

SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



71 Broad Street Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD & Sundridge Park Yate www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk

Parish Priest Rev Jim Williams 312161 james.williams@cliftondiocese.com Office Secretary chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com
Deacon Rev Vincent Calder 311717 vk.calder@virgin.net Parish Sisters Greta & Fidelis 327105 St Paul's School 866790

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Carol Lawler 01454 317077 email PSR.chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5th - 6th December 2020 (Year B) Psalter 1 & Proper of Season

DPL: All Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies



THE SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



SAT	5th	CS	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
SUN	6th	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mrs N Buddy RIP
Tue	8th	CS	9.30am	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	
Wed	9th	StP	9.30am		P Davis Intention
Thur	10th			No Service	
Fri	11th	CS	9.30am	Mass at St Lawrence	James Withers (Anni)
SAT	12th	CS	5.00pm	Gaudete Sunday	
SUN	13th	StP	11.00am	Gaudete Sunday	J Lockett Intention
Tue	15th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
Wed	16th	StP	9.30am	Mass	
Thur	17th			No Service	
Fri	18th	CS	9.30am	Mass	Peter De Payva
SAT	19th	CS	5.00pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Lorcan O'Rourke
SUN	20th	StP	11.00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Tue	22nd	CS	9.30am	Mass	
Wed	23rd	StP	9.30am	Mass	Elizabeth Watkins
Thur	24th	StP	6.00pm	VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS	
Fri	25th	CS	9.00am	CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS	
Fri	25th	StP	11.00am	CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS	People of the Parish
Sat	26th	CS	10.00am	Boxing Day Feast of Saint Stephen	
SAT	26th	CS	5.00pm	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	
SUN	27th	StP	11.00am	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	

Confessions by appointment only. Please phone if in isolation.

To contact a Priest: Fr Jim Williams (01454) 312161 or Canon Frank Bermingham 0117 9833939. Parish Office Our Lady of Lourdes: 0117 9498743. To send items for the Newsletter e-mail Bill Jennings: 633wejenings@gmail.com

SVP CHRISTMAS PARCEL COLLECTION

From the 5th December to 13th December inclusive the SVP will be making their annual appeal for items for the Christmas parcels that they distribute to people in the parish and school community who would benefit from a parcel. The following items would be appreciated: **Tinned goods, biscuits, sweets, squash, cereals, rice, pasta, pasta sauces, Christmas puddings and cakes.** Items of food that would make up a meal for needy families would also be appreciated. A Parishioner donates mince pies so these are not required. **No toiletries please.** Supermarket vouchers would also be appreciated. Please leave the donations either in St Lawrence Church or St Paul's Church before or after Mass. The parcels will be made up on the 17th December and distributed on Friday the 18th December. Thank you for your kind support.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a parcel please contact a member of the SVP or the Parish Office.

THE HOLY FATHER'S Prayer Intention for November - Artificial Intelligence: That the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

BONUS BALL: POSTPONED until we can gather for Mass again.

Going on Holiday? Pay in advance. Please see P. O'Rourke or K.Chapman for more information.

If you are posting lottery money through the presbytery door, please include a contact phone number. Thank you.

44

CLIFTON DIOCESE is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with number 10462076. It is a registered charity with number 1170168.

What's on?



Reflections for 2nd Sunday in Advent (Cycle B)

1st Reading Prophet Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11. The next fifteen chapters of Isaiah report the events that took place about 539 BC, when Cyrus the king of Persia took Babylon, with the result that the exiles were able to return to Israel in 538. Not everybody was delighted with this prospect. Isaiah invites his fellow Israelites to accept this new Exodus, as well as rubbish the Babylonian gods who have turned out not to be up to much, after all. Scattered through out this second Isaiah are references to the suffering servant (Christ), and we see in this passage what Christians have always believed is a reference to John the Baptist, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness”. Isaiah shows a good deal of his inner life, “The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it.” He is so confident that God is about to fulfil his promise of salvation for the people of Israel, because “He (God) has said it.” Isaiah has obviously been privileged to an insight into the promised saviour of the people of God. We, who have been through a torrid time, the pandemic, the scandals in the church, members of the church grumbling and complaining and constantly criticising, are no different from this period in scripture. It is worth pondering on this Second Isaiah chapters 40-55, as they are full of deep spiritual renewal and encouragement. It will lift us out of any feelings of depression or doubts about God’s word.

