



CONTACT US

Parish Priest – Fr Philip Thomas
Parish Administrator–Elaine Wright
ST PETER’S RC CHURCH,

Telephone 01285 652087

Website: www.stpeterscirencester.org

Email: cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com

ST MICHAEL’S RC CHURCH

Telephone: 01666 502367

Website: www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk

Email: tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com

Contact Fr. Philip via the relevant Parish Office

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH (ending on the 8th

December) In His humility as a human child, Jesus Christ submitted Himself to the guidance and judgement of st Joseph and His blessed mother. As we were reminded last week, He also allowed the venial and power-grasping Pontius Pilate to sit in judgement. St Joseph sought to guide and judge in love. Do I do the same?



C.T.I.C EVENTS IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS CTIC are appealing for volunteers to take part in the Christmas Events on Saturday 18th December. For details of the roles required, please see poster on the notice board. Further details will be provided and we are planning a Zoom Meeting for anyone interested to find out more on Tuesday 7th December.

THE COMPANIONS OF THE ORDER OF MALTA. will be at The Bothy, 12 Ashcroft Road, on Thursday 2nd December 11.00 am until 12.15 in order to write Christmas Cards to residents of local OSJ Care Homes. Do join us for a cup of coffee and to lend a hand. Please bring a pen and if possible a few cards. We look forward to seeing you.

‘CHRISTANGLE’ @ ST MARY’S, TETBURY Come and make your own Chrsitangle and enjoy some singing round the fire at St Mary’s Church, Tetbury on Sunday 5th December @ 4.00pm

THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION: There will be a talk on Tuesday 7 December at 2.30pm, in the lounge of Sacred Hearts’ Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 9AU. Adrian Barlow, a Fellow and former President of the English Association will talk to us on Ecclesiology. All are welcome. Admission: £3 (members & students free). Enquires to Stephanie Jamison, tel: 01242 539810.



St Peter’s RC Church
7 St Peter’s Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

St Michael’s RC Church,
Silver Street
Tetbury
Gloucestershire
GL8 8DH



ADVENT I (YEAR C) CHURCH NEW YEAR – Return of the Sunday Mass

Obligation

Sat 27th Nov. 6.00pm Sunday Mass St Peter’s - No Music
Sun 28th Nov. 9.00am Mass in St Michaels (Pro Populis)
11.00am Mass St Peter’s (Douglas Joliffe RIP)

WORSHIP THIS WEEK (Year 1D)

Mon 29th Nov. Advent FERIA
Fr. P’s Day Off - Parish Office Closed
Tue 30th Nov ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE (Feast)
9.30am Mass in St Peter’s
Wed 1st Dec. St Alexander Briant, (Diocesan Memorial)
10.00am Mass in St Michael’s (Nov. Dead List)
Thu 2nd Dec. Advent FERIA
9.30am Mass in St Peter’s
Fri 3rd Dec. St Francis Xavier, Priest (Memorial)
9.30am Mass in St Peter’s
Sat 4th Dec. St Osmond of Salisbury (Diocesan Memorial)
10.00am Mass in St Michael’s (Priscillano Zerda RIP)



NEXT WEEK – ADVENT II (YEAR C)

Sat 4th Dec. 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter’s
Sun 5th Dec. 9.00am Mass in St Michael’s
(Pro Populis)
11.00am Mass in St Peter’s (Michael Venthm RIP)



CONFESSIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT. PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE

A WARM WELCOME We welcome visitors and newcomers to join our ‘regulars’, asking God to bestow His blessings & graces on us all. Do join us for coffee and refreshments after 11.00am Mass in St Peter’s

NEW TO THE PARISH? Please fill in a registration form and take an active part in our two welcoming Parishes.

