



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.
A registered charity number 1170168. Registered Office: St Ambrose North Road Leigh Woods Bristol BS8 3PW)



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 Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday 10.30am – 1.30pm, Friday 10.30am – 2.30pm.

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

13th December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

This Week

Sunday 13th December 2020 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Diocesan Prayer Link <i>Christ the King, Amesbury</i>	6.00pm (Sat) Mass	People of the Parish
	9.00am Mass	Mother Abbess Poor Clares RIP
	10.30am Mass	Ints of Doger Rayapen
	<i>12.30pm Polish Language Mass</i>	
	5.30pm Mass	Peadar Feighan RIP
Monday 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	<i>9.10am Morning Prayer</i>	
	9.30am Mass	Nora Madden RIP
Tuesday 15th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<i>6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
	7.00pm Mass	Ints of Tommy & Nora Higgins
Wednesday 16th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<i>4.45pm – 5.45pm Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm Mass	David Burton RIP
Thursday 17th December <i>Weekday of Advent (O Sapientia)</i>	<i>9.10am Morning Prayer</i>	
	9.30am Mass	Thanksgiving – Ajay Mathew
Friday 18th December <i>Weekday of Advent (O Adonai)</i>	NO MASS	
	<i>7.30pm Polish Language Mass</i>	
Saturday 19th December <i>Weekday of Advent (O Radix)</i>	<i>6.00am Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass</i>	
	<i>9.30am Rosary</i>	
	10.00am Mass	Ken Bullingham RIP
	<i>10.45am – 12.00pm Confessions</i>	
	<i>4.30pm – 5.30pm Confessions</i>	
	6.00pm Mass	Intentions of Mary Hicks
Sunday 20th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>7.30pm Polish Language Mass</i>	
	9.00am Mass	Con McSweeney RIP
	10.30am Mass	Holy Souls
	<i>12.30pm Polish Language Mass</i>	
	5.30pm Mass	People of the Parish

In accordance with the requirements of Tier 2, you must not attend mass in groups of more than 6 people. While in church you must not interact/socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble. Neither must you attend mass if you have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, have been in contact with someone who recently tested positive, or are living with someone who is self isolating. We also encourage those who are considered vulnerable because of age or medical condition to think seriously about whether it is necessary or wise to attend mass at this time, especially with the current COVID-19 cases in Gloucester. Unless exempt from doing so, everyone attending mass, must wear a face covering. Please ensure your face covering covers your nose and mouth at all times.

Christmas 2020

The times of Christmas Masses for this year are as follows:

Christmas Eve: 4.30pm, 6.00pm, 10.30pm. **Christmas Day:** 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am.

At present, apart from the 8.00am Mass on Christmas Day, all Christmas Masses are fully booked. Please do not turn up if you haven't booked a place. If you have booked a place and no longer require it please cancel it so the place can be released for someone else. Please click on [Eventbrite](#) to check additional availability in the event of cancellations releasing more places. There is no congregational singing of carols at the Christmas Masses. We remind you that the current suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass also applies to Christmas. The Bishops of England and Wales are encouraging us to recognise the significance of the Octave of Christmas (December 25th – 1st January) and to avail of the opportunity to attend mass on one of these days. Midnight Mass on BBC1 (11.45pm) on Christmas Eve will be broadcast from Clifton Cathedral with Bishop Declan as main celebrant. It is also hoped that all masses in St Peter's will be live streamed. There will be an update next weekend.

Christmas Octave Mass Times:

Saturday December 26th: 10.30am, 6.00pm. Sunday December 27th: 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm. Monday December 28th: 10.00am. Tuesday December 29th: 7.00pm. Wednesday December 30th: 12noon. Thursday December 31st: 10.00am. Friday January 1st: 10.30am.

Booking a place for Sunday Masses: A booking system in place for weekend masses. To book a place via *Eventbrite* please click [HERE](#). A place may also be booked by contacting the parish office.

Confessions: Due to current COVID-19 restrictions there are no Advent Penitential Services this year. Those wishing to go to confession in preparation for Christmas are asked to avail of one following times when Fr Liam will be available in church to hear confessions: Wednesday December 16th: 4.45pm – 5.45pm. Saturday December 17th: 10.45am – 12.00pm, 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

This Week: Please note mass on Wednesday is at 6.00pm. There is no mass in on Friday. There is a Mass on Friday at 10.00am in St Augustine's Matson for those who wish to attend a Mass that day. Week 3, with Proper of Advent Season for the Prayer of the Church.

Weekly Church Cleaning: Will take place after mass on Monday morning. Just turn up if you can help.

Last Weekend: Offertory - £1674.11. Mass Attendance - 350 (includes Filipino Monthly Mass)

Thank You: To Breda and the repository team and all who support the repository for a recent donation to the parish of £1000.

Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass: On Saturday 19th December at **6.00am** in St Peter's Church.

