

CONTACT US

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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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **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.

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

1. **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.

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



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT **(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



LENT I - Quadragesima (Year C)

- Sat 5th Mar 6.00pm Penitential Procession & Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall (Mhairi McCready's Birthday Intentions)
- Sun 6th Mar 9.00am Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)
11.00am Penitential Procession & Sunday Mass in St Peter's Hall (Peter Joliffe RIP)
- Mon 7th Mar Lenten Feria [Saints Perpetua and Felicity]
Fr. P's Day Off – Parish Office Closed
- Tue 8th Mar Lenten Feria [St John of God]
9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Private Intention)
- Wed 9th Mar Lenten Feria [St Frances of Rome]
10.00am Mass in St Michael's
- Thu 10th Mar Lenten Feria
9.30am Mass
- Fri 11th Mar Lenten Feria
9.30am Mass in St Peter's (L.Groome's Intention)
11.30am Way of the Cross [Stations] at St Michael's
12.15pm Soup Lunch in St Michael's
Lenten Feria [St Gregory the Great]
- Sat 12th Mar **No Public Mass. Fr. P will be in Downside Abbey**

LENT II - Quadragesima (Year C)

- Sat 12th Mar 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's Hall ()
- Sun 13th Mar 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)
11.00am Mass in St Peter's Hall (Private Intention)

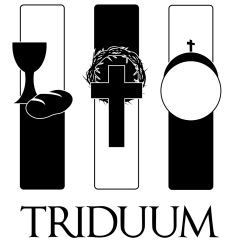
A WARM WELCOME We welcome visitors and newcomers to join our 'regulars'. Do join us for coffee and refreshments after 11.00am Mass in St Peter's

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

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

FIRST DAY - Sundown Thursday 14th April to Sundown Friday 15th April – The Supper, the Garden and the Cross
SECOND DAY – Sundown Friday 15th April to Sundown Saturday 16th April – Watching and Waiting at the Tomb
THIRD DAY – Sundown Saturday 16th April to Sundown Sunday 17th April – The Resurrection



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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - RESTARTING FROM 6TH MARCH 2022

We are planning to restart the children's liturgy on the first Sunday of Lent - 6th 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) or speak to me after mass.

CAFOD Just a gentle reminder that the Lenten Fast Day is **Friday the 11th March**. This year the focus is World Hunger. If you wish to donate there are envelopes at the back of the church. If you wish to support the St Michael's Team who are 'Walking Against Hunger' this Lent please go to the Just Giving website, search for Mary Dignan, Walk against Hunger and donate. When you are there have a look at the entries and pictures and the Team page, this site will be active for the whole of Lent. Please pray for us, that is the most important part and pray for the hungry of the world.

RESPONDING TO THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CRISIS - FROM

CHARLES LOVE Over the recent days if we have switched on the TV we can't help to have seen on the news the human impact of tens of thousands of women and children having to flee their homes in the Ukraine seeking safety from Russia's invasion in safer countries within Europe. Many of whom have had no choice but to leave behind their husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, homes and all their earthly possessions that couldn't fit inside a suitcase. We are asking for donations to help these displaced people in their time of need, these items are: -

- Nappies, Baby Wipes
- Children's Colouring Books, Crayons and Pencils
- Large Blankets & Sleeping Bags
- First aid items - plasters, bandages and antiseptic wipes/ wash
- Protein Bars, Baby food pouches, (no meat or fish due to border controls)
- Sterilizing tablets
- Dry foods such as pasta, rice, tea and biscuits
- Vests, socks and Pants for Women and Children
- Toiletries (no aerosols)



We supported in this goal by Cirencester's Round table group [Cirencester Round Table www.Cirencesterroundtable.org.uk](http://www.Cirencesterroundtable.org.uk) with this mission to help out during this time of need, all your kind donations will be going directly to Polska Akcja Humanitarna www.Pah.org.pl and we will happily document the journey and delivery so that you can hopefully see directly where your kind help is going in future issues of this new letter or for those who are more technically minded you can follow our journey via our Instagram [@Helpukrainefamilies2022](https://www.instagram.com/Helpukrainefamilies2022).

