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**Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;**



**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 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 **11<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> March 2023**. Remember the Solemnity is not on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March because it is Mothering Sunday and is moved to **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 - **18<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

LENT IV= LAETARE  
 MOTHERING SUNDAY

THE HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



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
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**LENT IV LAETARE AND MOTHERING SUNDAY (YEAR A) -**

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

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

**WORSHIP THIS WEEK – Lent Week IV**

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Mar **TRANSFERRED SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH OF NAZARETH**  
**6.00pm Mass in St Peter's ( )**  
 Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Mar **Lenten Feria/Passing of St Benedict**  
**FR PHILIP'S DAY OFF - BOTH PARISH OFFICES CLOSED**  
 Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar **Lenten Feria**  
**10.00am Way of the Cross in St Peter's**  
 10.00am Mass in St Michael's ( )  
 Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar **Lenten Feria**  
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's  
 Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Mar **Lenten Feriaast**  
 9.30am Mass in St Peter's  
**12.00noon Way of the Cross in St Michael's**  
 Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Mar **THE ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST TO OUR LADY, Solemnity**  
 9.30sm in St Peter's

**LENT V – Passiontide begins (YEAR A) – CLOCK CHANGE**

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's  
 Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 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**

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

• Please note that all weekday masses in the Easter Octave will be at Noon, in both churches

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Communion Antiphon:** For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life

### **WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK AND THE 'TRIDUUM'**

#### **PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION - LENT VI**

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Apr **6.00pm Blessing of Palms and Mass**  
Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr **10.00am Ecumenical Palm Blessing under Tetbury Town Hall, Procession of Christ the King, Passion Mass in St Michael's 12.00Noon Blessing of Palms in the hall, Procession of Christ the King and Passion Mass in St Peter's**  
Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK – Fig Monday**  
9.30am Mass in St Peter's  
12.00Noon St Michael's  
Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK Temple Tuesday**  
9.30am Mass in St Peter's  
12.00noonMass in St Michael's  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK – Spy Wednesday**  
8.00am Mass in St Peter's  
**11.00am Chrism Mass in Clifton Cathedral**  
6.00pm Mass in St Michael's

#### **THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

#### **THE FIRST DAY – the Table, the Garden and the Cross**

Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Apr **MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord Supper in St Peter's, followed by the Gethsemane Watch at the Altar of Repose**  
Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Apr **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**10.30am Ecumenical Service to start the Walk of Witness in St Peter's**  
**3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion in St Peter's**  
**6.00pm "Maria Desolata", revisiting the Stations with Our Lady in St Michael's**

#### **THE SECOND DAY – The Resting, Waiting and Praying**

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> Apr **9.00pm The Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter in St Peter's Church.**  
Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Apr **9.00am Mass of Easter Morning in St Michael's 11.00am Mass of Easter Morning in St Peter's**

**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.