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**SUNDAY II ‘THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C)**

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall  
Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's  
**10.00am till 10.30am Tetury's Synodal Way Listening Session.**  
11..00am Sunday Mass in 11.00am in St Peter's Hall



Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Jan St Anthony of Egypt  
**Fr. P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed**  
Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan Feria of Week 2 – Start of Christian Unity Octave  
9.30am Mass in St St Peters's  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jan St Wulfstan of Worcester, National Memorial  
10.00am in St Michael's ( )  
Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Jan St Sebastian  
9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Sebastian Hudson RIP)  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Jan St Agnes of Rome  
9.30am Mass in St Peter's  
St Vincent of Saragossa  
Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 10.00am Mass in St Michael's



**SUNDAY III ‘THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C)**

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall  
Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's  
**9.45am for 10.00am Start Cirencester's Next Synodal Way Listening Session.**  
**10.00am till 10.30am Tetury's Next Synodal Way Listening Session.**  
11..00am Sunday Mass in 11.00am in St Peter's Hall

**A WARM WELCOME** We welcome visitors and newcomers to join our ‘regulars’.  
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

**YouCAN**  
**Gregorian Chant**  
A Retreat at Downside Abbey  
Stratton-on-the-Fosse, BA3 4RH  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**  
arrival from 6pm on Friday, departing 4pm on Sunday  
Residential Cost including breakfast £100  
YouCAN Clifton invites you to learn to chant the Liturgy of the Hours under the tuition of the Downside choirmaster  
Are you a young Catholic aged 18 – 35? Come and join YouCAN: contact Rina on [rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk](mailto:rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk)

**CONFESSIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT AT THE MOMENT. PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE**

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**PRAYER FOR THE EPISCOPAL SYNOD 2023**

**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**

*For all involved in the work of the synod, that they will be present to one another, will listen to each other and learn with each other, and thus grow closer to the Lord and His Church.*

**'SHARING THE JOURNEY' - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RENWAL AND REFRESHMENT OF CATECHISTS**

This will take the form of a series of on-line conversations with a variety of speakers from around the country. Each speaker will offer their own insights into different aspects of catechesis and evangelisation, followed by time to discuss, comment and share ideas. Our remaining speakers & dates are:



- 20 Jan. 2022: Called by Name – the significance of the Rite of Election – Sarah Adams
- 24 Feb.: The Lenten Journey through Art – Lynne Hanley
- 24 Mar. Entering the Mystery, Praying the Triduum – Fr James Hanvey SJ
- 21 April: Mystagogia – it's not a swear word – David Wells
- 19 May: Supporting people in our parishes who present with intellectual difficulties – Cristina Gangemi
- 16 June: Being a Catechist – David Well

All are welcome to join, including anyone who is interested in this area of ministry, but not yet involved. The conversations will take place on *Microsoft Teams*, 7.30pm – 8.45pm. To register your interest please contact: [adult.education@cliftdiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftdiocese.com). A *Microsoft Teams* invitation will be sent out a few days before each talk.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2022** There will be a Act of Worship for Holocaust Memorial Day on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January** in the chapel of the Royal Agricultural University at 12.30pm to honour the victims of persecution and genocide under the Nazis and subsequently.

**CHRISTMAS WILL ONLY BE COMPLETELY OVER ON CANDLEMASS – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, 40 DAYS AFTER WE STARTED. THE CRIB WILL REMAIN TILL THEN**

**MASS PROPERS FOR SECOND ORDINARY SUNDAY**

**Introit Antiphon:** All the earth shall bow down before You, O God, and shall sing to You, shall sing to Your name, O Most High!

