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ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,

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Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER This will be held this year on **Friday 3rd March 2023 @ 2.00pm** in Christ Church, Tetbury and **10.30am** at the Friends Meeting House, Thomas Street, Cirencester. The theme of the service 'I have heard about your faith'

CAFOD -LENT CHALLENGE. Calling all fit parishioners to partake in a Lenten Triathlon. We want to recruit a Team who will be able to swim, cycle and run or walk a certain distance in Lent and then record their achievements on the board in the Hall. Our Team members will need sponsorship....so that involves everyone! Please contact Mary Dignan if you would like to partake.

LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION - LENT CONFESSIONS Bishop

Declan is to celebrate Penance Services during Lent at four venues across the diocese.

Thursday 9 March (*Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol*),

Thursday 16 March (*St Catharine of Alexandria, Frome*),

Thursday 23 March (*St Mary, Swindon*),

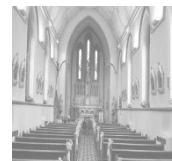
Thursday 30 March (*Corpus Christi, Weston-Super-Mare*).

These start at 7pm; except for *Sacred Heart, Westbury-on-Trym*, which will start at 6pm.

Stroud Deanery Reconciliation Service at Immaculate Conception, Stroud at 7.00pm on Thursday 16th March

SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL - Bishop Declan has requested the following: "CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike." For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

EMERGENCY 2ND COLLECTION FOR THE TURKISH SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



t Peter's RC Church St Michael's RC Church,
7 St Peter's Road Silver Street
Cirencester Tetbury
Gloucestershire Gloucestershire
GL7 1RE GL8 8DH



SUNDAY VII IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) - QUINQUAGESIMA

Sat 18th Feb. 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's
Sun 19th Feb 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Giovanni Leonardi RIP)
11.00am Mass in St Peter's (pro populo)

EMERGENCY 2ND COLLECTION FOR THE TURKISH SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

WORSHIP THIS WEEK – Week 7 Year 1 of the Lectionary

Mon 20th Feb Feria of Week 7

FR PHILIP'S DAY OFF - BOTH PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tues 21st Feb St Peter Damian

9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Private Intention)

Wed 22nd Feb **ASH WEDNESDAY Fasting & Abstinence –
Lent begins**

10.00am Mass & Ashing in St Michael's

6.00pm Mass & Ashing in St Peter's

Thu 23rd Feb Lenten Feria

9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Private Intention)

Fri 24th Feb Lenten Feria

9.30am Mass in St Peter's

12.00noon Way of the Cross in St Michael's

7.00pm 'Passover in Jerusalem' Lecture in St Peter's

Sat 25th Feb Lenten Feria

9.30am in St Peter's`

LENT I (YEAR A) -

Sat 25th Feb **6.00pm Penitential Procession & Vigil Mass in St Peter's**

Sun 26th Feb **9. Penitential Procession & Mass in St Michael's (pro populo)**

11.00am Penitential Procession & Mass in St Peter's (Minnie Boyle RIP)

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

MASS PROPERS FOR ORDINARY SUNDAY VII (Year A)

Entrance 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 to me.

First Reading: Leviticus: 19 1-2, 17-18

Lenten Feria

Love your neighbour as yourself

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Second Reading: 1. Cor. 3 16-23 *You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God*

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word, and My Father will love him, and We shall come to him. Alleluia

Holy Gospel Matthew: 5 38-48 *Love your enemies*

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.

MAGGIE MARUM'S MEMORIAL MASS It has been confirmed that a Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 6th March in St Michael's Church @ 2.30pm with Fr. Isadore, followed by a reception in the hall afterwards. To help with catering please send an RSVP to: Peter.stjohn@icloud.com

SACRED LAUNDRY Money laundering is immoral and illegal and not our business!! Our corporals, purificators and lavabo towels for Mass are referred to as Small Linens. **We are hugely grateful to Olivia Murray** has laundered our Small Linens for over a decade in Cirencester. She retires at the end of February. Instruction on the special care and folding of small linens is readily available for any lady or gentleman willing to take on the task A team, rather than an individual would share the task around. The job is largely unseen by most parishioners but known to God and the clergy.

