. Sunday readings will be from Year A and weekday readings will be from Year 1.

Christmas Fayre and Draw: Many thanks to all those who supported these events. Saturday's fayre was a lovely occasion. The total raised so far is approximately £3000. There will be further information next week. There will be tea and coffee after the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses this weekend with the opportunity to purchase some of the items remaining from the fayre.

Reconciliation Service at 7:00pm this Thursday 1st December. There will also be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Saint Joseph's, Stonehouse from 3:15pm on Saturday 17th December before the carol service. Father Gary is also happy to celebrate the Sacrament with people on request.

Second Collection next weekend for the poor missions of the diocese.

Walk with Me booklets for adults and calendars for children for Advent are available at the back of the church. These can help us to live the advent season more fruitfully. They are free of charge (although you may like to leave a donation in the repository box). An alternative Advent Children's calendar is also available from Mission Together. This, along with other resources to help children live out the season of Advent, can be downloaded from https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/advent-resources/. Some copies of the Diocesan Directory (£6.00) and Liturgical Diary (£6.50) are also available.

The **Repository** is open in the parish hall after the 10:00am Sunday Mass. Items available include Christmas cards, Advent calendars, missals, bibles, catechisms and religious medals.

Cafod Christmas Cards: A selection of Traidcraft Christmas cards will be available for sale after each Mass this weekend. Buying these cards (cash only please) will support the work of Cafod.

The Stroud Foodbank continues to provide important help for those who need it. For more information on how to 'get help' or 'give help' please visit their website https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk. Food items for the foodbank (not fresh, frozen or refrigerator items) can be left at the back of the church. Monetary donations are also needed. These can be made via their website, or cash (no cheques) donations for the foodbank in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Foodbank' can be given into the parish office (or to the stewards at weekend Masses).

Saturday is the feast of Saint Francis Xavier and is a **Day of Prayer for Migrants**.

Patronal Feast: Our parish patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Thursday 8th December. There will be Mass at 10:00am (when our primary school children will be present) and 7:00pm. The evening Mass will be followed by a **fish and chip supper** in the parish hall. The cost for the supper is £10.00 per person. Please book (and pay for) your meal this weekend after the Masses, or call into the parish office. Friday 9th December is celebrated as the Solemnity of the Dedication of our parish church. Mass will be at 10:00am on that day.

Advent Mission Retreat organised by Missio on Sunday 11th December in our parish hall beginning at 1:00pm and finishing with Mass at 5:00pm. To reserve a place please contact Marilynne in the parish office (stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com or 01453 762442).

Candlelight Christmas Carol Service at Saint Joseph's, Stonehouse on Saturday 17th December at 4:00pm, and in our parish church on Wednesday 21st December at 5:30pm. All are welcome to these events. (The Carols by Candlelight organised by Saint Peter's High School is on Tuesday 13th December).

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 by the weekend of **10th/11th December** for the annual count. Those who do not wish to use physical money at this time 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. When using any of these methods please ensure you state our parish name so that the contribution is correctly allocated.

A Fresh Start: People Affected by Imprisonment: Clifton Diocese, in partnership with Caritas Plymouth, is hosting 'A Fresh Start: People Affected by Imprisonment' on Zoom this Tuesday 29th November from 7:00pm until 8:00pm. This is an opportunity to explore prison ministry, praying together and learning about the context of prison ministry from speakers with first-hand experience in prison ministry. To register please visit https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KidbqQHRkEKiqby9p4Zaca73jzxgOQNHsGHGCFRchfhUNDFFRDdDUVdFMlNEV1JMQVdXWVNHWEQzWSQlQCN0PWcu&qrcode=true.

Rosary School Admissions: Please visit https://www.rosaryschool.org.uk/reception-admissions-2023-1/ for details about admissions for September 2023 or email head@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk.

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