



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

17th May 2020 – Sixth 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: Margaret Twomey *RIP*.

Tuesday: David Kenny *RIP*.

Wednesday: Paily Abraham *RIP*

Thursday: Samuel (Sammy) Lee *Anniv*.

Friday: Donna McCoy *RIP*

Saturday: Mick Wall *Anniv*

Church Closure

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

This Week

Sixth Week of Easter. Tuesday is the memorial of St Dunstan. Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Stanislaus, Dulverton, Sacred Heart, Minehead with Watchet

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: Joy Jones, 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.

First Holy Communion 2020

Yesterday, May 16th, and next Saturday May 23rd, were due to be our parish First Holy Communion Days. Our thoughts and prayers are with the children and families who were so looking forward to this special time in their lives and we join with them in looking forward to the day when they will be able to celebrate their First Holy Communion once we are fully back in church following the lifting of current restrictions.

Year of Communion - Sunday May 17th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

I will not leave you orphaned.'

At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges; abandonment and isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. These words of Jesus remind us that we do not stand alone, whatever our circumstances. We are living in a time of great uncertainty. We do not have all the answers and many of us are fearful. Our fear points to the deeper reality that by ourselves we are not enough that we were never created to be self-sufficient. We were created to love and be loved, to live in relationship as people who give themselves to each other, to dwell, abide, and remain within each other. "I will not leave you orphaned." That is the promise. Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, storms, death, separation, we have never been and will never be abandoned by God. Let us renew our faith again this week and hold fast to the promise that we are not alone, and we never will be.

A reflection from Deacon Colm Robinson for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

"I will not leave you as orphans"

Can you remember a time when you were growing up, when for some reason you got lost or left behind? Parents, fearful of such an occasion, instruct their children not to go off in search of them, but to remain where they are and wait for them to return to the spot where you last saw each other.

Although afraid and lonely, by wisely remaining in the same location until the parents return, they will once again be safe. However, anyone who has experienced being lost never forgets the fear felt at the time.

One of the greatest personal fears in life is that of being forgotten, ignored or abandoned. And in our modern world there is no greater contemporary crisis than the massive abandonments now happening all over.

There are the victims of war, especially the children or the, often forgotten, casualties of divorce. Then there are the elderly in nursing homes, unvisited and often neglected. Adults living lonely lives of solitude and isolation – especially at this present time when all of us are experiencing isolation. 'Orphans' of all kinds are to be found all over the world. One of the greatest marks of true friendship is that a friend is one who will always be there for us.

Sometimes by well chosen words or perhaps simply by their simple presence or perhaps through silent but powerful actions, true friends keep people from feeling 'orphaned' or abandoned. Their presence and faithfulness become anchors for us in the midst of the uncertain seas of life.

But if human companionship and personal presence reassures and calms us, how immensely more powerful it is surely to know that God is with us until the end of time.

How soul-soothing it is to simply sit in the eternal presence of your best friend, the creator God who says; *"I have carried you on the palm of my hand"*.

How comforting are those words spoken by the Son of God some two thousand years ago; *"I will ask my Father and he will give you a paraclete (defender) to be with you always"*.

How peace-filling to hear the quiet words of Jesus; *"I will not leave you as orphans"*.

Considering the events of our present day, the stresses placed on our lives and those of our families and friends, the tensions over jobs and finances, we can be reassured that now, at this moment, God is always present. Recall the Name of our divine Deity is 'Emmanuel' meaning God is with us.

In these uncertain times, we can be anchored in the certainty of the Paraclete who is always with us. In the full knowledge of this and rooted in this truth, we can go out of 'self' to reach out to some of those orphaned by our world.

It may be difficult but we need to strive to move beyond our own pains to ease the abandonment so many are feeling at this time.

Take the love within you and give it to lonely souls – to abandoned children, to the bone-weary pensioners – to stressed single parents.

Speak to others the words your God has spoken to you; *"I do not leave you orphaned, I will come back to you"*. Mercifully, in God's kingdom there are no orphans. If you are able to receive this truth in your own life, then give away this truth to others' lives.

It is in these two actions, salvation lies.

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

A PARISH NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST

Day 1. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Wisdom** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 2. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Piety** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 3. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Courage** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 4. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Knowledge** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 5. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Understanding** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 6. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion

The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may

The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love

The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth

The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow

The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Counsel** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 7. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward

*The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion
The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may
The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love
The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth
The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow
The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you*

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Awe and Wonder** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 8. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

*The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward
The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion
The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may
The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love
The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth
The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow
The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you*

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Healing** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Day 9. Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, before ascending to your Father you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your disciples.

We ask you now to send your Holy Spirit upon our Parish and give us:

*The Spirit of Wisdom that we may discern the way forward
The Spirit of Piety that we may love you with true devotion
The Spirit of Courage that we may witness to you come what may
The Spirit of Knowledge that we may know you in friendship and love
The Spirit of Understanding that our minds will be enlightened by truth
The Spirit of Counsel that we may choose the right path to follow
The Spirit of Awe and Wonder that we may be filled with loving reverence for you*

Spirit of the Living God, grant us today the gift of **Discernment** so that we may work together to make our parish ever more missionary.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.