



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:

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

26th April 2020 – Third 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: Fred Gyde *RIP*.

Tuesday: P J Varkey *RIP*.

Wednesday: Francesco Baldari *RIP*

Thursday: Michael Dunwoddie *RIP*.

Friday: Antonio Pugarad *RIP*

Saturday: Thanksgiving – Gayya Family

Church Closure

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

This Week

Third Week of Easter. Wednesday is the Feast of St Catherine of Siena. Saturday the Memorial of St Athanasius
Diocesan Prayer Link: St Patrick's Corsham

RIP

We ask your prayers for those who have died recently:

Bro Anthony Thomas OSB, One of the Prinknash Abbey Community who died in Nazareth House.

Sylvia Gwilliam, Hilary Swift.

Private cremation or graveside funeral services will take place in due course. Memorial Mass will be celebrated once the current restrictions have been lifted. We extend our sympathy to family and friends and we keep them in our prayer.

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.

Year of Communion - Sunday April 26th – Third Sunday of Easter

The story of the resurrection is the greatest story of hope, the true story of forgiveness and freedom. Two disciples of Jesus are travelling to Emmaus bewildered and confused. Why did he have to die? Was he not the Messiah, as they had hoped? They are also frightened – will they be arrested for being a follower of Jesus? Bewilderment, confusion, fear – these are natural emotions when we are faced with death, trauma and the unknown. It can be difficult to hold onto hope in the face of such adversity. In this time of COVID-19 many people are struggling but there is also hope too. It is a hope that comes from seeing people coming together in a spirit of generosity and concern for the needs of the vulnerable and needy. It is the hope of seeing the heroic actions of those tirelessly working around the clock in hospitals and care homes. It is the hope that comes from a place of prayer and faith that, in the words of St. Julian of Norwich, 'All things shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.'

A reflection for the Third Sunday of Easter from Deacon David Hebbes

Being in lock down seems to me to be a bit like finding a new taste or a new food. It seems OK at first, but the novelty soon wears off after you've eaten it every day for a week. I don't know how you are all doing, well I hope, but I suspect that you are all a bit like me... good days and not so good days. Lock-down for me seemed a great opportunity at first, time to get things done around the house, time to walk the dog, time to read, time to learn new stuff. Plus do a ton of other things I never have time for as well.

It wasn't long before reality kicked in. No social interaction other than with co-resident family...no casual bumping in to someone in the shop and having a chat.....to say nothing of closed churches, no fellowship, no praise or worship with other people.....My inner voice said to me "this is going to get tough". And it has. From what I have experienced and been told the lock-down places great pressure on us all by limiting or depriving us of those things that we take for granted, that help us get through every 'normal' day, and this pressure will build to bursting point if we let it.

We are being bombarded by advice and information....blasted with opinions and experts....how much of it can we absorb?.....How much can we do something about? Probably more than we might think.

It is the 3rd Sunday after Easter. Christ is risen, he is indeed!

In the readings in this week's Sunday Mass there are some really great pointers to help us through these difficult times. It is at times like these that we, as people of faith, 'the Easter people'....those who believe in the Resurrection and eternal hope and love in the Lord....have the gift...the Grace of our faith,...and the love of God and His son, Jesus.

The Entrance Antiphon which normally greets us in church shouts out loudly, and with joy and enthusiasm to all Creation, even whilst we, humanity within Creation, are being afflicted.

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Times might be hard but the world, the whole of Creation, is still a gift and a wonderful thing. Perhaps we should go out into our gardens or open our doors and windows, and just enjoy the beauty around us and be joyful. We might get some strange looks but I bet it will make us feel better.

The first reading and the Psalm tell of God never abandoning us, no matter how hard or dire things get. When we are being frightened by the news, the government briefings, not forgetting the illness itself, it is such a wonderful thing to know that God is with us even in the depths of this isolation.

Take a moment to reflect on the Psalm where it says:

"Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you."

"I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm."

"And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety."

"For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay."

*"You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever."*

Really powerful encouragement from the time of King David, centuries before Jesus came.

The path of life.....joy in your presence.....so uplifting.

The second reading re-focusses us on the gift to us of Jesus, and what his death and resurrection means for us all, and how He is the strong foundation of our faith as Christians, and in our daily lives.

Isn't it strange to think that Easter was only three weeks ago, it seemed to silently pass by this year and so it is great to be reminded of all that Easter means.

The Gospel, for me, is quite thought provoking. It really put me there with the disciples, and made me think of that time when we come out of lock-down. If I met someone who had been completely isolated...,,totally away from people, radio, television, newspapers.....maybe someone from a remote island....or a member of a lost Amazon tribe. This whole virus trial might have completely passed them by and I am sure that most of us would be totally unbelieving if they said 'What virus...what lock-down?', looking at us as if we were mad.

When Cleopas says 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' he must have thought that this person he had met was very odd. But this encounter should mean so much to us just now. It is this encounter which inspires us with hope and joy.

The Gospel shows that understanding would come to the disciples in time, and how important...how momentous the events and that meeting at Emmaus, were.

As we cannot meet together and partake in the Eucharist why don't we, as we sit down to eat in our homes each day, reflect on the disciples and their meal.....their conversation...

As I mentioned earlier there are things that we can do to relieve the pressure that the lock-down brings.

There some fantastic virtual retreats and other online events running at the moment or coming up. They are being promoted on-line by the Franciscans, the Jesuits, the community at Walsingham to name a few. If you know of any,,,please share them...if you can't find any drop Deacon David an email.

Brush up on your bible reading and take a small passage or even just a word and reflect on what it is saying to you.

Get into a daily prayer routine. The daily office, which is prayed by the whole Church around the world might be a simple way in. You can find it online if you do not have a breviary or a prayer book.

Meditation might help. Sitting quietly, slowing down and reflecting on some reading, some scripture or some music.

Take a free online training course.

Do some gardening. Make some music. Write poetry. Paint. Decorate. Bake.

God has given us a chance to step back and reflect, recharge and renew.

Let's not waste it.

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Julian of Norwich

