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ST PETER'S NEEDS YOU

ON A ROTA!! The Pandemic is not going to beat us or close us down. We need to re-start the counting rota. Other rotas will follow. Counting the church collections takes place in pairs, on a Tuesday Morning after Mass. If you are a past member of this group or now find yourself with some free time, please come and join us. We really need your help. Talk to Fr. Philip, Lina Watts or Pinky. Thank You,

BACK IN STOCK – “THE DIARY OF GOD” BY JOHN HUNTRISS This blue paperback, published by Clifton Diocese is back in stock at £5 a copy, teaching us about Sacred Scripture by following the readings at Daily Mass. .

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS: We would like to inform you that each parish AGM will take place during March (dates to be announced) after the Parish Financial Returns have been completed and previously discussed at the Parish Finance Committees. If there is something you wish to discuss, please email the appropriate Parish Office, thank you.

THE -GESIMAS - TIME TO PREPARE

FOR LENT Lent is on its way. In Latin, Lent is Quadragesima 40. The Liturgy begins to turn towards Lent.. We begin to prepare for it, planning our disciplines, charitable fundraising and so on. Gradually the Alleluias fade and the Gloria begins to think about this annual Spring time holiday. In the sacristy, we look out our purple vestments, check where we put the Ashes or the Palms for burning and search out the Way of the Cross booklets.



BULLETIN FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) – SEXAGESIMA

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

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



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

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



SUNDAY VII 'THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C) - Sexagesima

Sat 19th Feb 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall (Pro Populis)
Sun 20th Feb 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's
9.45am for 10.00am Cirencester Final Synodal Way Listening Session. [Participants must arrange a key with Pinky Bacquero or Fr. P in advance]
10.00am till 10.30am Tetbury Final Synodal Way Listening Session.
11.00am Sunday Mass in 11.00am in St Peter's Hall
Noon to 2.00pm "Getting to Know You Again" Party in St Michael's Hall

Mon 21st Feb St Peter Damian
Fr. P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed

Tue 22nd Feb THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER, Feast
9.30am Mass in St St Peters's

Wed 23rd Feb St Polycarp of Smyrna
10.00am Mass in St Michael's

Thu 24th Feb Feria of Week 7
9.30am Mass

Fri 25th Feb Feria
9.30am Mass in St Peter's (EPB's Intentions)

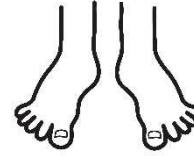
St Mary on Saturday
Sat 26th Feb 10.00am Mass in St Michael's (EPB's Intentions)

SUNDAY VIII 'THROUGH THE YEAR (Year C) - Quinquagesima

Sat 26th Feb 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall (Mhairi McCready's Birthday Intentions)

Sun 27th Feb 9.00am Sunday Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)
11.00am Sunday Mass in St Peter's Hall (Private Intention)

Noon to 2.00pm "Getting to Know You Again" Party in St Peter's Hall



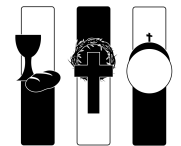
CAFOD'S WALK AGAINST HUNGER LENT

CHALLENGE

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To take part, go to cafod.org.uk/walk. If anyone would like to join me, Mary Dignan, and create a Team to Walk for Hunger during Lent I would be delighted! Please see me after Mass or email:mary.dignan81@gmail.com We do not individually need to walk 200k in Lent, we can share it.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Ash Wednesday** - Fasting and Abstinence **2nd March**: Mass and Distribution of Ashes will be: St Michael's Church @10.00am; St Peter's Church @ 6.00pm
- **Fridays in Lent from 4th March** 11.30am Stations/Way of the Cross in St Michael, followed by Soup and Bread Lunch at 12.15pm
- **Saturday 5th March** 11.00am Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Clifton Cathedral. Those to be baptised are Elected by the Bishop and he meets those to be received at Easter.
- **First Sunday in Lent 5th/6th March**, our three masses will begin with the Litany of the Saints, sung in penitential procession. This Vatican recommendation will remind us of the ancient Stational liturgies which mark Lent in Rome and of our Lenten Journey to Easter. The Holy Father will lead the first of these Stations in Rome on the Aventine Hill on Ash Wednesday, walking from St Anselm's Abbey to the Dominican church of St. Sabina.



TRIDUUM

Sundown Thursday 14th April to Sundown Sunday 17th April THE EASTER TRIDUUM



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.

PICKING UP PARISH LIFE AND MOVING FORWARD IN THESE VIRUS-AFFECTED TIMES Fr. Philip now makes two proposals.