**First Reading** Isaiah 62:1-5 *God the Bridegroom rejoices in the land and people He weds*

**Resp. Psalm:** Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor. 12:4-11 *A variety of gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: You have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Holy Gospel:** John 2:1-11 *Jesus' first miracle – water into wine at Cana.*

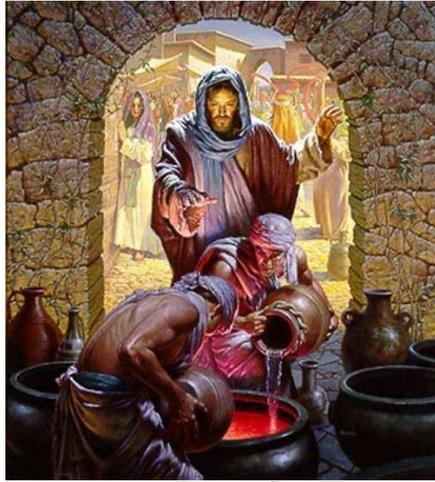
**Communion Antiphon:** You have prepared a table before me and how precious is the chalice, that quenches my thirst



## “THERE WAS A WEDDING AT CANA OF GALILEE”

St John's Gospel notes for us that this is the first of the Signs given Jesus. We take it that this means simply the first miracle of Christ's adult ministry, but the Gospel says sign, so we should not ignore that fact. What is it a sign of or what is it indicating? Surely, it indicates Who and What He is?

By Tradition, this Sign is seen as Christ hallowing Marriage by His Presence and gracious activity. It is in this miracle that He is pointing to the fact that between Baptised Christians, marriage is the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, reflecting to the wider world Christ's own marriage with His Church, His holy Bride, the mother of His children in Baptism.



Bearing in mind that we read this being read on the first Green Sunday of 2022, the Wedding at Cana in Galilee is already pointing us forward through the Liturgical Cycle. The blood red wine and the vast quantity of good wine points us towards Christ's act of marriage with the Church, His Passover or Pascal Mystery. He will pour out His life-blood to win and redeem His people. The totality and generosity of His giving is already there in the stone water jars in Cana.

The Resurrection also is foreshadowed here. Christ came that we might have life and have it in all its abundance. In the joyous and alcoholic celebrations of this wedding, we see a picture of abundant and joyful life.

We also see at the beginning of Christ's ministry the wondrous feast of heaven, the Banquet at the end of time. This theme will be there in every meal with sinners and saints of which the Gospels are going to speak. Here is a foretaste of the Last Supper, the Cup of Blessing, the Chalice of His blood poured out for the remission of sins.

Lastly, but by no means least, the Wedding of Cana speaks to us about Our Lady, the power of her intercession with Christ. She stands for the virgin bride and Holy Mother Church. Her advice to the servants to do what Christ says, is good advice for us too.

**CAFOD AFGHAN APPEAL** CAFOD is working with the Disasters Emergency Committee in its. Afghanistan Appeal. 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water and fuel. you can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



## THE SYNODAL WAY - PREPARING 2021 TO 2023 FOR THE EPISCOPAL SYNOD IN ROME

Back in October, Pope Francis launched a worldwide process of listening and discerning a "Synodal Pathway". As a result our Advent homilies were all about listening, to the Future, to the Holy Scriptures, to St John the Baptist and with Our Lady and the Holy Spirit.

The word "Synodal" means of or pertaining to a Synod. For our purposes it is the root meaning of this, which is important; Synodal from Syn and Hodos in

Greek, means journeying together. The Holy Father is asking the Latin Church [He has not invited any of the Eastern Catholic Bishops to this event] to reflect on this theme of journeying together. We are to ponder over our own experiences past and present, what making a journey of faith together means in a time of profound change, intensified by the Global Pandemic. More than that, we must listen to God and one another, as members of the Universal Church and alongside others with whom we travel.

Every parish is being asked to take part and, as Tetbury and Cirencester Catholic Communities, we are now starting our own listening events. Keep your eye on other parts of this Bulletin for details and updates. We need to hear from as many people as possible inside our parishes and outside in the wider community, both Christian and wider afield. As well as aiming to improve how we journey together locally as Catholics, we need help in considering how we can become better in journeying through this world to heaven with others.

We are asked to take special care to involve those who feel or who are marginalised and excluded – Women, the Disabled, Refugees and Migrants, the Elderly, People in Poverty and the Catholics who rarely if ever practice their faith. No one need feel excluded from sharing their perspective or experiences – there are no right answers and no one will be judged for their orthodoxy or religious affiliation. All we ask is that people want to help the Church seeking what is right and true. The vulnerable and the marginalised as important as everyone else.

The goal is to insure the participation of as many as possible in the listening process, so that we can hear from the greatest number possible, what they believe the Lord is saying to the People of God on their journey towards Him. We listen to all, because God can speak to and through all. This is only possible if we actively reach out.

