

DURING THIS PANDEMIC, BISHOP DECLAN REMINDS US ALL THAT EACH DAY OF THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS COUNTS AS IF IT WERE CHRISTMAS DAY. DO CONSIDER CHOSING ONE OF THE DAYS IN THE OCTAVE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS MASS ATTENDANCE, TO LIMIT THE RISK OF SPREADING THE VIRUS THIS WINTER. THANK YOU.

Thu 24th Dec	5.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass in St Peter's 9.00pm Mass of Christmas Night in St Michael's Midnight Traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's
Fri 25th Dec	9.00am Dawn Mass of Christmas in St Michael's 11.00am Day Mass of Christmas in St Peter's 12.30pm Traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's
Sat 26th Dec	Noon Mass of St Stephen in St Michael's NO SUNDAY VIGIL AT 6.00pm
Sun 27th Dec	9.00am Holy Family Mass in St Michael's 11.00am Holy Family Mass in St Peter's
Mon 28th Dec	Noon Mass of the Holy Innocents in St Peter's
Tue 29th Dec	Noon Mass of St Thomas of Canterbury in St Peter's 6.00pm Traditional Latin Mass
Wed 30th Dec	Noon Mass of the Octave in St Michael's
Thu 31st Dec	Noon Mass of the Octave in St Peter's
Fri 1st Jan	Noon Mass of Mary, Mother of God in St Peter's



GAUDETE SUNDAY
ADVENT III

CONTACT US

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An Advent Prayer to prepare for Christmas LORD Jesus Christ, at Your first coming You sent Your messenger before You, John the Baptist, to prepare Your way: Grant that the ministers and stewards of Your mysteries may prepare and make ready the celebration of Your first coming in the same way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, so that, at Your second coming to judge the world, we may be found an acceptable people in Your sight, Who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



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ADVENT III (YEAR B)

Gaudete Sunday

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sat 12th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's (Priscillian and Hilaria Zerda RIP)
 Sun 13th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (M.E. Thomas RIP)
 11.00am Mass in St Peter's (Pro Populis)

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

[Advent Week 3 – From the 17th Dec, readings etc. are found by date, not day of the week]

Mon 14th Dec. St John of the Cross
No Public Mass

Tues 15th Dec Advent Feria
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's ()
11.00am Funeral Mass for Fred Halliday
 6.00pm Traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's

Wed 16th Dec Advent Feria
 10.00am Mass in St Michael's ()

Thu 17th Dec Late Advent Feria – O Sapientia [Start of the O Antiphons]
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Fri 18th Dec Late Advent Feria – O Adonai
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's
 Noon Traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's (Pinky and her family)

Sat 19th Dec Late Advent Feria – O Radix Jesse
 10.00am Mass in St Michael's

NEXT WEEK – ADVENT IV – O Clavis David

Sat 19th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's
 Sun 20th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's
 11.00am Mass in St Peter's

CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY AT PRESENT

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION & UNDERSTANDING
 IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES AND WE WISH YOU A BLESSED
 SUNDAY**

We intercede: -

- For the Universal Church, summoned by the message of the Baptist: that each member on earth may be joyful, as they watch and prepare for Christ's Advent.
- For the peoples of this world and their leaders: that all may work to grant liberty to those unjustly imprisoned, addicted or oppressed.
- For those suffering with Corona Virus or caring for them: that God may see and reward their struggles and sacrifices.
- For our own society and the whole United Kingdom: that the poor and downhearted may hear the Good News and know the kindness of active Christianity.
- For ourselves, our parish and deanery: that we may hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.
- For Clifton Diocese and especially the parish of Amesbury: that together they may work hard for the salvation of souls.
- For the sick, the bereaved, the housebound and for all who care for them, whether at home and in hospitals and care homes: that their difficulties may draw them closer to God the Word.
- For the faithful departed: that they may rest in peace, with all their sins forgiven. We remember Marta Ferro, Albert Evans, Fred Halliday, Priscilliano and Hilaria Zerda whose funerals occur at this time.



Church Preparations for Christmas It is hoped that St Michael's flower arranging, tree decoration and crib erection will take place **after 10.00am Mass on Wednesday 23rd December O Emmanuel**. St Peter's hopes to do the same **after 9.30am Mass Tuesday 22nd December O Rex Gentium**.

