

CONTACT US *Parish Priest - Fr Philip Thomas*

Parish Administrator – Elaine Wright

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,

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ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;

PARISH NEWSLETTER: Could you please send any items for the Parish Newsletter to Elaine in St Michael's Parish Office by Wednesday @12.00noon.

Items for the Newsletter need to be in WORD not PDF. Thank you.

ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE We are seeking goodies for a hamper and other prizes too! Tickets are 50p each until the draw on Sunday **18th December after Mass**. Please support your parish in continuing building of its parish life. Proceeds will be donated to parish funds, Mary's Meals and CenterPoint UK Homeless Charity.

WANT A CHAT? A NEW SERVICE FOR ST MICHAEL'S This is an interesting, new development taking place shortly, taking the form of a confidential telephone service, 'Want A Chat', will be available to all parishioners in St Michael's in the New Year. It is available for everyone, including those in the Parish, who possibly may be feeling a bit lonely, isolated, or are unable to get to Mass and just want a chat or a catch-up with someone from the Parish. Others may want contact with people outside the family, or possibly want to discuss in confidence some issue they have. The service, which is time limited, is open to all parishioners for most of their issues. It will not, however, be an advisory service, purely a kindly listening service. Watch out in the bulletin for further details.

VOLUNTEERS FOR 'WANT A CHAT' @ ST. MICHAEL'S NEEDED We shall be launching a telephone befriending listening service in the New Year for parishioners [SEE ABOVE]. We are now looking for some additional volunteers to make the service sustainable over the longer term. The duties are not onerous. The basic requirements are to be a good listener, discrete and organised in handling this commitment (which is unlikely, estimate, to consume more than a couple of hours a week of anyone's time). The normal statutory checks will apply. If interested in helping with this important, new initiative, please speak to Maggie Marum or Catherine Elliott for more information.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2023 These are available in the porch for £6.00 each; please give the money to Elaine or in her absence the duty Sacristan

TABLE TOP SALE. Come into the hall directly after mass at St Michael's Church. You might find some Christmas gifts. If you, have produce, to sell or would like to make a cake; all will be welcomed



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

St Michael's church
Silver Street
Tetbury Gloucestershire
GL8 0DH



ADVENT III (YEAR A) – Gaudete Sunday

Sat 10th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's (Hilaria Zerda RIP)

Sun 11th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)
11.00am Mass in St Peter's (Mary Young RIP)

WORSHIP THIS WEEK *Advent Week 3 – But from the 17th Dec, readings etc. are found by date, not day of the week]*

Mon 12th Dec Advent FERIA

FR PHILIP'S DAY OFF PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tue 13th Dec St Lucy, of Syracuse
9.30am Mass in St Peter

Wed 14th Dec St John of the Cross,
7.30am Rorate Mass in St Michael's (Kathryn's Ints) followed by Breakfast [Coffee & Croissants]

Thu 15th Dec Advent FERIA
9.30am Mass in St Peter's

11.30am Funeral Requiem for Teresa Hellar RIP in St Peter's

Fri 16th Dec Advent FERIA
7.30am Rorate Mass in St Peter's, followed by Breakfast
12.00noon Mass in St Peter's for Home Schoolers

Sat 17th Dec Late Advent FERIA - O Sapientia (Start of the O Antiphons)
9.30am Mass in St Peter's

ADVENT IV (YEAR A) - O ADONAI

Sat 17th Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's

Sun 18th Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)
11.00am Mass in St Peter's

CONFESSIONS

IN ST PETER'S: **SATURDAY 5.15PM TO 5.45PM**

IN ST MICHAEL'S: **WEDNESDAY 10.45AM TO 11.15AM**

OR PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT; THANK YOU

A WARM WELCOME We welcome visitors, newcomers and parishioners, to our celebration of Mass. Do join us for coffee and refreshments after both Masses in the hall.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT FOR CHURCH CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS – WE SHALL BE NEEDING GREENERY NEARER THE TIME

MASS PROPER FOR ADVENT III (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6,10 *Look, Your God is coming to save you*

Responsorial Psalm: Come, Lord and save us.

Second Reading: St James 5: 7-10 *Do not loose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon*

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to give the good news to the poor. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11 *Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

Communion Antiphon Say to the faint of heart, be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come and save us.