1. **A Getting To Know You AGAIN Party in St Michael's Hall on Sunday 20th February Noon to 2.00pm AND A Getting To Know You AGAIN Party in St Peter's Hall on Sunday 27th February Noon to 2.00pm.** Bring a plate of something to share and just chat with other folk. The parishes will provide sticky labels to write names on, so that you don't have to introduce yourself again to any one you haven't seen so far during the Pandemic.
2. **At the Parish AGMs in March to renew the Pastoral Council**, which have been unable to meet under lockdown regulations. These AGMs will take place during March (dates to be announced) after the Parish Financial Returns have been completed and previously discussed at the Parish Finance Committees. If there is something you wish to discuss, please email the appropriate Parish Office, thank you.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 4th MARCH

2022 The theme of the service is Hope; after the past two years this is appropriate as we move forward. **"I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU"** 2022 is a special year for World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, Christian women of these countries prepared the World Day of Prayer service. It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. Services take place all over the world so we are all united in prayer, readings and hymn.

- **Tetbury @ 2.00pm in St Michael's RC church. We hope that due to the service being held in our church we hope that parishioners; men, women, the young and young at heart of all churches but especially our Parishioners will support us. Refreshments will be served afterwards.**
- **Cirencester @ 3.30pm in Ashcroft Methodist church, followed by tea and biscuits**

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

This is a listening process, 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 must not squander this unique opportunity, by wasting time with discussions about local or petty issues. Positive feedback is as welcome as the usual moans. We are supposed to be contributing what we believe God wants for His Church. We are to listen to what others believe that is. 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 term by 28th February 2022.

MASS PROPER FOR THE SEVENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY

Introit Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in Your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, Who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23 *Showing mercy to an enemy*
Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Resp. Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 *The first Adam became a living soul; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who



treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat

you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all Your wonders, I will rejoice in You and be glad, and sing psalms to Your Name, O Most High.

RECONCILIATION: CELEBRATE THE FATHER'S MERCY: As part of our Lenten Pilgrimage, Bishop Declan invites us to join him at one of five Services of Reconciliation throughout the Diocese.

1. Thursday 10th March @ St Osmiund church, Salisbury;
2. Thursday 17th March @ St John's church, Bath;
3. Thursday 24th March @ St Gregory's church, Cheltenham;
4. Thursday 31st March St John's church, Trowbridge
5. Thursday 7th April @ St George's church, Taunton.

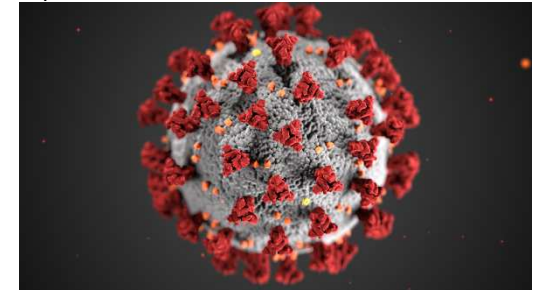
Each service will start @ 7.00pm. There will also be other priests available to hear confessions.

A FEW THOUGHTS

- The global pandemic is not over. Covid 19 infects hundreds of thousands in this country and around the world. It continues to swamp medical facilities, especially in poorer countries. What is changing is the sense of crisis is receding as our ability to cope increases.



- Public Health Regularions are being are being relaxed but not abolished. The Bishops of England and Wales continue to tell us that masks should be worn at Mass and others services in church, if you are not exempt..
- The necessary restrictions on public life, including diocesan and parochial church life, have required us to live and flourish within certain confines. This has meant that committees and councils in parish life have simply been unable to meet, until fairly recently. Neither Bishop nor Parish Priest has cancelled them or abolished them; it was simply that there was a Virus Crisis.
- The limitations to slow down the spread of the disease have affected all sorts of areas of ministry. Youth work has suffered. Preparations for the Sacraments have been hampered. Hosptlal and home visiting has been well nigh impossible at times, except in "end of life" circumstances. Now that things are improving, this is being quickly forgotten and misunderstandings can arise. Fr. Philip records thanks to a handful of heroic volunteers who have isolated and done necessary tests regularly to enable some of our parishioners in care homes to have Holy Communion.



- One of the dangers of forgetting the events of the last two or more years is that we thing we can simply pick up where we left off. This is not true. We cannot look backwards. Things have changed and we must cope with that fact. We have to establish new norms and practices and this can be challenging and even difficult.
- Complacency, denial and nostalgia are not stratetgies for coping with changed circumstances. Moans and whining do not help but hinder forward movement. Aggression and confrontation prevent co-operation and collaborative ministry in the Church.
- The times when the best we could manage was to watch Mass recorded or live-streamed are passed. The Holy Father reminds us that we are a Real Church, not a Virtual Church. Online services have been a great blessing, when we were prevented from coming to Mass, but we are not prevented anymore. We are very grateful to other parishes for their service to the wider Church. Watching Mass is not the same as full, actual participation and cannot include the reception of any of the Sacraments.
- YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU AND YOU NEED YOUR PARISH