



## St Peter's Catholic Church

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Parish website: [www.stpetersgloucester.org.uk](http://www.stpetersgloucester.org.uk)

Diocesan website: [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)

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**Parish Priest:**

Monsignor Liam Slattery VG

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**Permanent Deacons:**

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**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Thérèse English

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**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](http://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](http://www.st-petershigh.gloucs.sch.uk)

## 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – Solemnity of Pentecost (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: Lise Noakes *Anniv.*

Tuesday: CMBF.

Wednesday: In thanksgiving

Thursday: Special Intention.

Friday: Catherine O'Leary (*Anniv*)

Saturday: Mary Reddington (*Anniv*)

### Church Closure

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

### Pentecost Sunday:

Today's Solemnity of Pentecost brings to a close the Easter Season. Ordinary Time resumes with Week 9, Cycle II for the Weekday Readings and Week 1 for the Daily Prayer of the Church. Monday is the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church; Wednesday the Memorial of St Charles Lwanga and Companions; Thursday the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest; Friday the Memorial of St Boniface.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Thomas of Canterbury, Fairford with St Mary, Cricklade

### 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](http://cliftondiocese.com)) or through [churchservices.tv](http://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.

### RIP

We ask your prayers for those who have died recently:

**Paul Rowe.** We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

### Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for June

That all those who suffer may find their way of life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

### **Year of Communion - Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> – Pentecost Sunday**

Today is the joyful celebration of Pentecost. Our Gospel speaks of the disciples locked away behind closed doors afraid of the Jewish authorities. Jesus comes and stand amongst them and offers them peace. Twice he says to them, 'Peace be with you.' His presence and his offering brings the disciples great joy and confidence. It is a confidence that sends them out into the world once more. This is the peace we are offered. It is not a simple handshake, it is an offering of deep inner peace which reassures us that with Jesus we are safe, we can feel confident that all will be well. As Christians we have been given many gifts. If we have a role to play in the world it is to share this gift of peace, the peace that leads to freedom and hope and a belief in all things that are good.

### **Organ Donation**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, an opt-out system for organ donation was introduced in England.

The Catholic Church has consistently encouraged its followers to consider organ donation. The act of donating organs before or after death has been considered a gift and an intrinsic good. However, a system of presumed consent risks taking away the right of the individual to exercise this decision, and therefore potentially undermines the concept of donation as a gift.

Following the change in the law, all adults in England will be considered donors in the event of death, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the following excluded groups: those under the age of 18; people who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action; visitors to England, and those not living here voluntarily; and people who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death.

The Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales have produced Guidelines for Catholics on Organ Donation, and how to record this decision online via the Organ Donation Register (ODR). The ODR also allows you to record your faith beliefs so that they may be respected in the event of death and organ donation.

Click [HERE](#) to see the guidelines.

### **Rosary Mission**

As a Diocese we have had a request from Monsignor John Armitage, from the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, to participate in a May Rosary Mission on today, Pentecost Sunday. Each Diocese in England, Wales and Scotland has been allotted an hour in which the Rosary will be prayed either individually or in family groups. The hour allotted to Clifton is 1.00pm. At that time the Rosary will be live streamed from Clifton Cathedral.

### **Reflection from Deacon Tim Meadows**

*31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 Solemnity of Pentecost*

The Jewish feast of Pentecost comes fifty days after the celebration of Passover. It's a harvest festival, the beginning of the gathering in of the wheat harvest; giving thanks to God and remembering, in particular, all the covenants, the everlasting agreements with God, from Noah after the flood up until the covenant with Moses on Mount Sinai and the receiving of the Ten Commandments.

The Christian feast of Pentecost comes fifty days after the celebration of Christ's Passover; his double Passover: from life to death and from death to new and everlasting life, winning for us as our Passover lamb that same promise of life eternal. On Mount Calvary, a new and everlasting covenant was sealed by his blood. As blood, and water, poured forth from his precious side, a new seed was planted, a new creation began. Jesus gave his Mother Mary to St John and St John to his Mother, to live in the new commandment: "*Love one another as I have loved you*", and, with the appearing of the Risen Christ, others were able to share in this mutual self-giving, self-sacrificial love that saves.

The Kingdom of God, the Church, had been conceived; now there had to be a period of waiting, of preparation and prayer; the fifty days gestation period of the unborn Church.

Like the Jewish celebration, the Christian Passover is also a harvest festival and we are all part of the harvest, gathered in by the power of the Holy Spirit, by the word of the Risen Christ; his new and everlasting covenant fulfilled in us his body, the Church. In baptism we died with Christ, now we rise to new and everlasting life in him.

