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LENT III THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT JACOB'S WELL IN SYCHAR

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

Penance Services with Bp. Declan during Lent at four venues across the diocese.

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

PRAYER GROUP St Peter's Prayer Group has restarted. During Lent we are meeting every Friday @ 10.30am at Apartment 1, Woolrich House, The Waterloo, Cirencester. Tel: 01285 671156. When the room at the back of St Peter's Hall is ready, we shall meet there. If you are coming, please let Geraldine know. Everyone is welcome. If you would like us to pray for someone or something in particular, please let us know.

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH This will take place **11th -19th March 2023**. Remember the Solemnity is not on Sunday 19th March because it is Mothering Sunday and is moved to **Monday 20th March**. The National Novena will take at St Joseph's Church Maidenhead Saturdays 10.00am; Sundays 11.00sm; Monday to Friday 7.30pm. The Masses are also available by zoo, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena.

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.



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



LENT III (Year A)

Sat 11th Mar 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's
 Sun 12th Mar 9.00am Mass in St Michael's
 11.00am Mass in St Peter's (pro populo)

WORSHIP THIS WEEK – Lent Week 1II

Mon 13th Mar Lenten Feria
FR PHILIP'S DAY OFF - BOTH PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Tues 14th Mar Lenten Feria
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's (J.I Holland RIP)

Wed 15th Mar Lenten Feria
10.00am Way of the Cross in St Peter's
 10.00am Mass in St Michael's (Francisco and Jaxoba Balazar RIP)

Thu 16th Mar Lenten Feria
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Fri 17th Mar ST PATRICK, Enlightener of Ireland (Feast)
 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 18th Mar Lenten Feria – St Cyril of Jerusalem
 9.30am in St Peter's`

LENT IV LAETARE AND MOTHERING SUNDAY (YEAR A) -

Sat 18th Mar 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's
 Sun 19th Mar 9.00am Mass in St Michael's
 11.00am Mass in St Peter's (pro populo)

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

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR SOMETHING ROSE ON MOTHERING SUNDAY – LENT IV.
REMEMBER THE SAVIOUR DIDN'T 'PINK' FROM THE DEAD – HE ROSE!!**

**We wish a 'Happy St Patrick's Day' on Friday to our Irish Parishioners and to all
called Patrick or Patricia**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **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**

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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY CAKE SALE Next Sunday, Lent IV, is Mothering Sunday; St Michael's Parish will be holding a cake sale 'In memory of Hettie Niblett;' for Tetbury Hospital. Hettie worked at the hospital for many years. There, is a list in the porch, for those who wish to contribute cakes.

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.

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.

"PASSEVER IN JERUSALEM OR NICE ONE, CYRIL" - TALKS ON THE LITURGY OF LENT Friday 7.00pm in St Peter's, 10th March. Father Philip will

give a historical and faith perspective on what we do in Lent and Holy Week. St Cyril was Patriarch of Jerusalem at a key stage in the development of Holy Week in the 4th Century.

MASS PROPERS FOR LENT III (Year A)

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for He rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall

6.00pm “Maria Desolata”, revisiting the Stations with Our Lady in St Michael’s

THE SECOND DAY – The Resting, Waiting and Praying

Sat 8th Apr Great and Holy Saturday – Christ’s Sabbath

The Church around the world watches and waits in prayer, whilst the Saviour descends to the Realm of the Dead to rescue the souls of those gone before

THE THIRD DAY – The Empty Tomb and the Rising Again

THE RESURRECTION OF O.L.J.C. IN THE FLESH – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sat 8th Apr **9.00pm The Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter in St Peter’s Church.**

Sun 9th Apr **9.00am Mass of Easter Morning in St Michael’s**

11.00am Mass of Easter Morning in St Peter’s

“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.**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK As soon as a Christian hears mention of water, he or she immediately thinks of Baptism. That is not inappropriate, for the Saviour promises the Samaritan Woman living water, the Holy Spirit. Baptism is being born again of water and the Holy Spirit. It also means a new life. The many husbands of the Samaritan Woman show how she needs to reform her life, to say nothing of the man she now has, who is not her husband at all.

Most of us do not remember being baptised at all, although Fr. Philip does! Christenings at Sunday Mass are not always popular, but they do enable us all to reflect a little on our own Baptism. We have indeed been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, with all our sins forgiven. We have been adopted as the Children of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. This a lofty destiny, that we do not always acknowledge. We are not always excited about meeting the Lord at the Font and the Altar, the way the Samaritan Woman rushes off to tell the folk of Sychar about the Saviour.

When we do think about Baptism, we think of it most often as an event for children, often accompanied by a party. We Catholics are all for parties, but we forget that Christening, brings about a permanent, new relationship with Christ, Master, Brother, Saviour, God. It also creates, as He says at Jacob’s Well, a new relationship with the Holy Spirit, a fountain of life welling up within us. We would do well to ponder on how often and how sincerely I turn to the Spirit for life within, to get me through the day or the difficulties of life.