

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

As the Water into Wine pointed forward, so now He does it again. He chooses the passage that says the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, in other words, "I am the Anointed of God, the Christ". The rest of the passage tells of what the Christ will do. This is precisely what Jesus is about to do for the next 3 years or so. He will preach the good news to the poor and marginalised. He will open the eyes of the blind and heal the lame.

This challenges the Nazarenes and those who will encounter Him from now on. He is not the Christ/Messiah they are expecting. Military might and political power are not His style. He is not like the High Priests in Jerusalem. He is greater than Samuel or Elijah or any of the ancient prophets.

Instead, He proclaims liberty to captives, those held by addictions and devils, by diseases and obsessions. He not only gives sight to the physically blind, but by His teaching and His Presence cures the spiritually blind and gives understanding to those who did not grasp what God was saying through Moses. This scene is a most fitting start to the Messianic Ministry

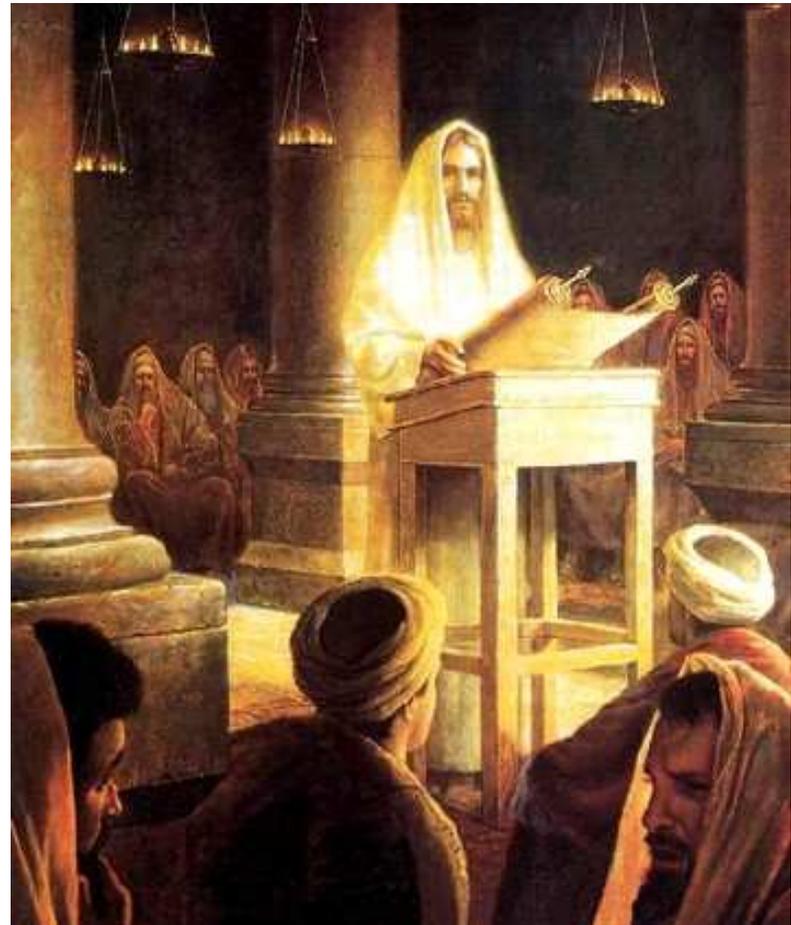
Jesus is the Christ and I am a Christian in Him. Perhaps January is a good time for me to think about how I am doing at taking my share in Christ's Saving Ministry today. The Spirit of God is mine through Baptism and Confirmation. Do I proclaim the Gospel in word and deed? Do I try to liberate the enslaved, the captive, the addicted? Do I open folks' minds with faith and understanding, or the eyes of hearts with loving kindness?

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

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

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK Jesus in our gospel has already left home and closed up the Carpentry Shop for good, moving down to the lakeside town of Capernaum. It must have been strange going back. Courtesy demanded that the Elders of the Synagogue invite Him to read, but He didn't read the portion of the day, but chooses to read from the end of the Book of Isaiah.