Filipino Family Rosary Crusade: This annual event took place in line with Covid-19 restrictions when Filipino families prayed a daily rosary for all families within our parish and beyond. Through it £1,172 was raised for our parish. We extend our sincere thanks to the Filipino Community for their prayer and amazing generosity.

Cafod World Gifts: CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. Pick up a catalogue from the back of the church or visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Half Marathon: Patrick Laidlaw with his friends, Rhodri and Owain Atkinson, will be running a half marathon on 27th December in aid of Gloucester Foodbank. Please click on **Marathon** to donate to their target.

Gloucester Foodbank: Last week, a cheque for £2081.89 was given to Gloucester Foodbank. This was money collected through the donation box at the back of the church and individual donations. In total £4314.89 was donated by St Peter's Parishioners to Gloucester Foodbank in 2020. Thank you! Your financial generosity and food donations are making a big difference to the lives of those in need in our city and beyond.

Year of St Joseph: In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," which began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and will extend to the same feast in 2021. The text of the Apostolic Letter can be found on the Clifton Diocesan website. Copies are also available at the back of the church.

Ordination: Stephen Corrigan, a student for the priest hood who spent his extended placement with us last year, will be ordained Deacon on Saturday December 19th at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Stephen is due to be ordained Priest next year. We keep him in our prayer this coming week.

We remember those who have asked for our prayers: Deacon David Hebbes, Fr Donal Daly, Andrea Brushneen, Cheryl Loy, Sharon Williams, Michael Hercules, Leonard Slatter, Sue Hartnett, Phil Gammond, Mandi Stokes, Theo Montague, Margaret Coleman, Patricia Walsh, Cecilia Edwards, Veronica Burke, Janet Diaco, Ben Wilkinson, Jackie Hutt, Steve Prosser, Kitty Daly, Peter Hagan, Frank Kelly, Marie O'Connor, Baby Monroe Cserna-Ochai, Jennifer Morrissey, Kathleen Neely, Joan O'Connell, Eileen Mary Parsons, Pat O'Ryan, Christopher Browne, Margaret Mayell, John Shields, David Burke, Shirley Badham, Margaret Withers.

Gospel Reflection from Clifton Diocese - Sunday 13th December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice! Today, 'Gaudate' Sunday is a call to rejoice! The word 'Gaudate' means rejoice but can we rejoice? We may not feel that we can. We may be weighed down with sadness, weariness, simple tiredness at the end of this particular year. Yet, as Christians, we have been given the mantle of proclaiming 'glad tidings' to those beaten down by life, to be what we have been anointed to be in baptism, 'priest, prophet and king', to be the light that Christ brings to the world. How do we do this when we, ourselves, may be feeling ragged and disorientated? By holding fast to the hope we have been given, a hope which enables us to cut through the darkness and see the light ahead. There will be light – there is always light. Though it may seem as if the clouds are heavy and low, the sun has an amazing capacity to break through, when we least expect it. Hope is like the sun, it can warm, give light and bring life to those who feel as if there is no reason to hope. We rejoice because we have hope. It's for us to share that hope wherever we find ourselves.

Summary of the Holy Father's words at the General Audience last Wednesday, December 2nd

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now turn to the prayer of petition. The Catechism explains that in every prayer we ask for the coming of God's Kingdom in our lives and in our world. Jesus taught us to pray to our heavenly Father, acknowledging our total dependence on him and trusting entirely in his providential care, even at the darkest moments in our lives. Prayer of petition arises naturally in human hearts. In the Bible we see countless prayers to God to intervene in the face of our helplessness before situations of sickness, injustice, betrayal and despair. Even the simple cry, "Lord, help me!" is itself a powerful prayer. God always hears the cry of those who call upon him. Saint Paul tells us that our prayers echo the yearning of all creation for the coming of the Kingdom (*cf. Rom 8:22-24*) and the fulfilment of God's saving plan. We make our prayers of petition with confidence in him who has triumphed over all evil through the cross and resurrection of his Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit, who intercedes on our behalf and quietly works to transform all things. *Full text on the Vatican website www.vatican.va*

The O Antiphons: From at least the eighth century the antiphon before and after the Magnificat at Vespers (Evening Prayer), for the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve, has greeted Christ with a title starting with "O". These became the basis of the popular carol "O come, O come, Emmanuel". The initials, when read backwards, form the Latin "Ero Cras" which means "Tomorrow I come." The O Antiphon for each day from December 17th can be used for prayer and reflection.

17 December - O Sapientia - O Wisdom

O wisdom, coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of truth. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

18 December - O Adonai - O Lord of might

O Lord of Lords, and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: come with your outstretched arm and ransom us. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

19 December - O Radix Jesse - O Root of Jesse

O root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long; come and save us and delay no longer. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

20 December - O Clavis David - O Key of David

O key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison, and break down the walls of death. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 December - O Oriens - O Dawn

O morning star, splendour of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness: come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

22 December - O Rex Gentium

O king of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: cornerstone, binding all together: come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

23 December - O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.