

St. Peter's Cirencester & St. Michael's Tetbury

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Dear Friends,

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:34–36

“That day” These two words are spoken twice in the passage above. To which day is our Lord referring? Clearly, He is referring primarily to the day of our final judgment and is warning us to make sure we are prepared for it in case it were to come at an unexpected moment. So how do we prepare?

Animals have the natural gift of instinct. They know how to survive, how to reproduce, how to gather food and how to avoid danger. They know this because God has implanted this knowledge within them. By this natural gift of instinct, they know what to do and what to avoid.

We, as humans, also have basic natural instincts. But our natural instincts are only sufficient to help us accomplish that which the animals accomplish. Therefore, if we are to gain an even greater knowledge and are to know how to properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the sudden and unexpected coming of Christ, then we need more.

The way we most properly prepare is through a special grace by which God reveals Himself and His will to our human reason. When that happens, we will know the best way to be fully prepared for “that day” the moment it comes. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe this ability is by describing it as a “supernatural instinct.” When our natural instincts become open to grace, and when the information on which we base our daily decisions in life comes to us by an ongoing and personal revelation from God through the infused gift of faith, then we will find that we simply know what to do and what to avoid. By analogy, just as a bird knows to fly south for the winter or a salmon knows to return to its place of birth to lay its eggs, so we will “know” within our spirit how to best serve the will of God and, thus, be most fully prepared for His imminent return. “Supernatural instinct” is nothing other than us allowing the grace of God to enter our lives so as to take control of everything we do and to lead us into the fulfilment of the perfect and glorious will of God. When that happens, we can be certain that we are perpetually prepared for all that comes and will never be caught by surprise like a trap.

First Sunday of Advent Year C

When	Where	Masses Requested	Saints & Feasts
Sat 30 th Nov 5.30pm	St. Peter’s		Adoration followed by Mass
Sun 1 st Dec 9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s	Michael Ventham - RIP	First Sunday of Advent Rosary at 10.40am followed by Mass
Mon 2 nd Dec	Fr. Maria’s Day off		
Tue 3 rd Dec 9.30am	St. Peter’s		St. Francis Xavier
Wed 4 th Dec 10.00am	St. Michael’s		St. John Damascene
Thu 5 th Dec 9.30am	St. Peter’s	Hugo Shepherd – Int.	
Fri 6 th Dec 9.30am	St. Peter’s	Dr. Maria Barker - RIP	St. Nicholas Mass followed by Rosary

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

In St. Peter’s Saturday 5.30pm to 6.00pm
In St. Michael’s Wednesday 10.30am to 11.00am

A Warm Welcome: today is Sunday 1st December. 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.

NEW LECTIONARIES

With the First Sunday of Advent, we embrace a fresh chapter in our liturgical celebrations in England, Wales and Scotland. The newly introduced lectionaries will now guide us through the Word of God with enriched clarity and presentation.

A heartfelt thank you to **Dr. Horace Townsend** for generously sponsoring the new lectionaries at St. Peter's. Your contribution ensures that the Word continues to inspire and illuminate our community. Let us all open our hearts to the readings and let them resonate deeply with this Advent and beyond.

A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF FAITH AT ST. PETER'S



Last Sunday, November 24th, was a truly special day for St. Peter's Parish as five of our beloved students - **Wele, Adrianna, Bella, Hugo, and Oscar** - who took an important step in their faith journey by receiving the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**. The church was filled with joy, warmth, and the loving support of family, friends, and the parish community as these young members experienced the profound blessing of the Eucharist for the first time.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Cathy Nelson and Audrey**, whose tireless dedication and nurturing guidance prepared these children for this sacred

moment. Their commitment is a testament to the spirit of faith and service that defines our parish.

As a community, let us continue to pray for Wele, Adrianna, Bella, Hugo, and Oscar, that they may grow in faith, love, and devotion. May their First Communion mark the beginning of a lifelong journey of grace and closeness to Christ.

This celebration reminds us all of the beauty and unity of our faith.

Congratulations to our First Communicants and their families!

A GENEROUS GIFT FOR ST. PETER'S HALL



We are delighted to announce a wonderful addition to St. Peter's Hall that will enrich our parish gatherings and events. The hall is now equipped with a state-of-the-art **projector, screen, and sound system**, valued at £4,559.40, thanks to the incredible generosity of one of our parishioners.

This thoughtful donation is a true blessing, enhancing our ability to host vibrant community activities, from educational presentations and spiritual talks to social events and celebrations.

As a parish community, we extend our deepest gratitude to this kind-hearted donor for his selfless contribution. Such generosity reflects the spirit of stewardship and commitment that makes St. Peter's a thriving and united parish.

Let us keep this benefactor in our prayers, asking for abundant blessings upon him and his family. Together, we look forward to making full use of these new facilities for the greater glory of God and the growth of our parish community.

