

CONTACT US Parish Priest - Fr Philip Thomas

Parish Administrator – Elaine Wright

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,

Telephone 01285 652087 / Website: www.stpeterscirencester.org

Email Parish Office: cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Telephone: 01666 502367 / Website: www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk

Email Parish Office: tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com

Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;

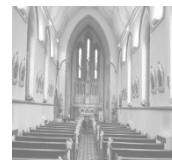
PARISH NEWSLETTER: Could you please send any items for the Parish Newsletter to Elaine in St Michael's Parish Office by Wednesday @12.00noon.

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

WANT A CHAT? A NEW SERVICE FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST

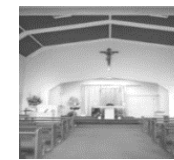
MICHAEL'S This notice is to inform you of an interesting, new development taking place shortly within the Parish. A confidential telephone service, 'Want A Chat', will be available to all parishioners in St Michael's in the New Year. It is available for everyone, including those in the Parish who possibly 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, it, is open to all parishioners for most of their issues. It will not, however, be an advisory service, purely a kindly listening service. Further details will follow

WHAT IS AN EPIPHANY? For many centuries, we have called the Visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem the Epiphany of the Lord. We have retained this curious Greek word. It means Manifestation, in this case the Revealing of Jesus beyond the people of Bethlehem and the Children of Israel. An Epiphany is a moment of recognition of something or someone previously unknown in music, art and literature. The worship of the Christ Child by the Magi and the gift they bestowed are the moment when the Gentile World (US!) acknowledge that Jesus is the Saviour of every nation and not just of the nation of Israel. The Guiding Star likewise, shines down on all peoples and not just on some. The Solemnity of Epiphany adds a missionary dimension to the Season of Christmas, asserting our duty to shine out and inform the world. It was a favourite day for Pope St. John Paul II to ordain new bishops for that very reason.



St Peter's RC Church
7 St Peter's Road
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE

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



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - CHRISTMAS II (YEAR A) 2023

Sun 1st Jan 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populo)
11.00am Mass in St Peter's (Raffaele & Roberto Cardillo RIP)
6.00pm Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI

WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Mon 2nd Jan **Saints Basil & Gregory Nazianzen**
NO MASS
BOTH PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tues 3rd Jan **Most Holy Name of Jesus**
NO MASS
BOTH PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Wed 4th Jan **Christmas Feria**
NO MASS: ST PETER'S PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – Solemnity and Holy Day of Obligation

Thu 5th Jan **6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's**
Fri 6th Jan **10.00am Mass in St Michael's**
Noon Mass in St Peter's (Lucile Caravana RIP)
6.00pm Mass in St Michael's
Sat 7th Jan **St Raymond of Penyafort**
9.30am in St Peter's

BAPTISM OF THE LORD – CHRISTMAS III

Sat 7th Jan. 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's
Sun 8th Jan 9.00am Mass in St Michael's
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
& BY APPOINTMENT; PLEASE RING TO ARRANGE. THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON AND NOT JUST A DAY

MASS PROPERS FOR THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

First Reading: Numbers 6: 22-27 *Aaron blesses the Children of Israel.*

Responsorial Psalm: O God, be gracious and bless us.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 *Born of woman in the fullness of time.*

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! At various time in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through His Son. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2: 16-21 *Mary pondered these events in her heart. The Naming of Jesus.*

Communion Antiphon Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

NEXT SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. This brings to the end the Christmas Season. By ancient English Tradition, the Crib will remain in place for 40 days until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; please come and pray before the Infant Baby Who came to save the world.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - THE THEOTOKOS We use the Octave day of Christmas, civil new year, to assert the exact nature of Our Lady's participation in the story of the Incarnation. God could have waved a wand and used mere magic to appear in our world, but it would not have been either real or natural. He chose to be born in the normal way after the usual 9 months in the womb. In this sense Mary is obviously Christ's mother. However, He is God without beginning or end. He owes His origin to no one. Mary generates the human nature of Jesus Christ. Because of the inseparable union of the Two Natures in Christ, we assert boldly that she is the God Bearer (Theotokos in Greek), as defined at the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 431AD. Mother of God Incarnate is a term which commands almost universal acceptance among Christians of every kind. To understand who she is and Who she bore, is ultimately about Christ Himself, more than about her. We insist that she is not a mere puppet or instrument, but a willing and entirely human collaborator with God's Plan of Salvation. The privileges of Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity and Bodily Assumption all depend on her motherhood of God Made Man.

FUNDRAISING AT THE FESTIVE LUNCH ON 15th DECEMBER St Michael's is pleased, to announce that they raised £334.50 in aid of Parish funds, Mary's meals and Centre Point despite the bad weather which resulted in the second table top sale being cancelled and the bad weather reducing the numbers attending the meal. Grateful thanks to those who organised, cooked, and attended.

ST MICHAEL'S HALL Parishioners are reminded that we have a hall which can be hired; if you or a group you know are interested in hiring the hall, please contact St Michael's Parish Office on the details above. A gentle reminder to those who clean the church or arrange flowers;

please remember to look at the calendar on the hall notice board on the Sunday before you wish to come in to check that the hall is free; the hall is hired out at various times and days during the week. Thank you for your co-operation.

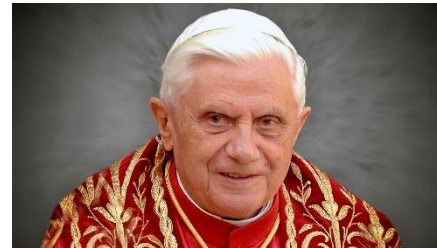
ANSWERING GOD'S CALL - A VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR LENT will be taking place at the Bernardine Convent in Brownhill, near Stroud, this reflective weekend (3 - 5 March 2023), is open to men and women aged 18-35. There's chance to spend some time in prayer in beautiful surroundings listening to the voice of the Lord who calls us to follow him and serve him. £90 full board. More information on the notice board.

'THANK YOU'S

A) Fr Philip wishes to 'Thank you' all for your generous Christmas offering, cards and gifts; he wishes you and your families a New Year, filled with God's Blessings, Peace, Happiness, Health, and Fortune.

B) A huge thank you to all who have contributed to the lives of our two parishes, in which ever Ministry you contribute or by participating in our celebration of Mass. Those who have made the church look lovely not just at Christmas and Easter but throughout the year; cleaned the church, work on the garden or maintenance, organised and helped with social events, treasurer Brian, health, and safety officers, most important our Parish Priest Fr Philip. As we approach 2023, let us move forward supporting each other. However, let us not forget those who we have lost this year and pray that they rest in peace.

ST MICHAEL'S CRIB DONATIONS: Tetbury crib donations are being donated to Mary's Meals. Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need, share with those who lack even the most basic things. Working, together with those who share our vision, we believe there is no good reason why this cannot be realised. Their work is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary's Meals consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and of none.



OF YOUR CHARITY, PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF POPE BENEDICT XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) AND THANK GOD FOR HIS SERVICE AS ST PETER'S SUCCESSOR IN ROME