



St Peter's Catholic Church

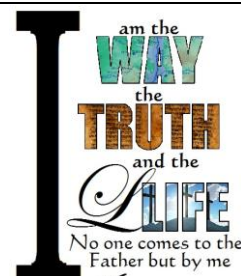
London Road, Gloucester GL1 3EX

Tel: 01452 523603

Parish website: www.stpetersgloucester.org.uk

Diocesan website: www.cliftondiocese.com

CLIFTON DIOCESE (a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 10462076.
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Parish Priest:

Monsignor Liam Slattery VG

liam.slattery@cliftondiocese.com

Permanent Deacons:

Rev Colm Robinson

colm.robinson@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Tim Meadows

timothy.meadows@cliftondiocese.com

Rev David Hebbes

david.hebbes@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Thérèse English

gloucester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office:

Tues, Wed, Fri -9.30am-2.30pm

Thurs-12.00pm-5.00pm

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Jim Harris & John Bond

Schools

St Peter's Catholic Primary School:

Tel: 01452 524792. Web: www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk

St Peter's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre

Tel: 01452 520594. Web: www.st-petershigh.gloucs.sch.uk

10th May 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Mass Intentions this Week

During this week Fr Liam will say a daily private mass in St Peter's Church for the following intentions:

Sunday: People of the Parish.

Monday: Eamon Bohan *RIP*.

Tuesday: Paily Vadakkal *Anniv*.

Wednesday: Kathleen 'Kay' Sayers *RIP*

Thursday: Phil Kilminster *RIP*.

Friday: Annie 'Peggy' Lee *RIP*

Saturday: Patrick Hickey *RIP*

Church Closure

St Peter's Church and the Parish Office are closed until further notice.

This Week

Fifth Week of Easter. Thursday is the Feast of St Matthias.

Diocesan Prayer Link: The Abbey Church Downside with St Benedict, Stratton-on-the-Fosse

RIP

We ask your prayers for those who have died recently:

Maria Byczok, Shirley Preece, Assunta Napolitano, Michael Joseph Coffey, Phillip 'Phil' Kilminster.

A private graveside/cremation services will take place in due course. Memorial Masses will be celebrated once the current restrictions have been lifted. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Daily Live Streaming of Mass from Clifton Cathedral

Continues each day including Sundays at 9.30am and can be accessed through the diocesan website (cliftondiocese.com) or through churchservices.tv.

We remember those who have asked for our prayers: Ian Cahill, Andrea Brushneen, Cheryl Loy, Sharon Williams, Michael Hercules, Mary Wood, Leonard Slatter, Sue Hartnett, Phil Gammond, Mandi Stokes, Theo Montague, Margaret Coleman, Vera Watson, Patricia Walsh, Cecilia Edwards, Veronica Burke, Janet Diaco, Linda Northway, Rebecca Northway, Ben Wilkinson, Jackie Hutt, Steve Prosser, Kitty Daly, Peter Hagan, Frank Kelly, Mary Philomena Mayo, Marie O'Connor, Baby Monroe Cserna-Ochai, Jennifer Morrissey, Kathleen Neely, Joan O'Connell, Milvia Sepede, Eileen Mary Parsons, Pat O'Ryan, Fr Liam Slattery, Christopher Browne.

Many Happy Returns

We wish Deacon Tim a belated happy 60th birthday for last Thursday.

Year of Communion - Sunday May 10th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'

Jesus speaks these words to reassure his disciples that, although he is going to leave them, they will not be forgotten. As the world continues to respond to the devastating Coronavirus, many people are troubled. They are anxious, unsure of where the virus will strike next. Fearful that someone they love will contract or already has the virus and not knowing what the outcome will be. Jesus wants to reassure his bewildered disciples and us, that we will never be abandoned. God is with us and no more so than in this time of the pandemic. As people of faith we are encouraged to trust, to believe in God's loving care for us and be confident that whatever we may face, we will not be overcome. Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life' so let us stay close to him so that when we emerge from this time, we will do so stronger in faith and stronger in love.

A reflection from Fr Liam

Many countries and cultures will have their own customs when it comes to the death and funeral of a loved one. Going to funerals, whether the evening removal or the funeral mass or burial in order to sympathise with the family is a big part of the life I have grown up with and know. In extending sympathy the common phrase used is *'Sorry for your troubles'*.

The death of a loved one brings troubles to those left behind, the trouble of grief and sadness, of emptiness and pain, of wondering how one will survive.

Jesus knows and is sensitive to this trouble and responds with consolation and hope.

The gospel reading for today (*John 14:1-12*), it taken from St John's account of the Last Supper and is part of the final discourse of Jesus, his final words to his disciples before his Passion, Death and Resurrection. To set the scene, Judas has just left the upper room, Jesus has told the disciples that he is soon to leave them, Peter has been told that, despite saying he will lay down his life for Jesus, "before the cock crows you will have denied me three times." The hearts of the disciples are indeed deeply troubled.

We come to the words at beginning of today's gospel. Jesus says to the disciples, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me."* Jesus speaks directly to the troubled hearts of the disciples and to the troubled hearts they will experience following his passion, death and burial, the troubled hearts of sadness, pain and grief. He then consoles them with words of hope: *"There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going. Thomas said 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"*

In this image of a place prepared for us in the home of our Father in heaven we are consoled in our troubles by the sure hope of a life to be lived in union with the risen and glorified Jesus. Cardinal Ratzinger, later to be Pope Benedict XVI, in his homily at the funeral of Pope John Paul II, consoled the millions of people who mourned the death of a much loved Pope with this image when he said: *'We can be sure that our beloved Pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us.'* We too can picture those of our family and friends who have gone before us standing at the window of the Father's house from where they see us and look upon us with love and prayer.

But the trouble in our hearts that Jesus speaks to is not just the trouble of grief. He speaks to all that troubles of our hearts each day. He who is 'I am' is the one who is every present to us in the midst of all that troubles us. We in our turn are called at all times to be present to him and to trust in him and in God the Father, revealed through him. This is not always easy, especially when we fail to understand all that troubles us and when we find it difficult to keep going. Jesus, the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, is with us.

Through today's Psalm (32) we ask that the love of the Lord be upon us as we place all our hope in him, for as the words of Psalm 62 reminds us, *'it is only in God do our hearts find rest'*.

Click [HERE](#) for a time to reflect