Because of That Virus, the following measures have been put in place:

1. **No baskets are passed around at the Offertory, but are at the back of the church to put your offering and charity donations on leaving the church**
2. **No hymn books (because there's no singing), Mass cards etc. at present. Use a bulletin and take it home!!!!**

MASS TEXTS

Tetbury Christmas Tree Festival Tetbury's annual Christmas tree festival will open in St Saviours On the 4th December until the 3rd January. St Michael's have a tree displayed, the theme this year is 'Love'. At the foot of the tree there will be blank labels, for your personal prayer, thought or wish. Just hang it up. Do visit if you have the time. Give a little love



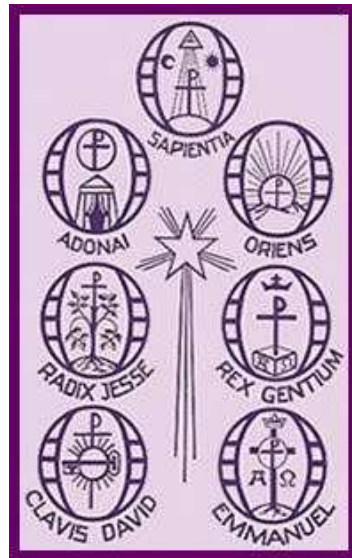
Thought for the Week Gaudete Sunday is like Laetare Sunday - They both are light-hearted breaks from the earnestness and discipline of preparation. You could be forgiven for thinking, however, that the coming celebrations were simply grim, materialistic occasions for over-eating and selfishness, if you looked around the faces in the shops!

We must not be so wrapped up in wrapping presents and stocking larders that we lose sight of the joy and relaxation, which accompany these holidays. A stepping back to enjoy and appreciate on this Rose Pink Sunday allows us also to keep an eye on folks other than ourselves. We can spot those without joy in their lives or the wherewithal to celebrate as we do. Don't wait until the feast of Stephen to look out with St Wenceslaus and see those in need of our help and a share in our joy.

Prayer to St Michael, recommended by the Holy Father

Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits, who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

Parish Office the Parish Offices are working as usual but must remain closed to the public. Any queries by email will still be answered. There will be someone to answer the phone in person on a Friday morning only in St Peter's. Our contact details are below. *If you need a priest urgently, please phone St Peter's Church on 01285 652087*



Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near!

NO SUNDAY GLORIA UNTIL CHRISTMAS ARRIVES

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2 & 10-11

Responsorial Psalm. My soul rejoices in My God!

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8 & 19-28

Gospel Reflection We hear in this Sunday's Gospel the holy forerunner, prophet and Baptist John preparing for the adult ministry of Christ and asking people to turn to God. This serves to remind us that the coming season of Christmas is not just about the miraculous birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. The Season of the Incarnation will celebrate the arrival of the Saviour. First Advent and then Christmastide will show us precisely Who He is and what He has come to do. You might say that the Crib and the Cross are both made of the wood of the Saviour. We must prepare for the season of Christmas in the same way we prepare for Easter, by turning to God and turning our lives over to God.

Apostles Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come and judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint hearted: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, Our God will come and He will save us.

Act of Spiritual Communion Lord Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I do not now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul, so that I may unite myself wholly to You, now and forever. Amen.





○ WISDOM



○ ADONAI



○ FLOWER OF JESSE



○ KEY OF DAVID



○ RADIANT DAWN



○ KING



○ EMMANUEL

The Great O's and Late Advent The keeping of the end of Advent as special days of preparation for Christmas is something that has grown and developed over the centuries. Anciently, the Sunday readings and propers were repeated on each ferial day of the week. Exceptions were made for the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle on the 21st December and for the morning of Christmas Eve, as well as for the Advent Ember Days. These days of prayer for those being ordained in the Winter were all Marian in their readings. It is out of these that our modern series of readings have grown, telling of God's preparation for Jesus' birth and the birth of John the Baptist.

The ancient tradition was to mark these last few days not at Mass, but at Evening Prayer, Vespers. Since the 8th Century at least, each evening a different Antiphon was solemnly sung at either end of the Magnificat or else at the end, on St Thomas' day, to commemorate the season. These antiphons all start with the word O and weave together words from the Old and New Testaments to hail the Coming Saviour.

This still the case today and life is easier because we now keep St Thomas the Apostle in July. We also use the Great O's as the Alleluia verses at Mass, though inexplicably the Lectionary publishers have put them in the wrong order. In Rome there were and are 7 O Antiphons. Other parts of Christendom had more. Medieval England had 8 and others 9 or even 10

Many of us recognise these Great O's as the verses of the Advent hymn 'O Come O Come Emmanuel', though they are all mixed up in their order. When recited in the correct order in Latin, they antiphons have a hidden message, for backwards they spell Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will be there".

<i>O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae</i>	<i>O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence</i>
<i>O Adonai, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento</i>	<i>O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm</i>
<i>O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem Gentes deprecabuntur veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.</i>	<i>O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.</i>
<i>O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vincitum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis</i>	<i>O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death</i>
<i>O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae, et sol justitiae: veni, et illumina sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.</i>	<i>O Rising Sun, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.</i>
<i>O Rex Gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.</i>	<i>O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.</i>
<i>O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, expectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.</i>	<i>O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.</i>

The Year of St Joseph It is 150 years since Blessed Pius IX declared St Joseph the patron saint of the Universal Church. To mark this important anniversary, Pope Francis has declared a Year of St Joseph, starting on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of his wife. Special indulgences are granted to the faithful throughout the year under the usual conditions (recent Holy Communion and Confession and prayers for the Pope's intentions). More detail of the Year's special celebrations will be published later.