S.M.O.M. [ORDER OF MALTA] APPEAL FOR UKRAINE The continuing conflict in Ukraine is costing lives & homes, hospitals & schools destroyed. Refugees run into hundreds of thousands. Electricity & water supplies are being cut & roads blocked, isolating people from food or medical care. Ukraine recognises the sovereignty of the Order, a trusted frontline provider of food, medicine, medical care and social assistance to the most vulnerable people. Coordinated by Malteser International and Malteser Hilfsdienst, this crisis has seen unprecedented cooperation by Order entities to ensure our colleagues in Ukraine receive the support they need to bring vital supplies to the vulnerable, and that the Order's operations in neighbouring countries are resourced to respond to the influx of refugees. **Speak to any of our Companions of Malta, if you wish to help**

PROPERS FOR LENT I

Introit Antiphon before the Penitential Procession: When he calls, I will answer him. I will deliver him and give him glory. I will grant him length of days.

NO PENITENTIAL RITE

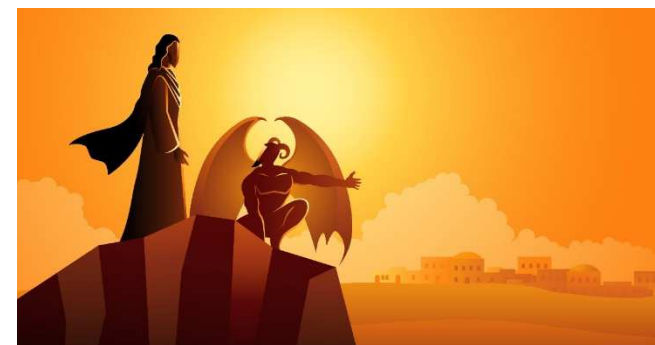
First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10 *The creed of the chosen people*

Then said Moses unto the people, "The priest shall take the basket from your hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD Your God. And you shall make response before the LORD Your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. Then we cried to the LORD the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders; and He brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which Thou, O LORD, hast given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD Your God, and worship before the LORD Your God;

Resp. Psalm: Be with my, O Lord, in my distress

Second Reading Romans 10:8-13 *The creed of the Christians*

Scripture says: The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in Him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all, who call upon Him. For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."



Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word, that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 *The Temptations of Christ.*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, He was hungry. The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took Him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and said to Him, "To You I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If You, then, will worship me, it shall all be Yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'" And he took Him to Jerusalem, and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, 'He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.



THE BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER IN LIEU OF SERMON

NO BIDDING PRAYERS BECAUSE OF THE LITANY OF THE SAINTS AT THE BEGINNING

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

WHERE IS LENT GOING? – THE JOURNEY OF CONVERSION Lent travels from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and Paschaltide 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 Bethelhem for the Nativity and to Egypt for the flight into exile. Nazareth,

Capernaum, Jerusalem are all parts 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.

1. 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 it was particularly the tombs of martyrs which were visited, men and woman united in death and victory with the Saviour.
2. 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 Masses around the diocese. 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.
3. 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.



QUIET GARDEN – OPENING 16TH APRIL 10.00AM TO 4.00PM @ THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, CIRENCESTER 53 Thomas Street, GL7 2BA, Opening Saturday 16th April 10am – 4pm Thereafter on 1st Tuesday and 3rd Saturday May – October. A hidden gem in the centre of Cirencester, the Quaker Meeting House garden will, after a successful first year, again be open as part of the Quiet Garden

Movement. The Movement was developed in the early 1990's by Philip Roderick, retired Anglican priest, percussionist, educator and writer. He wrote "We live in a world where we are swamped by methods of communication Silence is the missing and vital ingredient. Even as little as five minutes can be restorative ..." The Quiet Garden Movement nurtures access to outdoor space for people to experience silence and restfulness in a variety of settings, such as private homes, churches, retreat centres, schools and hospitals – and creates opportunities for private reflection. There are over 300 Quiet Gardens worldwide. All are welcome to come to the Cirencester Quiet Garden – to either pop in briefly, or stay longer. There is flat access to the garden through the Friends Meeting House. Light refreshments and toilet facilities will be available. No booking is necessary, and there is no charge but donations would be welcome to cover costs of refreshments. There is no parking on site, but town car parks are nearby. Enquires email: caduceus02@msn.com 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' Mark 6:31