

## CONTACT US

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

*Telephone 01285 652087*

*Website: [www.stpeterscirencester.org](http://www.stpeterscirencester.org)*

*Email:*

*[cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com)*

**ST MICHAEL'S RC CHURCH**

*Telephone: 01666 502367*

*Website: [www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk)*

*Email: [tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com)*

Contact Fr. Philip via the relevant Parish Office

## 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 almost with us. In Latin, Lent is Quadragesima 40. The Liturgy has been turning us towards the Great Fast.. 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 its 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.

**URGENT APPEAL OF THE HOLY FATHER** Pope Francis asks us to pray fervently for peace in Ukraine and surrounding countries on Ash Wednesday. Sorrow for sin and praying for a change of heart are already part of the day, as is the penitential fasting and abstinence. To this ancient tradition, the Pope asks us to join our heartfelt supplications for world peace and reconciliation.

ASH  
WEDNESDAY



Remember that  
you are dust, and to  
dust you shall return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME (YEAR C) - QUNQUAGESIMA



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

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



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

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall (Mhairi McCready's Birthday Intentions)  
Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Feb Feria of Week 8

**Fr. P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed**

Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Mar ST DAVID OF WALES, Feast

9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar ASH WEDNESDAY – Fasting and Abstinence – Prayer for Ukraine

**10.00am Mass & Ashing in St Michael's**

**6.00pm Mass & Ashing in St Peter's (Lilianne De Mallet Morgan RIP)**

Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar Lenten Feria

9.30am Mass

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Mar Lenten Feria/ St Casimir of Poland – {Women's} World Day of Prayer

9.30am Mass in St Peter's (CPFX's Intentions)

**11.30am Way of the Cross [Stations] at St Michael's**

**2.00pm WDP Service for Tetbury in St Michael's**

**3.30pm WDP Service for Cirencester in Ashcroft Methodist**

Lenten Feria

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Mar **11.00am Rite of Election in the Cathedral**

### **LENT I - Quadragesima (Year C)**

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 6.00pm Penitential Procession & Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall ( )

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 9.00am Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)

11.00am Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass in St Peter's Hall (Private Intention)

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- **Fridays in Lent from 4<sup>th</sup> March** 11.30am Stations/Way of the Cross in St Michael, followed by Soup and Bread Lunch at 12.15pm
- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **THE EASTER TRIDUUM – THE THREE DAYS OF THE LORD'S PASSOVER**

**FIRST DAY - Sundown Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Sundown Friday**

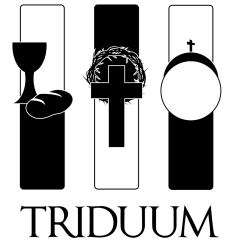
**15<sup>th</sup> April – The Supper, the Garden and the Cross**

**SECOND DAY – Sundown Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Sundown**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Watching and Waiting at the Tomb**

**THIRD DAY – Sundown Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April to Sundown**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – The Resurrection**



### **PICKING UP PARISH LIFE AND MOVING FORWARD IN THESE VIRUS-AFFECTED TIMES .**

1. **"Getting To Know You AGAIN" Parties for both parishes. St Michael's is being re-arranged & St Peter's is this weekend Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February Noon to 2.00pm.** Bring a plate of food to share and just chat with other folk.
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.

**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**



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 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**

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

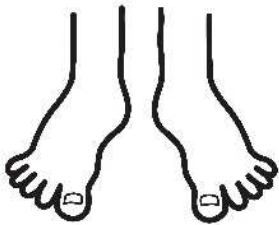
Each service will start @ 7.00pm. There will also be other priests available to hear confessions.



## 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](http://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](mailto:mary.dignan81@gmail.com) We do not individually need to walk 200k in Lent, we can share it.



## PROPERS FOR THE EIGHTH ORDINARY SUNDAY

**Introit Antiphon: The Lord became my Protector. He brought me out to place of freedom; He saved me because He delighted in me.**

**First Reading: Ecclesiasticus OR the Wisdom of Ben Sirach 27:4-7 *Do not praise a man before he has spoken***

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse remains; so a man's filth remains in his thoughts. The kiln tests the potter's vessels; so the test of a man is in his reasoning. The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a man's mind. Do not praise a man before you hear him reason, for this is the test of men.

**Resp. Psalm: It is good to give You praise, O Lord**

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 *Death is swallowed up in victory***

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 6:39-45 *People's words flow from what fills their hearts.***

Jesus also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye. For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure produces evil; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**Communion Antiphon: I will sing to the Lord, Who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms of the Name of the Lord Most High.**





**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.

**WHERE IS LENT GOING? – THE JOURNEY OF CONVERSION** Lent travels

from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and Pascaltide runs from Easter Day to Pentecost Sunday. You will note the overlap. Lent has two phases, the second of which is known as Passiontide. Lent culminates in the Easter Triduum, the 3 Holy Days of the Lord's Passover. Embedded in the 40 days of Lent are 6 Sundays. These are coloured by Lent (purple vestments and no Gloria) but retain the usual Easter references of every Sunday, the Lord's Day of rest and joy.



You might say Lent runs from the mortality of Ash Wednesday [REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN] to the immortality of the Resurrection – From death to life everlasting! But the sense of movement is not simply Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. This movement is from earth to heaven and indeed from the cradle of the grave and beyond.



The Lenten Journey is also part of Christ's journey also, which started back when the Archangel Gabriel was sent to announce His coming to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nazareth and moving around considerably after that e.g. to the hill country of Judah at the Visitation, to Bethlehem for the Nativity and to Egypt for the flight into exile. Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem are all ports of call of Christ's journey to the Cross and to Glory.

He invites us to travel with Him in prayer, fasting and almsgiving or other works of charity. It is a path marked by a change of heart, our hearts. We call this conversion, turning from sin and self to God and others. We travel with Him as the Universal Church across the globe and across the centuries.

One way of showing this has been the visiting of holy places and shrines of the saints during Lent. This practice goes back into ancient times, when its was particularly the tombs of martyrs which were visited, men and woman united in death and victory with the Saviour.



Another way to show that we do not walk alone in conversion and Lentan penance is the tradition of singing the Litany of the Saints in Procession at the start of Mass in Lent. When Bishop Declan's health allowed him, he celebrated such Stational Mases around the diocese. The Popes as Bishop of Rome give a firm lead in this respect. Pictures here show Francis, Benedict XVI and St Paul VI all do this on the first day of Lent. We also show St John Paul II



Paul II blessing the faithful.. These Penitential Processions and the Litany of the Saints always conclude with Mass, for even in the midst of Lent, the Holy Eucharist still brings us to meet the Risen Lord and gives us a foretaste of heaven.

The Way of the Cross or Via Crucis [the Stations] is another reminder of the path of conversion we walk in Lent. 11.30am on Fridays at St Michale's will be our weekly recalling of our walk with Christ to glory. May we come at length first to Easter and its baptismal renewal and then to the eternal Easter of heaven. AMEN.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY - RESTARTING FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022** We are planning to restart the children's liturgy on the first Sunday of Lent - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It is open to children of school age and will involve activities based around the gospel for that Sunday. The group will have one leader each week but we would ask that at least one parent would accompany the group so the leader is not on their own. We would be delighted if anyone would like to join the rota to lead the group - all resources and equipment provided. Contact Audrey Short ([audreymccafferty@gmail.com](mailto:audreymccafferty@gmail.com)) or speak to me after mass.