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**ST MICHAEL’S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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*Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;*

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT** We are delighted to announce that we are offering a first Marriage Enrichment Retreat for married couples this coming May. You can find details online at the following link [christianheritagecentre.com/events/a-great-mystery-marriage-enrichment/](http://christianheritagecentre.com/events/a-great-mystery-marriage-enrichment/) Please do consider promoting this, perhaps especially to couples who have married in recent years or are approaching a first significant anniversary. The retreat aims to give couples a clear sense of the beauty and dignity of the marital vocation as an icon of Christ and His Church, whilst implicitly providing a response to the secular reduction of human love and the family, in order to try and build up couples in their vocation. We also still have some places left on the upcoming weekend marriage preparation course:

[christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/](http://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/) This will take place at the Stefan Kaminski, Director, The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, T: 01254 827329,

We would like to inform you of the up-and-coming dates for our Marriage Encounter Experiences and the Engaged Encounter Experiences (Marriage Preparation):

**Marriage Encounter Experiences: 13/14 May 2023** – online; 10/11 June 2023 - non-residential - Macclesfield.

**Marriage Preparation (Engaged Encounter): 22-29 April 2023** - online (over two Saturdays); 3/4 June 2023 – non-residential - Sudbury Hill, Middlesex.

May the Lord bless all the work that is being done through yourselves and our thanks for all your support. Marie & Paul Kennedy ME Promotion Team

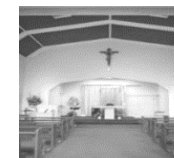
**PRAYER GROUP** After Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March St Peter’s Prayer Group every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 10.30am at Apartment 1, Woolrich House, The Waterloo,

Cirencester. Tel: 01285 671156. 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.



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



## *Hosanna to the King*

### *PARISH BULLETIN*

#### **LENT VI –THE SUNDAY OF PALMS AND PASSION (YEAR A)**

Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 6.00pm Blessing of Palm & Vigil Mass in St Peter’s  
 Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr **10.00am Ecumenical Palm Liturgy under Tetbury Market Hall, Procession of Christ the King and Passion Mass in St Michael’s**  
**12.00noon Palm Liturgy in the hall, Procession of Christ the King and Passion Mass in St Peter’s (pro populo)**

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** There will be the traditional retiring collection after the Good Friday Liturgy for the Holy Places and Christians in the Holy Land

#### **WORSHIP FOR THIS GREAT AND HOLY WEEK**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK – Fig Monday**  
**9.30am Mass in St Peter’s (Carazon de Guzman RIP)**  
**Noon Mass in St Michael’s**

Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK – Temple Tuesday**  
**9.30am Mass in St Peter’s**  
**Noon Mass in St Michael’s**

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Apr **IN HOLY WEEK - Spy Wednesday**  
**8.00am Mass in St Peter’s (Godafreda B Caravana RIP)**  
**11.00am *Christ Mass in Clifton Cathedral***  
**6.00pm Mass in St Michael’s**

#### **CONFESSIONS IN HOLY WEEK**

**By Appointment (Please ring to arrange. Thank you) or after any of the Masses before the Triduum,**

**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  
**10.00am "Ecumenical Good Friday Service for Coronation Year" in St Peter's to start the Walk of Witness**  
**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**

**HOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH** Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a five-week course on how we talk about our Catholic Faith with other adults, young people and children – do join us if you can.

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. How to talk about God                                 | Apr 20 |
| 2. How to talk about Jesus Christ                        | Apr 27 |
| 3. How to talk about Salvation (and the problem of evil) | May 4  |
| 4. How to talk about the human person                    | May 11 |
| 5. How to talk about the Church                          | May 18 |

To sign up, parishioners need to click on: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/further-training-for-catechists-2023-04-20-19-30>

**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.

**SWIMMING THROUGH LENT FOR CAFOD** Throughout Lent I have been swimming when I can as part of a Triathlon linked with Parishioners from St. Michael's Tetbury. So far, I have swum 370 lengths and hope to swim over 500 lengths by the end of Lent which is 12,500 metres. If you would like to sponsor me, please indicate on the sponsorship form at the back of church. Cathy Nelson

**NEWMAN ASSOCIATION:** There will be a talk on **Tuesday 4 April at 2.30pm**, in the lounge of Sacred Hearts' Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 9AU. Dr Giles Mercer, formerly Headmaster of Stonyhurst and Prior Park and also author of William Brownlow's biography, will speak to us on: **St Alphege & the Anglo-Saxon Church** All are welcome: £3 (members & students free) Enquires to Stephanie Jamison, tel: 01242 539810.

**RESTAURATION OF THE CHALICE AT MASS** Bishop Declan informs us that the Bishops' Conference has decided to restore the Chalice and Communion under Both Kinds at Mass from Maundy Thursday. As with Readers, we shall need Volunteers at first, because we have no rotas. If you are willing, please contact the relevant Parish Office. No one, has to receive under both kinds, if they are not comfortable with this.

