

## **ST PETER'S CIRENCESTER & ST MICHAEL'S TETBURY**

7, St Peter's Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1RE

Telephone: 01285652087

[cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com)

[www.stpeterscirencester.org](http://www.stpeterscirencester.org)

Silver Street, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8DH

Telephone: 01666502367

[tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com)

[www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk)

Priest: Fr Maria Selvan MSFS

[maria.alexander@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:maria.alexander@cliftondiocese.com)

Parish Administrator: Elaine Wright

## **Good Shepherd Sunday**



Dear Friends,

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**. It is also the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. The scripture lessons are about shepherds. Each year on this Sunday we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, devotedly taking care of his flock. The title of the parish priest, “pastor,” means shepherd. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects his flock-responsibilities that belong to every Church leader. The earliest Christians had seen Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of a good shepherd. They also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God’s flock. **In today’s first reading**, Peter asserts unequivocally before the Jewish assembly that there is no salvation except through Christ the Good Shepherd whom the Jewish leaders have rejected and crucified, and in whose name the apostles preach and heal. In the **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 118), we give God our heartfelt thanks for His goodness, His mercy and His becoming our Savior, our refuge and the “cornerstone” of the Kingdom of God. **In the second reading**, St. John tells us how Yahweh, the Good Shepherd of the Old Testament, expressed His love for us through His Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by making us His children. **The Gospel** text offers us both comfort and challenge. The comforting good news is that Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us, provides for us and loves us. The challenge is that we should be *good shepherds* to those entrusted to our care. The Pharisees didn’t get the message – but, thanks to the grace God gives us and the Holy Spirit’ indwelling guidance and protection in the Church, we do.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Masses Requested</b>	<b>Saints &amp; Feasts</b>
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> April 5.30pm	St. Peter’s	Private Intention	Adoration followed by Mass
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> April 9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s	Jack Harding - RIP Stefan Palarz - RIP	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 9.30am	St. Peter’s		
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>No Mass</b>		
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am	St. Peter’s		<b>St. Mark, Evangelist - Feast</b>
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am	St. Peter’s	Geraldine Ventham- Birthday Int.	

#### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

In St. Peter’s Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

In St. Michael’s Wednesday 10.45am to 11.15am and by appointment, please ring to arrange. Thank you.

**A Warm Welcome:** today is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. As always, we welcome visitors and newcomers to join our “regulars,” asking Almighty God to bestow His blessings and graces on us all. You are most welcome to join us for coffee and tea in the Parish Hall.

#### **Good Shepherd Sunday:**

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as Good shepherd Sunday, traditionally a day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. A second collection will be taken to support ongoing Clergy formation, Seminarian formation and vocations promotion.

We wish Geraldine Ventham a happy **84<sup>th</sup> birthday**. May God bless her in abundance.

#### **Children-led-Liturgy:**

As many of you sent me messages and told me personally, the Holy Eucharistic Celebration which was animated by our children and youth of our parish on last Sunday at St. Peter’s was mesmerizing. Their performance truly captivated everyone present. Congratulations to all the young participants for their commendable efforts, and a big round of applause to those who guided and prepared them. The next children-led-mass is scheduled for the second Sunday of May (12<sup>th</sup>). Let’s keep showing our support and encouragement to these young members of our parish community.

### **A Huge Thank You:**

I extend my deepest gratitude to Brian Helm for his exceptional work in managing the website for St. Peter's and to Jolka (Jolanta Karlowska) for generously volunteering to assume this responsibility moving forward. Your dedication is truly invaluable to our parish community. Furthermore, I am immensely thankful to Mary Dignan for graciously volunteering to serve as a backup for Brian at St. Michael's. Your willingness to support our endeavours is deeply appreciated and will undoubtedly contribute to the smooth operation of our parishes.

### **Mass in the Cathedral as a celebration of Marriage and Family Life:**

The bishop is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Saturday 25 May** at 12 noon inviting all families to join him to celebrate the joys and challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples celebrating a significant anniversary during 2024. If you are, or know of a couple celebrating special anniversaries during 2024, please do let us know. You just need to send names to this email: [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) with the address so that a personal invitation can be sent to them from the bishop, including the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, and it will be good to see many of you there.

<p><b>Offertory Collection:</b> Last Week: St. Peter's: £573.63 (incl. via the Dona Machine), 100 Club: £78.00, St. Michael's: £105.00 <b>“Thank You”</b></p>
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**Hearty Congratulations to Leo Nathaniel Joseph who was baptised on last Sunday at St. Peter's**

HCPT Quiz Night:

Saturday 27th April: Ploughman's Supper and Quiz with skill challenge in Greyfriars Hall, Clevedon at 7.30pm. Bring your own drinks.

Tickets are £10 (£7 for under-16s) for a hearty ploughman's meal and the quiz.

Please see Tom Osman (Sunday mornings) to book your place or for more information or email Tom at [tafosman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tafosman@hotmail.co.uk). Supper followed by fantastic cakes sold by Christine Harris. All funds raised go towards taking children with additional needs on a weeklong pilgrimage/holiday to Lourdes: [www.hcpt.org.uk](http://www.hcpt.org.uk)

**Thank You**