THE ADVENT PRESERVATION SOCIETY The world around us would have us believe that the season of Christmass is already in full swing. Their version has no Christ and no Mass!! The lights in the streets are only to invite us to late night shopping and spending. The world around us says that buying presents rather than giving them is what it is all about. The Christmas Season began for some in September and for many more as soon as Halloween was over on the 1st November. It will all be over as soon as His Majesty the King makes his first annual broadcast on the afternoon of December 25th. They do not preserve Advent and they don't keep Christmas at Christmastide, having peaked way too soon. Advent runs up to it getting dark on Christmas Eve. Christmass runs from then until the Sunday after Epiphany and has a major outpost 40 days after the 25th December on Candlemass, 2nd February, when we take the Crib down.

Fr. Philip and all our parishioners wish you a blessed Advent season, a happy and peaceful Christmas, and a New Year, filled with God's Blessings, Peace, Happiness, Health, and Fortune

LITTLE WAY TRUST 'The Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Clifton are looking to appoint 8 Foundation Directors to form the Trust board of the new emerging Little Way Catholic Educational Trust, consisting of the Catholic Schools in the County of Gloucestershire It will be one of the new Multi-Academy Trusts within the Diocese and therefore will be an exciting opportunity for all concerned. Applications from existing Foundation Governors/Directors and from those without previous school governor experience, would be welcome.' For further information please contact our Governance Officer, bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com or our School Partnership Officer, at paul.kehoe@cliftondiocese.com at the Diocese.

RORATE MASS This is a candlelight Mass of Our Lady, starting in the dark, just before Dawn. The candles serve to remind us that Christ comes into our emotional and spiritual darkness in much the same way as the rosey light of dawn comes to end the night. The name comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon and means "Drop down like the dew". This is also an image of Christ's silent yet momentous coming into our world, unseen like the descent of dew on the grass. The timing is also significant, for Mary herself is the boundary between the Old and New

Testament, being both the faithful daughter of Ancient Israel and the Handmaid of the Lord, full of Gospel grace.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Thursday 15th December Tetbury Festive Lunch;** Help appreciated. There is a list in the porch for names for those willing to help and those who wish to attend.
- **Wednesday 21st December CHRISTMAS "BIG CLEAN" IN ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH** Dusting & Polishing, Mopping and Hoovering, Brass Cleaning, Tidying and Final Decorations. Refreshments will be served.
- **Thursday 22nd December CHRISTMAS "BIG CLEAN" IN ST PETER'S CHURCH**
- Dusting & Polishing, Mopping and Hoovering, Brass Cleaning, Tidying and Final Decorations. Refreshments will be served.

Sat 24 th Dec	5.00pm Mass of the Christmas Vigil in St Peter's
Sun 25 th Dec.	9.00pm Mass of Christmas Night in St Michael's
	9.00am Mass of Christmas Dawn in St Michael's
	11.00am Mass of Christmas Day in St Peter's
Mon 26 th Dec	Noon Mass of St Stephen in St Peter's
Tue 27 th Dec	Noon Mass of St John the Evangelist in St Peter's
Wed 28 th Dec	Noon Mas of the Holy Innocents in St Michael's
Thu 29 th Dec	Noon Mass St Thomas Becket in St Peter's
Fri 30 th Dec	Noon Mass of the Holy Family in St Peter's
Sat 31 st Dec	Noon Mass St Sylvester in St Peter's
	NO VIGIL MASS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENING
Sun 1 st Jan	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
	9.00am Mass in St Michael's
	11.00am Mass in St Peter's



VOCATIONS CONFERENCE IN LENT "Answering God's Call": A vocations discernment retreat for young Catholic adults for Lent – *listening to the 'voice' of Christ, discerning, responding to the call* at Brownhill monastery, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 8AL. **Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March 2023.** For Catholic men and women aged 18-35. This Lenten retreat will help with discerning our vocation in life and answering God's call to each of us: Listening. What is the 'voice' of Christ

and how do I know that He is speaking to me? Discerning. What is Christ asking me to do? Responding. How should I respond? How do I know that I am doing the right thing? Commitment. Answering God's call.