



# A WARM WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

✉ [stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com) 📞 [stroud.catholicchurch.com](http://stroud.catholicchurch.com)



**Parish Priest: Father Gary Brassington - [gary.brassington@clifftondiocese.com](mailto:gary.brassington@clifftondiocese.com)**

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

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Caroline Rush ✉: [PSR.stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com](mailto:PSR.stroud.immaculateconception@clifftondiocese.com)

## Holy Week

**Sunday Cycle Year C, Weekday Cycle Year 1, Psalter Week 2**

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	6:30pm ( <i>Saturday</i> ) 8:30am ( <i>Painswick</i> ) 10:00am	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	Special Intention People of the Parishes Pat Stephens
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:00am ( <i>Stonehouse</i> )	Monday of Holy Week	Pat Stuttle R.I.P.
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	6:00pm	Tuesday of Holy Week	Thanksgiving
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	11:00am	<b>Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral</b>	
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	11:00am	<b>Funeral Service</b>	Paddie Spruyt

### Sacred Triduum

Day	Date	Time	Celebration
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	7:30pm	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> <i>Including Washing of Feet.</i>  <i>Mass will be followed by watching before the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer at 11.50pm.</i>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:00am 12:00 noon 3:00pm	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer  Family Stations of the Cross <i>Our children will help lead this celebration.</i>  <b>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord</b>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:00am 12:00 noon 9:00pm	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer  Blessing of Baskets ( <i>at Saint Joseph's, Stonehouse</i> )  <b>Easter Vigil</b> <i>Including Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Blessing of Holy Water, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Reception into the Church, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.</i>
<b>Sunday of the Resurrection</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	8:30am ( <i>Painswick</i> ) 10:00am	<b>Easter Sunday Mass Easter Sunday Mass</b>

*There will also be celebrations at the Annunciation, Woodchester:*

*Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 7:00pm;*

*Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday at 3:00pm;*

*Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at 8:30pm; and Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00am.*

*There will be Easter Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph's, Stonehouse at 9:00am.*

*There is Mass at More Hall Convent on Sundays at 11:00am and normal Weekdays at 8:15am.*

*There will be: Mass at 8:00pm on Holy Thursday; Stations of the Cross at 11:00am on Good Friday;*

*Solemn Liturgy at 3:00pm on Good Friday;*

*Easter Vigil at 8:00pm on Holy Saturday; and Mass at 11:00am on Easter Sunday.*

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** We pray for the parishes of: Saint George, Taunton;  
Saint Teresa of Lisieux, Taunton;  
and Saint John Fisher, Wellington, with Saint Richard, Wiveliscombe.

## **Holy Year – Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope**

*May the grace of the Jubilee spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

**Palm Sunday:** The 6:30pm Mass on Saturday begins with the blessing of palms, as well as the 8:30am Mass at Painswick. For the Sunday 10:00am morning Mass we gather outside of the church for the blessing and then process into the church. There is no parking available in the church car park on Sunday morning to allow for this.

**Holy Week** begins today with Palm Sunday. This is the most important week of our year. Please particularly consider attending the three principal celebrations of The Sacred Triduum which begins on Thursday evening at 7:30pm with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues on Good Friday afternoon at 3:00pm with the Solemn liturgy of the Lord's Passion, with the highpoint of our great Easter Vigil at 9:00pm on Holy Saturday evening. There will be no 6:30pm Mass next Saturday. There will be Mass on Easter Sunday at 8:30am at Painswick and at 10:00am in Stroud.

**Easter Vigil:** Our Easter Vigil will begin in the church car park so there will be no parking there on Saturday evening although Saint Rose's should be available for parking. After the Easter Vigil there will be a celebration in the parish hall. If you wish to bring some food for that event please bring it to the hall from 7:30pm on Holy Saturday Evening.

**Altar Servers:** There will be practices for the altar servers for the three principal ceremonies of the Sacred Triduum at 4:00pm on Holy Thursday, and at 11:00am on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Greenery in Church for Easter:** If you have access to any freshly cut spring greenery for decorating our church, please bring it to the church on Thursday (before 10:30am or after 1:00pm) or Friday.

**Pastoral Letter:** Copies of last week's pastoral letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill available near the entrance to our churches, along with some cards which may be posted to our MPs. The text of the letter can also be found at the end of the article at <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/cardinal-to-catholics-urge-your-mp-to-vote-against-the-deeply-flawed-and-under-scrutinised-bill-on-assisted-suicide/>. There is also a link on that webpage to an online way of contacting MPs.

**Hot Cross Buns** will be available, along with the normal refreshments, this Sunday after the 10:00am Mass. Donations will be for our SVP Conference needs and projects.

**Chrism Mass:** The Chrism Mass takes place at Clifton Cathedral at 11:00am this Wednesday. There will be a coach leaving Stroud at 8:45am (with later pickups at Stonehouse and Dursley). The coach is due to leave the Cathedral at 12:30pm for the return journey. The cost will be £8.50 per adult (£3 per child) and will be collected on the coach. There are sheets to sign in our churches if you would like to reserve a place or contact the parish office. This is one of the great diocesan occasions of the year.