"PASSEVER IN JERUSALEM OR NICE ONE, CYRIL" - TALKS ON THE LITURGY OF LENT Friday 7.00pm in St Peter's, 24th February, 3rd March and 10th March. Father Philip will give a historical and faith perspective on what we do in Lent and Holy Week.

'WANT A CHAT?' A NEW SERVICE FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST MICHAEL'S 'Want A Chat', will be available to all parishioners in St Michael's, including those 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

LENTEN STATIONS - THE WAY OF THE CROSS Don't "give something up" (except sin!) TAKE SOMETHING UP!!!. Examples include attending Mass midweek or a weekly Stations of the Cross; Fr Philip invites parishioners of both parishes to join together in St Michael's Church for Stations of the Cross commencing Friday 24th February @ 12.00noon and on Wednesday mornings in St Peter's @10.00am, as part of our preparation for Easter. Volunteers to lead the Stations always welcome.

"WHY DID JESUS DIE?" - 3 Scripture-Based Sessions for Lent The Passions are very familiar stories, but John Huntriss will put the pieces together to tell the Passion/Easter story. He will also look at the details we hear read each year, but may have never stopped to consider. A good preparation for Holy Week and Easter. John Huntriss leads three Scripture based Lenten sessions at **St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham**. John has been leading Scripture sessions around the diocese for many years and is a superb scriptural scholar and communicator. The **Wednesday evening sessions on 15, 22 & 29 March. Each session starts at 7pm.**

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE DESERT - ONLINE LENTEN

RETREAT: Guest speakers. Each session will be between 7pm – 8pm. To access each conversation via Microsoft Teams, please register on the Eventbrite links below.

28 Feb: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-1-tickets-529116962077

7 March: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-2-tickets-529124464517

14 March: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-3-tickets-529126530697

21 March: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-4-tickets-529135026107

29 March: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-5-tickets-529141003987

4 April: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeying-through-the-desert-6-tickets-529147383

LENTEN LUNCHESES – After Stations of the Cross, why not join us in the hall for 'homemade soup'. TACT (Tetbury Area Churches Together) have been instrumental in arranging these lunches in previous but unfortunately this stopped due to COVID. Last year a few of St Michael's parishioners thought it would be a good idea to start again. Please join us and support the two usual causes CAFOD and Christian Aid. If you are able to make us some soup please put your name on the list in the porch, thank you.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Bishop Declan invites us all, individuals and parishes, to take part in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - **18th- 25th August 2023**. This is the first time we have been able to travel to Lourdes in three years, so

we are expecting it to be popular. Please note there is no coach or Jumbulance going this year, so everyone will need to fly. For further information, please see poster.

CIRENCESTER FOODBANK Helping people in crisis Cirencester Foodbank operates across the South Cotswolds, (including Tetbury and surrounding areas), supporting individuals and families. To access Foodbank support, one needs to be given an online voucher. Vouchers are available from organisations such as Citizens Advice, P3, GP surgeries, churches, schools, mental health teams, Cirencester Signpost, Social Services, District Councils, Town Councils etc The Foodbank is incredibly grateful to everyone offering food donations, money and time. Food donation points are available at the checkouts in Tesco in Tetbury and in Tesco Extra and Waitrose in Cirencester. All donations of non-perishable foodstuffs are very welcome there and will be transferred to the Foodbank warehouse for onward distribution. Please check out the Foodbank website www.cirencester.foodbank.org.uk to see which items of non-perishable food and cleaning materials are most in demand.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wed 1st March Feast of St David of Wales, 10.00am Mass in St Michael's
- Fri 17th March, Feast of St Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland, 9.30am Mass in St Peter's
- Mon 20th March, Transferred Solemnity of St Joseph, 6.00pm Mass in St Peter's
- Sat 25th Solemnity of the Annunciation of Christ to Our Lady, 9.30am Mass in St Peter's

WHERE IS LENT GOING? - THE JOURNEY OF CONVERSION Lent travels from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and Paschal- tide 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 to 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.

