



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

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Permanent Deacons:

Rev Colm Robinson

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Rev Tim Meadows

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Rev David Hebbes

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Parish Secretary:

Mrs Thérèse English

gloucester.stpeter@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office:

Currently Closed

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

21st June 2020 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (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: Jane Conway *RIP*.

Monday: Pat Slattery *RIP*.

Tuesday: Intentions of Milvia Sepede.

Wednesday: In thanksgiving

Thursday: Paul Rowe *RIP*.

Friday: Joy Jones *RIP*

Saturday: Nicola Sepede *Anniv*

Opening of St Peter's Church for Private Prayer

In accordance with latest Government guidelines and in line with the extensive risk assessment advice issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales, St Peter's Church will be open for a limited time this coming week for **private prayer ONLY** as follows: **Sunday 2.30pm – 4.30pm; Tuesday 3.00pm – 5.00pm; Wednesday 11.30am – 1.30pm; Thursday 11.30am – 1.30pm; Friday 3.00pm – 5.00pm; Saturday 11.30am – 2.30pm; Sunday 2.30pm – 4.30pm.** Those visiting the church in these times will be required to follow strict social distancing guidance and will only be able to sit in pews indicated by a green tick. Hand sanitiser will be available on entering the church, which must be used by all entering the church. Those visiting the church are encouraged, where possible, to bring with them a pack of antibacterial wipes to wipe down the surface of where they were sitting while in church. There will be no holy water available in the church for use while entering the church or for taking away. The touching of statues will not be permitted. Please also be aware that the toilet in the church will remain closed while the church is open. Volunteer stewards are needed, ideally two for each hour the church is open, to guide and assist those visiting the church. Please email Fr Liam on liam.slattery@cliftondiocese.com if you are able to help this coming week. The church will remain closed on Mondays to enable a weekly deep clean. Please note that while the church may be opening for a number of hours each week the parish office continues to be closed.

This Week:

Week 12 in Ordinary Time, Psalter Week 4 for the Prayer of the Church. Monday is the Feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More, Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Peter' Gloucester

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: 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.

RIP

We ask your prayers for those who have died recently:

Joy Jones, who died last weekend following a short illness. Joy was, for many years a valued member, of the Sunday 9.00am music group. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

Father's Day

We wish all fathers a very happy Father's Day

Year of Communion – 21st June - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel is full of consolation and encouragement. Three times Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid, not to fear. We are to be fearless even in the face of adversity because we are known by God, loved and cherished intimately. If sparrows are precious in the eyes of God, we are even more precious. If there has been a time in our history when we have needed to be courageous, it has been this time during COVID-19. For many it has been a very frightening period and they have been incredibly courageous. This is often what discipleship is like. There can be hardship but there is also the knowledge that we are passionately loved by God. There are some who do not know that they are loved. As disciples of Christ we are called to share the Good News so that everyone in the world comes to know that they are precious, that they are loved and the one who created them is close to them.

A Reflection for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time from Deacon David Hebbes

The news that we are coming out of the lock-down, albeit gradually, for me is like when the sun begins to break through and warm me after a long period of cold, damp rain. Coronavirus, like rain, has kept us indoors...huddling up....looking out of our windows wondering when it will stop. And just like the sunshine after the rain, when it comes the first thing we do is to go outside and prove to ourselves that it really has stopped raining, we see that people are behaving in the same way with COVID-19. However, the virus, as with rain, will now always be around us and sometimes there will be, as the Irish say 'soft' days where it is very light, and at others as the Scots might say 'stoating' where it absolutely hammers us as it pours down again.

As always, but especially now, it is a time for us to throw open our hearts and for all those affected, including ourselves, to thank God for the love and support He has given us as we journey, as reluctant pilgrims, through this period, this valley, of trial and adversity. What have we learned..., what have we gained.... what have we not lost.....?

Hope...Love....Awareness....Respect....Faith....and a love for our neighbours.

Probably the biggest thing that we have learnt....and need to keep at the front of our minds.....is that we...man...cannot dictate when...how long...where...nature affects us. But we can be mindful and can adjust our actions to benefit everyone.

There is some easing of restrictions on our churches and some are opening, where practicable, for personal prayer...but the arrangements to make this happen are extremely complex and challenging....not to get a person into church..., that's easy....but to keep us all as safe as possible is incredibly complex believe me!. So even as we come out of lock-down we need to remain patient and tolerant....the virus's timings are not our timings, so as it is sometimes said 'We must keep the faith' and wait patiently.

Now when preparing to write reflection I found that the readings in the Office of Readings for this Sunday spoke to me loudly..reached out to me....shook me by the shoulders....looked me in my eyes.....smiled at me.....and said 'Be Joyous'....'Be happy'!

The hymn in the Office of Readings shouted to me, and shouts out to you how we should all be feeling now....hopeful...thankful....joyous...

A hymn that all of us have sung many, many times....have become accustomed to....might have sung just as a song not a hymn....a musical prayer to God..and probably, me included, forgotten to focus on its deep...positive....optimistic...uplifting message.

The image in my mind that this hymn gives me is of all of us dancing down the road.....in warm rain...arms

outstretched....whirling around...smiling....with tears of joy streaming down our faces....and singing at the top of our voices...

All creatures of our God and king,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia! alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise him, O praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou flowing water pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear:
Alleluia! alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:
O praise him, O praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part:
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

It sums up, for me where we are just now....and when I get to the line "Ye who long pain and sorrow bear" I can't help myself....it makes me cry....thinking of all those who have been deeply affected and hurt by the pandemic....victims...families....all the NHS and care workers...those on furlough....those now unemployed....and all of us!

But it is when the hymn says 'And all ye men of tender heart, Forgiving others, take your part' that speaks most to me, and you know....should speak to us all....in our hearts and in our souls.

Forgive and take our part!! Do our bit....

Keep our neighbours....our families...our friends.....in fact everyone....in our hearts...in our prayers....in our kindness...in our love....in our charity.

We have all been changed by this event...society has been changed....our way of life has been changed....our priorities have been changed....

The lock-down might be coming to end, but the new 'normal' and our role as Christians in the healing is just beginning. Let's start by healing ourselves in the joy of the Lord. Sing the hymn....dance the hymn...live the hymn...

....and share the Love, Joy and Hope that Jesus has given and continues to give to each and everyone of us everyday.....

Go out into this new world in a confident, compassionate way and make a difference.....heal the wounds...and be the shining beacon of light, love and life we are each blessed to be.