Baptism definitely means we've been conceived again in Christ, but are we content to stay in the womb or are we willing to be born again in the power of the Holy Spirit; to be baptised in water and with fire? Pentecost is a new encounter with God as Father and with the Church as our Mother.

On Mount Sinai, God appeared in a frightening storm; darkness, thunder and lightning, flame, smoke and cloud. God appeared as the awesome, almighty and ever powerful.

At Pentecost, our Father God allows us, his children, to share in that awesome, almighty power and to be strengthened, guided and protected by that power who is the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost there was a mighty wind, and tongues of fire came to rest upon the infant Church, but the Apostles received courage and strength from their fears, wisdom and understanding, guidance and knowledge; their faith grew and deepened and they were able to live in holiness. They were able to live out God's commandments in a new way, in their hearts and in their minds and deep down in their very souls. Because they responded, accepted, received and used these gifts of the Holy Spirit, they took fruit and became God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These gifts of the Holy Spirit which became fruits of the Holy Spirit, were not just for the good of the Apostles but for the good of all, so that the Kingdom of God, the Church, could grow and continues to grow.

Today is the birthday of the Church.

Today is our birthday; an opportunity to be born again into the mystical body of Christ. We've been given an amazing gift from God, but only in our own free will can we, the baptised in Christ, accept, open and use that gift.

The mission of Christ in which we're called to share, through baptism and confirmation, is three fold: Christ is priest, prophet and king. We're sustained in our three fold mission, every time we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist and feed upon his Word and Sacrament. We share in Christ's priesthood, every time we offer up prayer to God, especially at the Eucharist; and when we make sacrifices on behalf of others. We share in his prophetic ministry, every time we proclaim or faithfully live out his Word; his eternal truth; and we share in the kingship of Christ not by lording it over other people but by serving them. By helping those in need and by loving even our enemies.

We're called to the restoration or preservation of the reign of God in the world; to be the salt and the light of Christ in our homes, our work, and in our social activities. We need to confirm Christ everyday in every way, despite and because, we live in an increasingly secular society, one which is becoming more and more obviously un-Christian in its moral attitudes and values.

It's so easy to be dragged down by the chaos of the world in which we live but that's why we desperately need the sustaining Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist to keep us confirmed in our Christian lives; and because the Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from receiving those Sacraments, we need to, more than ever, call upon the Holy Spirit to help us in our difficulties, to take away our fears, and to reveal God's path for us through the chaos of the world in which we live.

We're like the Apostles in the Upper Room after the crucifixion; dazed and confused, not knowing what to do next, unsure about the future, but it was at that very moment that the Risen Christ came to the Apostles and breathed on them the Holy Spirit, and prepared them for the greater outpouring which came upon the Church and the world on Pentecost Sunday.

*"Come Holy Spirit"* is a simple but extremely dangerous prayer! In Christian terms it's the nuclear option, because we've no control over the Holy Spirit. To be born again not only by water but, also, in the awesome, almighty, everlasting power of the Holy Spirit, means to fully trust in God no matter how uncertain the future may seem. To let go and let God isn't easy for anyone, but it's what we are called to do as members of Christ's Body, the Church, by the Grace of God which is the Holy Spirit!

Because, in the beginning, the spirit of God hovered over the waters of creation, or to use a better translation from the Hebrew: the waters of chaos! Out of chaos, God created the heavens and the earth, and in his new creation at Pentecost, God again creates out of chaos.

So whatever the chaos and confusion we may find ourselves in today, no matter how destroyed and devastated our world may seem; God is bringing about a new creation in us, a new Pentecost, a new birth, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes all things new and though we've received the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation, we need to be continually renewed, refreshed and strengthened in the Holy Spirit, born again in the Risen Christ, the new Adam of God's new creation, so that we can live daily in his divine power and love.


If we call upon God's Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will come to us, but be warned: the power of the Holy Spirit won't necessarily work in the way we want it to, but it will work in the way God wants it to; so calling upon the Holy Spirit requires us to fully surrender ourselves to God knowing that his divine loving plan is, in the long term, the best one for us and for all humanity.

We may never understand what God is doing in us by the power of his Spirit, but, if we call upon the Holy Spirit from the depths of our hearts, we will be amazed, overwhelmed and overjoyed in the power of God's love for us: so that even I a sinner, whose sins have helped to scourge and crucify my loving saviour Jesus Christ, and

offended his infinite goodness, may come to know in the power of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, suffered and died out of love for me, and for you!

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love! Send forth you're Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth!*

## [Come, Holy Spirit](#)



**Lord, send out  
your Spirit, and  
renew the face  
of the earth.**

Psalm 104

PENTECOST