Psalm 84: 9-14. “I will hear what the Lord God has to say.” This is placing our trust in the word of God. Justice and peace await those who follow God’s covenant. We need not fear the detractors, for God is faithful. The whole of scripture points to the trustworthiness of God. All we need to do is keep faith in his ultimate victory over evil.

2nd Reading from the 2nd Letter of St. Peter 3: 8-14.

An issue that seems to have dominated the early Christians was that of the expectation, even going back to Jesus, himself, that the end was coming quite soon. But when that didn’t happen it inevitably meant that people raised questions about it. Peter is determined to hang on to his view that it is still on its way. What we need to rely on is, the reliability of God and closely aligned with this, the reliability of the Prophets. Peter’s answer to the doubters is that God is not held by time, like us, and secondly God is being patient with us, as he wants everyone to repent and be saved. But he affirms; Don’t be fooled the Day of Judgement is coming. Peter is not above a bit of healthy fear in stimulating correct behaviour. His whole aim is for us to keep faith and trust in God, for He is faithful.

Gospel according to Mark 1: 1-8.

With this curt beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ the Son of God, Mark opens the first gospel to be written. Beginning tells us where we are, but it is also an echo of the opening of Holy Scripture in Genesis. Mark’s Gospel is a mysterious Gospel the opening lines are not wholly from Isaiah, as we have seen that passage in the first Reading, but actually; it is from Exodus 23:20, before it comes to Isaiah’s passage. We can exclude any idea that Mark did not know his Old Testament. Also mysterious is the fact that Mark starts his Gospel not with Jesus, but John the Baptist. John will give a clue to Jesus identity, but also, we may be encountering that Jesus something to do with confronting the reality of sin. (“a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins... confessing their sins”). John’s message turns out to be all about Jesus, pointing to his superiority; Jesus is stronger, much more superior; the task of untying sandals was a slave’s job. John’s baptism is with water, but Jesus’ baptism will be with the Holy Spirit, which Mark has yet to explain to us. Mark is believed to be the first Gospel to be written, so he has invented the Gospel Form, thus, is deserving of our full attention. It is worth reading it through in one sitting just to get the feel of its full import & meaning for us.

God Bless you all, Deacon Vincent

<p>Could you be a School Governor? The Diocese is seeking to recruit people to serve on school governing bodies. If you believe in Catholic education, have enthusiasm and commitment, then you can make a valuable contribution to the governing body of a Catholic school. It also provides the opportunity to use your life/work skills and experience, for the benefit of the children in our schools. If you think you could serve as a Foundation Governor then please contact Bill on bill.mcintee@cliftodiocese.com or call 07710094976 for more information– he would be delighted to hear from you.</p>	<p>Starting School? If you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2021 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of South Glos Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15th January 2021.</p>
--	---

<p>Children’s Liturgy cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy</p>	<p>www.churchservices.tv</p>
---	---

Safeguarding our Vulnerable Adults and Children: All church activities are subject to safeguarding policies and procedures. We encourage everyone to access these policies which can be found in the Diocesan Resource along with important contact numbers on the safeguarding pages. **Parish website:** <http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/cliftodiocese.html>
<http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/safeguarding.html>

 <p>Society of Saint Vincent de Paul TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION Meets regularly at St Paul’s. To join please phone 01454 312161 Email csandyatesvp@gmail.com</p>	<p>Useful links: www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk www.cliftodiocese.com www.vatican.va</p>	<p>If you are interested in learning about the ethos, aims, and works of the Legion of Mary Tel: 01454 321749</p>
---	---	---