HAPPY NEW CHURCH YEAR

MASS PROPERS

Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

No Gloria during Advent

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 *The days are coming for fulfilling my promises*

Responsorial Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 *Be blameless when Christ comes again*

Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel Gospel: Luke 21:25-28,34-36 *That day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap*

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase



TABLE TOP SALE AND RAFFLE St Michael's is holding a pair of **Table Top Sale on Sundays 5th & 12th December** after Mass. Donations of New Items should be left in the porch. Tickets for our **RAFFLE** go on sale this week. The **Draw will be on Sunday**

19th December with coffee and mince pies in the hall. Prizes are always welcome The money raised will go towards upgrading the church garden and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance which has attended incidents in Wiltshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire (including Tetbury and Cirencester and Oxfordshire)..Thank you for supporting us in our endeavors as we try to come together as a Parish Socially after what has been a difficult year for all of us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2021

- Saturday 4th December at St Saviour's church, Tetbury, start of the Christmas Tree Festival, 5.00pm Carols and Mince Pies.
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Wednesday 8th Dec. - Mass in St Michael's @ 10.00am; Mass in St Peter's @ 6.00pm
- Future Second collections Sun. 12th & 19th Dec. Christmas Flowers
- Wednesday 15th Dec. @ St Michaels's & Thursday 16th Dec. @ St Peter's, **7.00am "Rorate Mass" a dawn mass of our lady by candlelight in Advent, to be followed by coffee and croissants**



VOLUNTEERS FOR ST MICHAEL'S: Thank you of those have offered to help the Parish. Please hand your completed form to Elaine. Thank you

TOY DONATIONS The Salvation Army will be collecting toys for distribution to families in need and are appealing for new unwrapped toys suitable for children and teenagers. Please take them to their Charity Shop in Dyer Street, Cirencester which is open 10am to 4.00pm. Please tell the staff what they are for and not for sale. Thank you.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- The dead in Christ.
- Our Diocesan Prayer Link – parishes of Tisbury with Wardour

REMEMBRANCE-TIDE - THE NOVEMBER DEAD LIST

Visits to graves and cemeteries are a traditional part of November devotions, as well as cenotaphs and war memorials. The chief form of prayer for the dead is the Mass.

1. Purple pages are available for the names of departed loved ones.
2. Holy Souls Envelopes for purple page and a mass offering. These envelopes for can be handed in to the sacristy or given to Father at the door.
3. The November Dead List will be on the altar for all masses all month. We aim to offer a Mass for the dead every other day to allow for other intentions [and if we have sufficient requests, there will also be one mass a month for the rest of the year.]



LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

1. For those who are new to the area St Joseph's Catholic School in Malmesbury is the RC Primary School for
2. our two parishes. If you have primary school aged children or children due to start school in September 2022; please contact the school. On 01666 822331 or email: admin@stjosephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk.
3. St Peter's RC High School Gloucester are looking to appoint School Governors. Please see the [Could-you-be-a-School-Governor.pdf \(cliffondiocese.com\)](#) leaflet or the [New Bishop's Video for School Governors | Clifton Diocese](#) for further information or contact Derek Newman, the Clerk to the Governors, for an informal discussion via Dnewman@sphs.uk.com.



NEWS FROM CAFOD "Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself.

God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." **Thank you for your support** which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk Have a wonderful Christmas (WHEN IT FINALLY ARRIVES!!!)

Christmas 2021 Masses, Cirencester and Tetbury

Christmas Eve

Fri 24th Dec. Last Mass of Advent 9.30am St Peter's

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE FLESH – THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMASS

Fri 24 th Dec	The Proper Vigil Mass	5.00pm	St Peter's
	Mass of Christmas Night	9.00pm	St Michael's
Sat 25 th Dec	Midnight Mass	Midnight	St Peter's Church
	Mass of Dawn:	9.00am	St Michael's
	Mass of the Day:	11.00am	St Peter's

