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EPIPHANY



Dear Friends,

This excerpt from Mathew's (2:1-12) Gospel describes the visit of the magi from the East, who travelled to Judah and to Bethlehem, in search of the newborn king of the Jews, whose star they had followed since it's rising. With this coming of the magi from the east, who were gentile astrologers, the good news of salvation has been revealed to all nations, as prophesied by Isaiah in the first reading. This is an affirmation and a revelation of God's concern and love for people as cosmic and not limited to a few chosen people. The feast of Epiphany which we celebrate today reminds us of the universality of redemption and salvation. Our celebration today challenges us to emulate that same universal spirit in all our dealings and relationships with one another.

Each of us must become a witness to the mystery of God’s presence in the world: God’s Light, Truth, Life, Love... in us, the world must see the “sign” of the “presence” of the “heart” of God – compassion, mercy, joy, justice, peace, shalom. This is what “Epiphany” means. Jesus was and is God’s “Epiphany”.

Baptized in the name of the Triune God, we must become “little lights” within the great light - little words within the divine “WORD”. Then we shall be as Jesus was, living epiphanies travelling through life, manifesting without measure or discrimination, the caring goodness of God to all.

Epiphany of the Lord

When	Where	Masses Requested	Saints & Feasts
Sat 4 th Jan 5.30pm	St. Peter’s	Bernadette Langton - RIP	Adoration followed by Mass
Sun 5 th Jan 9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s	Kieran Beale (ill) Susan Gatfield	Rosary at 10.40am followed by Mass Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Mon 6 th Jan	No Mass	Fr. Maria’s Day off	Monday after Epiphany
Tue 7 th Jan	No Mass		St. Raymond of Penyafort
Wed 8 th Jan	No Mass		Wednesday after Epiphany
Thu 9 th Jan	No Mass St. Michael’s	Taize	Thursday after Epiphany
Fri 10 th Jan	No Mass		Friday after Epiphany
Sat 11 th Jan 5.30pm	St. Peter’s		
Sun 12 th Jan 9.00am 11.00am	St. Michael’s St. Peter’s		Rosary at 10.40am followed by Mass The Baptism of the Lord

A Warm Welcome: today is Sunday 5th January. 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.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

I will be away in India from 7th January to 7th February for my home holidays. During this time, there will be no weekday Masses, but weekend Masses will continue as usual. In case of any emergency, please do not hesitate to approach Elaine, our parish administrator. Elaine will be available in the office at St. Peter’s on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.**

As I embark on this journey, I humbly ask you to keep me in your prayers, as you will certainly be in mine. Let us continue to pray for one another, and I look forward to returning refreshed and recharged to serve our parish family.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Footnote We wish Fr. Maria a safe journey home to India, and we hope that he has a relaxing and restful time with his family, assuring him of our prayers. – Elaine



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We are delighted to announce that Bishop Bosco will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at **St. Peter's on Wednesday, 11th June 2025**. Preparation classes will commence on Monday, 3rd February 2025.

Registration forms, along with an outline of the course, will be available at the back of the church. We kindly invite those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to collect a form, complete it and return it to the parish office or to Cathy Nelson or Audrey.

Let us prepare together for this special journey of faith.

PARISH MAGAZINE

After the hiatus brought on by Covid, we are hoping to reinstate the annual St. Peter's and St. Michael's Parish Magazine. This is YOUR magazine, outlining what went on in the parishes during 2024, so it needs input from YOU! We would like short articles and photos about events, regular occurrences and the organizations and groups that make our parishes work: anything from First Holy Communion and confirmation to weddings and baptism; farewells to parishioners who have passed on; special events like fundraisers and fetes; info about regular catholic societies like the Catenians and Legion of Mary, stories of pilgrimages or interesting trips; and we also want photos and notes from the flower arrangers, music organizers, after Mass coffeemakers etc. You know what you do for the parish, so tell us about it please email your contributions as soon as possible to cirencester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com or tetbury.stmichael@cliftondiocese.com or hand in your hard copy offerings to either Elaine or Fr. Maria.

Please may we have your contributions by 6th January 2025; THANK YOU.

BEYOND THE THRESHOLD

A day for all! On Saturday 18th January we will explore the key principles that we embark on any specific programme of catechesis. The day will be held at St. Brendan's College, Brislington, starting @10.00am (9.30am refreshments) and will be led by International Speaker & Author David Wells. For further information and registration information, please see the poster on the notice board.

DIOCESE OF CLIFTON DIRECTORY

The 2025 Clifton Directories are available to purchase at £6.00 each.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ST. MICHAEL'S

During the past few years we have been left some money in memory of departed parishioners. After consultation with the parish priest at the time, the following has been purchased:

the gold Crucifix and candlesticks, the silver Crucifix and candlesticks and more recently the Ciborium, Chalice and Patten, which Fr. Maria Blessed just

before the Christmas Mass. We have also received a beautiful, embroidered tablecloth. We would like to thank the four families for their kindness and assure them all who have lost their loved ones that they are not forgotten.

RECRUITMENT TO SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We need some new additions to the Social Committee for future planning. Please consider volunteering to be part of this committee to carry on the activities and fundraising which help to maintain our community at St. Michael's. It would be very much appreciated. Speak to Margaret/Catherine/Mary after Mass if interested. Thank you.

TAIZE

There is a Taize service in St. Michael's church on Thursday 9th January @7.00pm. Due to low numbers, it has been decided that the last one will be held in March. Rachel has requested a volunteer from St. Michael's to help set up and provide refreshments for after the service, including the purchase of milk please. If you can help, please arrive early. Thank you.



Offertory Collection

Last Week:

St. Peter's: £357.19 (incl. via the Dona Machine)

St. Peter's 100 Club: £30 - 30; £20 - 12; £10 - 161

St. Michael: £95.01
Crib Donation: £25.70

WISH YOU A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

THANK YOU