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 Lenten 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. **10.00am on Wednesdays in St Peter's and Noon on Fridays at St Michal'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.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM – THE THREE DAYS OF THE LORD'S PASSOVER 2023

1. **FIRST DAY - Sundown Thursday 6th April to Sundown Friday 7th April – The Supper, the Garden and the Cross**
2. **SECOND DAY – Sundown Friday 7th April to Sundown Saturday 8th April – Watching and Waiting at the Tomb**
3. **THIRD DAY – Sundown Saturday 8th April to Sundown Sunday 9th April – The Resurrection**

MORE THAN 40,000 PEOPLE ARE NOW KNOWN TO HAVE DIED IN THE EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA AND THE DEATH TOLL IS STILL RISING. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEAD, FOR THE MANY BEREAVED SURVIVORS AND FOR AID & RESCUE WORKERS

STATION DAYS were days of fasting in the early Christian Church, associated with a procession to certain prescribed churches in Rome, where the Mass and Vespers would be celebrated to mark important days of the liturgical year. Although other cities also had similar practices, and the fasting is no longer prescribed, the Roman churches associated with the various station days are still the object of pilgrimage and ritual, especially in the season of Lent.

Station days grew out of the early Christian practice of visiting the tombs of the martyrs and celebrating the Eucharist at those sites.^[3] By the fourth century, the practice of carrying out an itinerary to various churches of the city began to develop during the days of Lent. In those days it became a tradition for the pope to visit a church in each part of the city and celebrate Mass with the congregation.

In the early centuries, the Lenten fast lasted all day, and so towards the evening, the Christians of Rome would begin to gather at a church known as the *collecta* ("gathering place"), where they would be joined by the assembled clergy of the city and the pope.^[4] The procession would then move through the streets to the station church, not far away.^[A] Having gathered at the daily *statio* ("standing place"), the pope would then celebrate a solemn Mass, and fragments of the Host were sent to the other *stationes* of the city in order to symbolize the unity of the city around its bishop.^[4] After the conclusion of Vespers, the day's fast was broken with a communal meal.^[4]

In the earliest form of the Lenten itinerary, only about twenty-five churches were assigned as *stationes*. More precisely, the *statio* was defined not as the church building, but the relics of the martyr whose relics were housed within.^[4] (For example, rather than "Station at the Basilica of St. Anastasia", the station was considered to be "at St. Anastasia" herself.^[4])

In the sixth century, Pope Gregory the Great fixed the classic order of these stations, and confirmed the tradition that the more solemn festivals of the liturgical year should be marked with the standard practices: assembling at Sext, continuing in procession to the *statio*, celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy, and finishing with Vespers.

The practice of keeping stations continued beyond Lent into Eastertide. The stations for the Easter season proceeded in order of sanctity: from St. John Lateran, which is dedicated to Christ, the Saviour, for the Easter Vigil, to St. Mary Major on Easter day, to the shrines of principal patrons of the city over the next three days: St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Lawrence.

The stationary liturgy of the early Roman Church had an important part in determining the various readings for strong liturgical seasons, such as Lent. For example, in the pre-1970 Missal, the Gospel for the Thursday after Ash Wednesday was always Matthew 8:5–13, the healing of the centurion's servant. This reading was almost certainly chosen because the station of that day was San Giorgio in Velabro, where the relics of the soldier-saint George are kept. San Giorgio was St John Henry Newman's titular church as Cardinal

Popes since John XXIII have revived the practice of visiting the station for Ash Wednesday, Santa Sabina all'Aventino.

The practice of keeping stations gradually waned in Rome, starting after the Gregorian reforms of the eleventh century began to place more emphasis on the pope as administrator, and papal liturgies began to be celebrated in private, rather than among the people of the city. The keeping of stations ceased entirely during the Avignon papacy, and left their trace only as notations in the Roman Missal.

After the Lateran Treaty of 1929 solved the Roman Question, Pope Pius XI and Pius XII encouraged a return to the ancient tradition by attaching indulgences for visiting the station churches of Lent and Easter. Concrete gestures on the part of Pope John XXIII and Paul VI also began a revival, as John XXIII was the first pope in modern times to

celebrate Ash Wednesday at Santa Sabina, and Paul VI visited Sant'Eusebio on its station day in 1967.

The greatest impetus towards the recovery of the ancient tradition, however, has been the student-organized station church program put on by the Pontifical North American College. The North American College has coordinated a public station Mass in English at all the station churches of Lent, from Monday to Saturday, every year since 1975. In recent years, the Diocese of Rome too hosts Italian-language Lenten station Masses at the traditional evening hour. As a seminarian in Rome, Fr. Philip regularly attended the English and Italian Masses.