### **MASS PROPER FOR LENT VI (Year A)**

- *The Palm Gospel is proclaimed as usual with lights and incense and the customary responses at beginning and end.*

**Gospel for the Blessing of Palm: Matthew 21:1-11**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7** *A Song of the Suffering Servant*

**Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11** *Christ humbled Himself unto death*

**Gospel Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised Him high and gave Him the name which is above all names. Praise to You, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**Passion: Matthew: 26:14-27:66** *Jesus cried out and yielded His spirit.*

- *The Passion is proclaimed with neither lights nor incense!*

- *The Passion is greeted at the beginning and end with respectful silence. NO RESPONSES*
- *The Passion is long. If standing presents you with challenges, wait until Christ reaches Golgotha to stand.*
- *When the Passion tell of the death of the Lord, those who can, genuflect.*

**Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, Your will be done**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** Both the Gospel readings this Sunday (Palms and Passion) contain details which strongly suggest that the events of Holy Week are neither spontaneous or tragic! They are planned by the Lord Himself and His Heavenly Father. The dialogue at the collecting of the donkey sounds like a pre-arranged code with the owners of the ass. The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem is no accident or spur of the moment thing. The Old Testament quotation which Matthew includes makes it clear that God's planning of salvation, the golden thread through history, goes back a very long way. It has to be like this! This is not just St Matthew. When St Luke tells of the first Easter Evening and the Walk to Emmaus, the Risen Lord tells Cleopas and his companion (Mrs Cleopas or Mary the wife of Clopas?) that the Christ was destined to suffer, as He tells them about the mentions in Scripture about Himself.

The Passion gospel in Matthew and in the other Evangelists suggests the Lord has pre-planned the Last or Passover Supper. Of course, Jerusalem was heaving with people making plans for the Seder Meal and the Passover Celebration, but for the Saviour it is not Israel's Escape from Egypt when the Angel of Death passed over their houses, but His own Passover from Death to Life, taking us with Him. That He has made His own, particular preparations, is hardly surprising.

I find it helpful to see the planning and preparation of Holy Week and Easter, because part of me just wants to spare Him the suffering and death and cut along to the Resurrection, but that would actually defeat the object of His destiny. I can't change what is supposed to happen. With God's help, I can change me!

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE EASTER OCTAVE WILL BE AT NOON, IN BOTH CHURCHES, TO GIVE FR. PHILIP A CHANCE TO REST UP A BIT.**
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Women's 'Reflect' Breakfast at Christ Church, Tetbury, 9.30am till 11.10am. Time to chat & be encouraged as we share a simple craft activity, listen to

someone sharing their faith and enjoy breakfast including: hot drinks, pastries, granola, fruit & yoghurt

**VOLUNTEER READERS** Our usual rotas only cover Masses of Sunday on Saturday night and Sunday Morning. Special weekday events and shared events between the two parishes are not covered. Much has already been arranged for Holy Week, but we still need one Volunteer from St Peter's and one Volunteer from St Michael's for the Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter., So be warned! Willing Victims should contact the relevant Parish Office

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** The Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes is taking place this year in late August. The group will be led by Bishop Declan with pilgrims coming from all over the Diocese to embark on this journey. Details can be found on the Diocese website under Upcoming Events or by ringing 0117902 5590 or visiting [lourdes@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:lourdes@cliftondiocese.com) for an information pack. Please be aware the deadline for deposits is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, with payment is full by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

**'MUSIC AND MOVEMENT'** Decades ago, generations of children at Primary School ran round their hall or class room moving to music on the Radio. For some in big cities, this was the only real exercise they had. For most of the Church Year, there is music at Mass, but not much movement. Apart from arriving and departing and going for Holy Communion, it is mostly up and down on the spot. Of course, we kneel for the Consecration at Mass, but it pretty static. In Holy Week that changes. It is week of forward movement both physical and spiritual.

It starts with the Blessing of Palms and the Procession in honour of Christ the King. This usually starts outside or in a building apart from the Parish Church. We move into Mass, not so much in imitation of Christ as with Him in spirit.

There is the journey to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass, with its blessing of oils and emphasis of Christ the Priest. For us, Bristol is not too far away, but if you are in Mlnehead, Chard or Chipping Campden, the travelling is significant. For our clergy it is the occasion for the renewal of commitment to priestly and diaconal service. The Bishop too commits himself to serve God and the Diocese.

Much of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper resembles a normal, Sunday morning Mass, but the bells at the Gloria jolt us out of our complacency. The Mass does not end in the usual notices and blessing. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar after Holy Communion and we process out of church solemnly to the Altar of Repose, dressed to remind us of the Garden of Gethsemane. It is not joyful. We are sombre, leaving the Upper Room with the Lord to watch and wait, knowing that the Arrest could happen at any moment. It is the opposite of the joy of Corpus Christi, later in the year.

The Celebration of the Passion not only contains the movement of the Faithful to receive Holy Communion. Before that the Cross is processed into the assembly, stopping as it does so for us to adore the Crucified. Then we ourselves process up to venerate.

The Great Paschal Vigil and First Mass of Easter starts with the Procession of the Candle into the darkened church. It reminds us to carry Christ the Light into the world.

With all this movement, small wonder we finish Palm Sunday Mass with "Ride on, Ride on in majesty", for move we must. Its not about the youth or vigour of our bodies, but about spiritually uniting ourselves to Christ in His Passover Mystery.