BULLETIN FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR C)



St Peter's church
7 St Peter's Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

St Michael's church,
Silver Street
Tetbury
Gloucestershire
GL8 8DH



SUNDAY III 'THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C) – Sunday of the Word

- Sat 22nd Jan 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall
 Sun 23rd Jan 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's
9.45am for 10.00am Cirencester's 2nd Synodal Way Listening Session.
10.00am till 10.30am Tetbury's 2nd Synodal Way Listening Session.
 11.00am Sunday Mass in 11.00am in St Peter's Hall
- Mon 24th Jan St Francis de Sales
Fr. P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed
- Tues 25th Jan CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, Feast, – End of Unity Octave
 9.30am Mass in St St Peters's (Maureen Bailey in sickness)
- Wed 26th Jan Saint Timothy and Titus
 10.00am in St Michael's (Tony Ashworth RIP)
- Thur 27th Jan St Angela de Merici
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Ruth Robinson RIP)
- Fri 28th Jan St Thomas Aquinas
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's (2021 November Dead List)
St Mary on Saturday/Feria of Week 3
- Sat 29th Jan 10.00am Mass in St Michael's

SUNDAY III 'THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C) and LEPROSY SUNDAY

SECOND COLLECTION FOR "LEPRA"

- Sat 29th Jan 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall
 Sun 30th Jan 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's
9.45am for 10.00am Cirencester's Next Synodal Way Listening Session.
10.00am till 10.30am Tetbury's Next Synodal Way Listening Session.
 11.00am Sunday Mass in 11.00am in St Peter's Hall

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2022 There will be a Act of Worship for Holocaust Memorial Day on **Thursday 27th 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.

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

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

A series of on-line conversations with a variety of speakers, offering their own insights into aspects of catechesis and evangelisation.

- 24 Feb.: The Lenten Journey through Art – Lynne Hanley
- 24 Mar. Entering the Mystery, Praying the Triduum – Fr James Harvey SJ
- 21 April: Mystagogia – it's not a swear word – David Wells
- 19 May: Supporting people 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, contact adult.education@cliftondiocese.com. A *Microsoft Teams* invitation will be sent out a few days before each talk.

PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE AN APOINTMENT FOR CONFESSION

NEWMAN SOCIETY LECTURE IN CHELTENHAM The North Gloucestershire Circle of the Newman Society has arranged an Afternoon Talk on Tuesday 1st February at 2.30pm in Sacred Hearts Parish Hall in Charlton Kings. Fr Richard Ounsworth OP will speak on **"How does the Letter to the Hebrews read the Old Testament"**.

LEPROSY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK Bishop Declan is the Chair of the Bishops' International Affairs department. He commends the work of the St Francis Leprosy Guild ahead of World Leprosy Day, the last Sunday of January – 30 January 2022 . The theme is 'United for Dignity'. This year the Guild is encouraging the RC community to reflect on the vital work carried out by Catholic nuns and to unite in prayer for God's blessing for their vocation. "We are inspired by the work that St Francis Leprosy Guild and the sisters carry out in Sri Lanka, and in other countries across the world," said Bishop Lang.



- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 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



MASS PROPERS FOR THE THIRD ORDINARY SUNDAY

Introit Antiphon: Sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

First Reading Nehemiah 8:2-6 & 8-10 *Ezra read from the Law for the people to understand its meaning.*

And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. [And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden pulpit which they had made for the purpose; And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemi'ah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Resp. Psalm: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life!

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 12:12-30 *We are different parts together in Christ' One Mystical Body, by the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor,

and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more representable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:1-4 & 4:14-21 *Jesus reads about Himself in His home town.*

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning Him went out through all the surrounding country. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And He came to Nazara, where He had been brought up; and He went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.**" And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Communion Antiphon: Look to the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.



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

As preparation for Pope Francis' worldwide process of listening and discerning, our Advent homilies before Christmas 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 to reflect on this theme of journeying together. We are to ponder over our own experiences, past and present, over 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.



The Pope's Process requires each parish to have its collated report into the diocese by 28th 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. We need to submit our reports to Bishop Declan and the diocesan synod tem by 28th February 2022. Some matters which come up with be purely local for swift resolution, but the majority may also strike chords in other parishes. Much of this process seems rushed. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales offers this help to make things a bit easier.

- 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?
- 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?
- 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?