Feast of the Holy Family- Christmas I

NO VIGIL MASS

Sun 26th Dec.	Sunday Mass	10.00am	St Michael's
	Sunday Mass	Noon	St Peter's

Feast of St John the Evangelist – in the Octave

Mon 27th Dec Mass 12.00noon St Peter's

Feast of the Holy Innocents – in the Octave

Tue 28th Dec Mass 12.00noon St Peter's

Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury – in the Octave

Wed 29th Dec Mass 12.00noon St Michael's

In the Christmas Octave

Thu 30th Dec Mass 12.00noon St Peter's

In the Christmas Octave – St Sylvester

Fri 31st Dec Mass 12.00noon St Peter's Church

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – CIVIL NEW YEAR

1st Jan Mass and Carols 11.00am St Michael's

Christmas II

NO VIGIL MASS

2 nd Jan	Sunday Mass	9.00am	St Michael's
	Sunday Mass	11.00am	St Peter's

Fr. Philip and all our parishioners wish you a blessed Advent season, a happy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year, filled with God's Blessings, Peace, Happiness, Health and Fortune



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT Advent is a time of expectation and waiting with hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came/comes/will come again and why we should come to Him.

The Advent wreath is originally a German custom for counting the Sundays before Christmas arrives. It is made out of evergreens. Like the Fir Tree used at Christmas [invented by St Boniface of Crediton], these evergreens remind us of the Easter promise of everlasting life. This comes to us in the midst of winter with its dead looking trees. This simple counting device can be used to remind us of important and simple truths. There are many interpretations. What follows is just one of them.

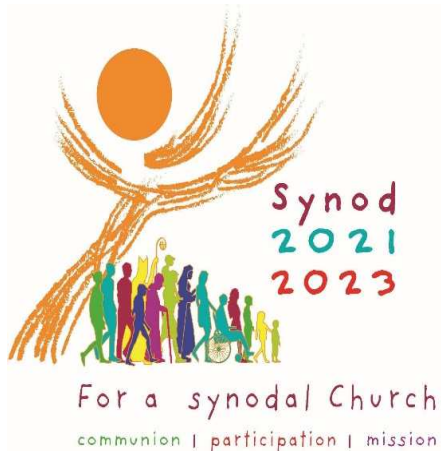
- The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.
- Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas; the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured.
- The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.
- The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.



Attending Church during Advent we are able to sit in silence, away the commercial world in which we live in.

A PRAYER TO BE ARMED WITH GOD'S GRACE FOR OUR ADVENT STRUGGLES AGAINST EVIL AND DARKNESS

Almighty God, give us the grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; so that, When He comes again on the Last Day in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



The Church of God is convoked in Synod."

Pope Francis has launched a worldwide process of listening and discerning, a 'synodal pathway' from October 2021-2023. Synodal means, 'journeying together'. The Pope is inviting the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission.

It is precisely the path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. Pope Francis, Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops

The synod process is a time of 'journeying together', reflecting on the journey. We begin by listening to one another, sharing our experience of travelling together in a time of challenge and change, which has been intensified by the pandemic. We will consider our wider experience of journeying together, as members of the Church and alongside others journeying in the world.



Catherine and Elaine attended the 'Day of information and formation on the Synod process' last Saturday as St Michael's Parish delegates. Both Catherine and Elaine were overwhelmed by all that they heard. One of the things that was made clear was that all the parish are invited to take part.

We are going to need the help of facilitators, when we meet in small groups to listen to each other carefully. There can be no intolerance, correction or interruption. We all have a story to tell., no one should be left out.

Prayer is also an important part of the preparation that we can prepare ourselves during Advent for the groups to meet in the New Year. Before we meet together, we shall gather in church for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. This is so that we start by listening to God Himself.

It is also an opportunity to look at ourselves as a parish and how we can move forward.

There will be a display on one of the notice boards in the hall; when it is finished please take time to have a look. The Diocese has provided each parish with information of what is expected.

For Francis our Pope, Declan, our Bishop, and all the People of God in our Diocese of Clifton, that Synod may help us to listen to each other, discern God's will and then, with boldness, carry it out.

**We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.**



With the Holy Spirit, Our Lady Mother of the Church, the Holy Apostle Peter and Michael the Archangel, may we respond positively to the Synod and may it let us all move forward together as a family of two parishes under the pastoral care of our Parish Priest.