**Good Friday** is a day of fast and abstinence. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year and flesh meat is forbidden. The law of fasting binds those between 18 and 59 years of age (unless a medical condition prevents this), when one main meal and collations are allowed. Also do please remember that since September 2011 every Friday which is not a solemnity is a day of abstinence.

There will be a **Family Stations of the Cross** on Good Friday at 12:00 noon.

**Holy Places and Christians in the Holy Land** collection at the end of the afternoon liturgy on Good Friday.

**Easter Offering:** As is customary the collection at the Easter Vigil and at the Masses on Easter Sunday is an offering to the Parish Priest. Collection envelopes are available for those who wish to use them. Collections at any Masses at More Hall and at Our Lady and Saint Bernard, Brownhill will be for their respective chaplains. The collections at Saint Joseph, Stonehouse and the Annunciation, Woodchester will be given to Father Bill. Any offerings for Father Benedict (who will be celebrating Masses in Stonehouse and Woodchester for the next few weeks) should be placed in a clearly-labelled envelope.

**Friendship Circle** continues this Wednesday at 1:00pm in the parish hall. New members are welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):** Father Gary is happy to celebrate the sacrament by appointment. Please contact Father Gary to arrange a mutually convenient time. This may not be possible before or immediately after Mass. This Sacrament should not ordinarily be celebrated between the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Easter Sunday except for a serious reason.

**Pilgrims of Hope: a Day of Reflection for the Jubilee Year:** 'Come away and rest a while' (Mark 6:31) on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June (10:30am – 4:00pm) with Father Matthew Jarvis OP and Sister Ann Catherine Swailes OP at Saint Rose's School. There will be further details nearer the time. For more information please contact Sister Julie OP ([alvesjulie@hotmail.com](mailto:alvesjulie@hotmail.com)). This will be a lovely part of our parishes' participation in the jubilee year.

**Pastoral Area Website:** A website for our Pastoral Area of Saint Wulstan has been launched. It will continue to be developed over the coming weeks and months. Please visit it at [www.saintwulstan.org.uk](http://www.saintwulstan.org.uk).

**Holy Year Pilgrimage:** During this Jubilee Year one of our major Pastoral Area events is the **Saint Wulstan Southern Way Catholic Pilgrimage** from Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May until Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Perpetual pilgrims will walk 100 miles or so from Worcester (the titular city of Saint Wulstan's large diocese) to Bristol (where he persuaded slave traders of his time to cease). As well as the perpetual pilgrims we are all invited to: walk for some of the way; engage with Masses and other events each day along the route; and support the pilgrimage through prayer and other ways. For more information, including the stops within our pastoral area, and how we can be involved as a perpetual pilgrim (register by 27<sup>th</sup> April), independent day or half-day pilgrim (register by 11<sup>th</sup> May) or locally as we walk, talk, pray and celebrate, please visit <https://saintwulstan.org.uk/pilgrimage/>. There is an email address on that website for further information. It is due to pass through our three parishes on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May, with a stop at Our Lady and Saint Thérèse, Painswick, at 1:30pm, and Saint Joseph's, Stonehouse, from 5:00pm. There will also be morning prayer at Saint Joseph's on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 8:30am.

**More Hall Residential Care Home** has vacancies at present for those requiring care. As we know it is a small care home, run by the Grace and Compassion Benedictine Sisters, together with lay staff. They welcome permanent residents and respite care. For more information please contact Sister Elsy by telephone (01453 764486), email ([moorehallconvent@gmail.com](mailto:moorehallconvent@gmail.com)), or post (More Hall Convent, Randwick, Stroud GL6 6EP).

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2025** is for the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

**We continue to pray for peace in the world**, including the situations in the Middle East and Ukraine. Donations for the Cafod Appeals can be made online: for the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=israelipalestiniancrisis>; and for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>.

**Myanmar/Thailand:** We continue to pray for the situation in Myanmar and Thailand. Donations for the DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal can be made via Cafod at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/myanmar-earthquake-appeal>.

**We remember in our prayers** Paddie Spruyt (Funeral Service on Thursday at 11:00am), George McLaughlin and John Hyland who died recently. We also pray for their families and friends.

**We also remember in our prayers** those who are housebound, in hospital or who are sick including: Jeanette Cass, Sam Kirby, Susan Squire, Mary Towell, Caroline Sellick, Naomi King, Maggie Ind, Conrad Newman, Jo Curtan, Mary Paul, Virginia Couchman, Edward Johnson, Maria Capicotto, Sarah Williams, Gisele Smart, Gerardo Capaldo, Clare McDermott, Pat King, June & John Privett, Olivia Bouzyk, Raphael Moore, Ursula Kyne, Brian O'Donoghue, Lisa Knight, Francis Kerrigan, Monika Smit, Rebecca Frazier, Joan O'Donoghue, Peter Ollis, Anne Allen, Sister Catherine, Daryl Jackson, Jamie Watt, Peter Tay, 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.