NEW ORGAN UNVEILED AT ST. PETER'S



We are thrilled to share some *harmonious* news with our parish family! St. Peter's has recently been blessed with a brand-new organ, an inspiring addition that will enhance our worship and lift our spirits in praise and song.

This magnificent instrument, valued at £9,305, has been made possible through the extraordinary generosity of one of our parishioners. This selfless donation is a true testament to the love and faith that binds our community together.

The new organ will be inaugurated during the upcoming Sunday Mass, filling our church with its rich and heavenly tones. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donor for this beautiful gift that will resonate in our church for generations to come. May this act of kindness inspire all of us to continue supporting and enriching our parish community!

We also thank our dear organists **Sarah and Chris Johnson** for their hard work in getting this project materialized.

Stay tuned for the first hymn led by our new organ—it's a moment you won't want to miss! 🎵

THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE LEGION OF MARY AT ST. PETER'S!

We are thrilled to announce that the Legion of Mary, which began informally at St. Peter's earlier this month, will be officially inaugurated on **Friday, December 13th** after Mass.

This special occasion will be graced by **John Jordan**, the President of the Legion of Mary for the Clifton Diocese, who has kindly agreed to lead the inauguration.



We warmly invite everyone who is interested in joining this wonderful apostolic organization to be part of the event. The Legion of Mary offers a unique opportunity to deepen your faith, serve the community, and grow in devotion to Our Lady.

Let's come together to celebrate this new chapter for our parish and be inspired by the beautiful mission of the Legion of Mary!

 **** CAROLS SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S ON DEC 22ND! **** 

We are planning to have a Christmas Hamper raffle while you enjoy a hot drink and mince pie after the carols. Any contribution can be left at the back of the church on 7th/8th and 14th/15th December. There is a list at the back of the church, but feel free to bring any contribution.

We also need contributions of mince pies, shop bought or homemade, all very gratefully received. Thank you!!!

Save the date, spread the word, and let's usher in the Christmas season with music and togetherness. All are welcome!  

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CIRENCESTER (CTIC)

We hope you noticed the banner as you came into church. It is part of a verse of a carol we all know. You will find the other 7 parts at other Cirencester churches. The CTIC Facebook page has details of a trail to find them all. Go for a stroll with the family. Enjoy!!!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Place	Date and Time
St. Peter's	24th 5.00pm
St. Peter's	24th 9.00pm
St. Michael's	24th 7.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

St. Michael's	25th 9.00am
St. Peter's	25th 11.00am

ST. MICHAEL'S SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2024/25

The Christmas Raffle to be drawn at the Christmas meal at St. Michael's on the 13th of December 2024. We would like to politely request a contribution of raffle prizes for this. Thank You!!!

HELP NEEDED

The Companions of the Order of Malta are aiming to send Christmas cards to each resident in their OSJ care homes in Gloucestershire. (Order of St. John Care Trust). We would be so grateful if anyone would like to join us in writing these cards which will then be delivered.

The Bothy, 12 Ashcroft Road, is booked on the following days:

Saturday 7th December at 10.30 - 12.30

Monday 9th December at 2.00 - 3.30

Wednesday 11th December at 2.00 - 3.30

Do come along if you have some spare time.

Enquiries to **Sarah Cornell 0781 7499829**

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IN TETBURY

For a number of years St. Michael's has taken part in the Annual Tree festival at St. Saviours church; we invite you to come into the hall during coffee and write your message to hang on our tree; we would also appreciate a couple of volunteers to decorate the tree in St Saviours like a couple of volunteers to help set up and decorate the tree, and remove again at the end. The Carol Service is on Saturday 7th December and we would like someone to read on behalf of our parish. We need to keep St. Michaels visible in the town and therefore it would be great if we can continue with this town tradition. To volunteer, please speak to Catherine/Elaine this weekend or email the parish office. Thank you for your co-operation.

THE CLIFTON EVANGELIST

The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation have requested that we ask you to sign up for our social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)). It will be within these that they will hear about future events, opportunities for formation and other items which might be of interest. A link to the newsletter is on our diocesan website can be found on the following link <https://cliftondiocese.com/clifton-evangelist/>

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

This will take place Saturday 27th September – Thursday 2nd October 2025. This is a great opportunity for the people of Clifton Diocese to experience the Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope' in Rome. Places are limited to 55, so please those who might be interested to sign up as soon as possible to ensure that you do not miss out. For more information, please see poster on notice board.

FUTURE SECOND COLLECTIONS

8th December Poor Missions of the Diocese
15th & 22nd December Flowers



Offertory Collection

Last Week:

St. Peter's: £329.37 (incl. via the Dona Machine)
Second Collection: £71.49

St. Michael: £81.95
Second Collection: £29.00

THANK YOU

