

ST PETER'S CIRENCESTER & ST MICHAEL'S TETBURY

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5th Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends,

I am the vine, you are the branches... remain in me, you will be fruitful... you can do nothing without me...

Reflecting on our oneness in Christ, today's Gospel passage offers us the image of the vine and the branches. Fruitfulness of the branches depends on their union, connection with the vine. Fruitfulness also depends on the branches being trimmed, pruned, and cleaned. We could rephrase it to read "fruitfulness depends on being tamed, disciplined, controlled, directed, channelled, etc. – wild branches do not yield... they become unyielding!" The branches become fruitful only in the vine. Abide in Christ... be united with him... live in his spirit... you will bear much fruit! The vine itself doesn't bear the fruit. Vine bears the branches and feeds the branches, and the branches bear the fruit. Be constantly fed by the "word" of Jesus and the "bread" of life and "cup" of compassion that Jesus offers. You will be fruitful.

Be open and docile to the Holy Spirit! Be open to being pruned; trimmed, cleansed, disciplined, tamed... be docile to the pruning process of the heavenly father...wild branches become unyielding! Be yielding... Be fruitful!

5th Sunday of Easter

Date & Time	Place	Masses Requested	Saints & Feasts
Sat 27 th April 5.30pm	St. Peter's	Ina Brazill - RIP	Adoration followed by Mass
Sun 28 th April 9.00 am 11.00am	St. Michael's St. Peter's		5th Sunday of Easter
Mon 29 th April	No Mass		St. Catherine of Sienna-Feast
Tue 30 th April 9.30am	St. Peter's		
Wed 01 st May 10.00am	St. Michael's		
Thu 02 nd May 9.30am	St. Peter's		St. Athanasius-Memorial
Fri 03 rd May 9.30am	St. Peter's		Sts. Philip and James-Feast

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 28th 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.

CAFOD Second Collection: The people of Sudan need our help urgently. We are launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale we can muster. When violence broke out last year in Sudan between government and paramilitaries, most aid agencies evacuated. Now, humanitarian workers are struggling to get back into Sudan to help, meaning severe delays in getting aid to the people, and the challenges of getting into areas where fighting is still going on remain. Our Caritas and Church networks are there when many aid agencies aren't, where people are in a desperate situation.

CAFOD, A Year of Encounter: With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

Newman Association: There will be a talk on **Tuesday 7 May at 2.30pm**, in the lounge of Sacred Hearts' Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 9AU. Peter's book was published to mark the Cathedral's 50th Anniversary of Consecration in 2023. He will speak to us on: The Clifton Cathedral Story: the Building and its People. All are welcome. Admission: £3 (members & students free) Enquires to Stephanie Jamison, tel: 01242 539810. Please see poster on notice board for more information

Living The Common Good: We are inviting you to join us on Saturday 18 May at St Brendan's Sixth Form College (Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5RQ) for **Living the Common Good: Discerning Challenges and Responses**. It will be a day of formation and community, bringing people together in prayer to discern the practical ways to live the common good in our parishes, pastoral areas, and diocese. We are blessed to have Jenny Sinclair from Together for the Common Good guiding us through our discernment process, and focusing on identifying the specific areas for mission in our communities as well as the practical steps we can take to serve those needs and proclaim the Gospel by our lives. Please see poster on notice board for more information.

CAFOD: The Great Big Lent Walk raised £300 for Cafod at St. Michael's, a wonderful achievement. A very big thank you to the sponsors,

ENCOUNTER - DAY OF RENEWAL: There will be a special day of renewal at St Bonaventure's, Bristol from 10am to 4pm starting with Mass on Saturday 25th May. Mass, uplifting worship, inspiring teaching and testimonies. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit. Childrens' stream available too. Refreshments provided but bring a packed lunch. To give us an idea of numbers for the day, we ask you to book a free ticket for all members of your party here: www.dftholyspirit.com/encounter-may-2024

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 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.

Offertory Collection: Last Week: St. Peter's: £332.80 (incl. via the Dona Machine), Second Collection: £150.60,

St. Michael's: £143.05, Second Collection: £97.40

"Thank You"

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury – Sunday 14th July



The Annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday, 14th July 2024. This year's pilgrimage will be centred around the theme of 'Mary, Woman of Prayer'.

From 12 noon until 3:00 pm, the Shrine Church will transform into a chapel of Exposition and Silent Adoration, offering a peaceful and contemplative environment just opposite the Abbey grounds. During this time, visiting priests will provide the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Shrine Church.

In addition, from 12 noon until 3:00 pm, Private Healing Prayer will be offered in a single tented chapel located just inside the Abbey gates, opposite the Shrine Church.

At 2:15 pm, the Rosary procession will commence in the Abbey grounds, followed by the Pilgrimage Mass at 3:30 pm, also held in the Abbey grounds.