The Pope's Process requires each parish to have its collated report into the diocese by 28<sup>th</sup> February. Please think hard about gathering views from family, friends and acquaintances, both lapsed and active.

This listening process is intended to benefit the Church at every level of its existence and not just to feed into the Bishops attending the meeting in Rome. We don't just journey with the successors of the Apostles but with one another.

**This morning 16<sup>th</sup> January in Tetbury and next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January each parish congregation is invited to come together** to identify potential areas to explore among ourselves after we have made our contribution to the diocesan part of the process. After listening to each other, we are asked to discuss ways in which we can accompany each other as we seek to grow in holiness. The goal is not to convince or persuade or correct others, but to be present to one another, to listen and learn and grow closer to each other and the Lord in His Church.

**Tetbury proposes holding subsequent meetings of half an hour after Sunday Mass in January, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and we will use the first Sunday in February if needed.** Primarily, this is about our relationship with God and not about personalities and crusades. It is hoped and intended that we work together under the benign influence of the Holy Spirit.

We need to submit our reports to Bishop Declan and the diocesan synod team by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Some matters which come up will be purely local for swift resolution, but the majority may also strike chords in other parishes. Please speak initially to me, Father Philip, Catherine Elliott and Maggie Marum in Tetbury or Fr. P, Pinky, or Adrian Snow in Cirencester. Much of this process seems rushed. Vatican language is often hard to understand and vague at times. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales offers this help to make things a bit easier.

- I. The Journeying Companions Look at who forms the community which is journeying together? Who are on the peripheries who we need to reach out to? Who do we know who no longer walk with us, who used to and now we don't see? How do we engage with the covid curious? What is our welcome like?
- II. Listening Do we listen to each other? How do we best do this – people to people, clergy to clergy, bishops to bishops and each to each other? How do we make our listening “a listening of the heart” not just of the issues and subjects at hand? How do we listen to the signs of the times outside the Church and respond to them?
- III. Speaking Out What is the communication like in our group/parish/diocese? Do we have the freedom, truth and charity to speak with parrhesia and prudence? What defines our speaking – when we speak, what to say, how to say it? How am I living out my prophetic vocation given at baptism?
- IV. Celebrating Does the liturgy of the Church inspire a deeper encounter with the risen Lord? How does my prayer – both individually and in community – affect my discernment of my participation in the mission of the Church? Is the Eucharist the

centre of my, and my community's life? What flows from the Sunday (or daily) Eucharist out of the Church into the world from our communities? What do I give thanks to God for in prayer? What do I seek from him?

- V. Co-responsibility in the Mission Who do I understand the mission of the Church both in my own life and participation, and in the local church and the universal church? How is what we are doing relate to the Great Commission of Jesus (Matt 28:18- 20)? What formation do I need to be more committed to the mission of the Church? what impact is our local community making in the area – do we make a difference?
- VI. Dialogue in Church and Society How do we understand dialogue in and outside of the Church? Do we see dialogue as a unique contribution that the Church can make to the world? How do we address the challenges that dialogue brings about? How do we begin to dialogue with others?
- VII. With the other Christian Denominations What is our relationship with the other denominations like? Do we listen to each other as we journey on our pilgrim way? What enriches us from the other traditions? What do we offer them from ours?
- VIII. Authority and Participation How is authority exercised in our communities? What are the organs of co-responsibility that allows for the expression of our baptismal consecration as priest, prophet and king? How do the lay faithful collaborate effectively in the life of the local church? What are the fruits of this collaboration, and what are the obstacles and challenges?
- IX. Discerning and Deciding How do we discern together the direction in which the Holy Spirit is leading us? Is there freedom to exercise our particular ministry in the Church and participate in this common work of discernment and decision making? Is my local community accountable and transparent in decision making? What can help improve this? Do I support the Bishops and the Priests in arriving at their decisions?
- X. Forming ourselves in Synodality What additional formation do I need to be a missionary disciple? Is the local community effective in catechising and passing on the faith? What tools are necessary for the Church to be truly synodal, listening and journeying together? How do we continue the listening and dialogue beyond this process so that the Church have a “lived synodality” as the Holy Father asks