[Diocesan Pilgrimage to Glastonbury – Sunday 14th July](#)

Bishops issue pastoral reflection on gender

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a pastoral reflection on gender, highlighting the teaching of the Church but stressing that accompanying those struggling with gender dysphoria is “a complex but essential pastoral task.”

The document, titled *Intricately woven by the Lord: A pastoral reflection on gender* by the bishops of England and Wales, emphasises that all are welcome in the Church, but says that the sexual identity of an individual is not a purely “cultural or social construction.”

The document refutes the idea, proposed by Gender Identity Theory, that everyone has an ‘inner’ gender identity, which sometimes fails to match the biological sex of the individual. It upholds the value of the body and importance of sexual differentiation.

The bishops assert that we are all created in the image of God, with a dignity given to us by our creator and stresses that leading people to the fullness of life in Christ is a journey rooted in truth as well as compassion.

Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton, said:

“We have published this document because we know that those working in pastoral settings can find this issue complex. It is also an issue that needs to be handled sensitively.

“Accompaniment is crucial to the journey of faith, and we wish to emphasise that everyone is welcome in the Church. It is vital that as followers of Christ we imitate the boundless mercy and compassion of God as we deal with the complexity of another's life.

“But this needs to be done with a clear understanding of the Catholic vision and understanding of the human person and a holistic view of human sexuality.”

Download

The document, and the executive summary, can be read and downloaded below.

[Pastoral Reflection: Intricately Woven By The Lord](#)

[Summary: Intricately Woven By The Lord](#)



Don't Forget the Holy Spirit (DFTHS) Ministries present:

Encounter (Worship, Teaching, Testimony and Prayer)

Saturday 25th May

10am - 4pm

St Bonaventure's Catholic Church

Egerton Rd, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HP

Join us on the 25th of May at St Bonaventure's Church Bristol for a day of Encounter. Through worship, teaching and testimony, Fr Matt and Caroline Sadd will unpack the themes of Fr Matt's book 'Don't Forget the Holy Spirit'. The day will start with Mass at 10am and there will be an opportunity to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation and experience prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit. There will also be separate groups for children during the day, so families are very welcome to attend. Refreshments provided, but please bring a packed lunch. To book a free place please go to: www.dftholyspirit.com.



Being a
dementia 
friendly church

What is Dementia Friendly Church?

Saturday 8th June 2024
9.30am - 3.00pm

Stockwood Free Church, Ladman Road
Stockwood, BS14 8QH

Learn about:

- Theology and dementia
- Dementia awareness
- A carer's perspective
- Bereavement

Register on Eventbrite: bit.ly/dementia-friendly-church

 07741 142701

 dementiafriendlychurch@bdaa.org.uk



The Safeguarding Team are supporting this initiative for Clifton Diocese having seen an increase in concerns from Parishes where Dementia is present.

This is a great opportunity for the Parish to attend and learn more about how we can support our aging population to continue to worship safely in the Catholic Church.

The Safeguarding Team will be attending the event but it is important that this event is supported at Parish level so your attendance will be very much appreciated.

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Coordinator on 0117 954 0993.

Please book direct by using the Eventbrite link and it would be really helpful if you can let the Safeguarding Team know so we have an understanding of attendance.

CAFOD launches emergency appeal to support ‘world’s worst crisis’ in Sudan

CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal to support families in Sudan, as Britain’s Ambassador to the United Nations says that Sudan is in the grip of the world’s worst hunger and displacement crisis.

With over eight million people having fled their homes to escape violence, after fighting erupted a year ago between government forces and paramilitaries, and with 25 million in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, CAFOD says there is a short window to act before the growing season in Sudan starts in June, as fears grow of an impending - yet preventable – famine.

Jo Kitterick, CAFOD’s director of participation, said: “Many aid agencies exited Sudan when the current fighting erupted a year ago. Right now Catholic agencies in the Caritas network that CAFOD is part of, supported by the Church of Sudan, are some of the only organisations able to deliver aid to support the Sudanese people. The communities we serve in Sudan have issued a desperate cry for help and we are inviting the Catholic community to stand alongside us and the local Sudanese organisations we fund in responding to their call.”

CAFOD has been working alongside communities in Sudan for over fifty years. Donations made to its Sudan crisis appeal – whether online or via collections in parishes this weekend – will go towards supporting families in Sudan and surrounding countries, who are already contending with extreme hunger, as communities strive to stop the crisis becoming the worst in living memory.

Speaking at the weekend, Ambassador Barbara Woodward, the UK’s permanent representative to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council that while Sudan is in the grip of the world’s worst hunger and displacement crisis, “it is not too late for Sudan to return from the brink,” as she urged the warring parties in Sudan to engage in political negotiations to bring about peace, and for greater access to humanitarian access to reach those most in need.

Donations can be made at cafod.org.uk/SudanAppeal

Thank You