

SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

12th - 13th December 2020 (Year B) Psalter 3 & Proper of Season
DPL: Christ The King, Amesbury



SAT	12th	CS	5.00pm	GAUDETE SUNDAY	Goncalves, Martins, Alberto, Da Cruz Families
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	23th	StP	9.30am	Mass	Elizabeth Watkins
Thur	24th	StP	6.00pm	VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS	
Thur	24th	StP	8.00pm	NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS	
Thur	24th		11.45pm	MIDNIGHT MASS LIVE BROADCAST BY BBC FROM CLIFTON CATHEDRAL	
Fri	25th	CS	9.00am	CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS	Carmel O'Rourke Int
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	
Tue	29th	CS	9.30am	Mass [Saint Thomas Becket]	Michael & Mary Magner
Wed	30th	StP	9.30am	Mass	
Thur	31st			No Service	
Fri	1st	CS	9.30am	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	
SAT	2nd	CS	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
SUN	3rd	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	

PLEASE NOTE WELL!

Dear All Space is going to be very limited for the Christmas eve and morning masses. So I have put on an extra mass at 8.00pm and encourage those who would have loved the midnight mass to take a full part in the live streamed mass from the cathedral presided by Bishop Declan on the BBC. If you still find that we simply cannot accommodate you in the church please remember that Christmas Day is celebrated over an 'Octave' of eight days so you can celebrate the birth of Christ with your family and in the community on any of the other masses right up to the second Sunday of Christmas.

Please pray for a normal Easter and Christmas next year! God bless. Fr Jim

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: 633wejennings@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 December -For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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.

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What's on?



Reflections for 3rd Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1st Reading Prophet Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11.

Isaiah is the most quoted Prophet in the Gospels. In Luke's Gospel, he records that Jesus took this theme from Isaiah for his very brief sermon to the people of Nazareth. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus picks up the theme of those who mourn shall be comforted in the Beatitudes. Then in the final section of this reading we have a very consoling image of the Lord, dressed in splendour and as the earth yielding its flowers in a garden, so shall the Lord make justice and integrity arise in the sight of the nations. This is a very stimulating reading. This is the type of Church we should be preparing for the Lord's second coming. We need to cleanse the people of God to make us fit to meet the Lord. This is the plan for Advent, we need to go back to our source, Jesus Christ, the Lord and follow him and establish integrity and justice as our base structure.

Responsorial Psalm Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54.

This is Mary's song in answer to Elizabeth's declaration that Mary is the Mother of her Lord. It is a very dramatic and revolutionary statement of God's way of viewing the people of God. This statement of Mary's was forbidden to be read in some dictatorships, as they saw it as fomenting revolution. It is worth exploring the full implications of following the Gospel life. This Sunday and through the week we have the opportunity to measure ourselves against the planned life of the Gospels, and retune ourselves into the Lord's ways.

2nd Reading St. Paul's 1st Letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-24.

Here we have the conclusion of the earliest surviving New Testament document. The farewell conveys his absolute dependence on God, on the love that Christians should have for one another. God has called us, and he will not fail us. We need to have confidence in God, and always thank Him in Christ Jesus for this what God wants us to do, and so become perfect and holy. That is God's desire for us, so we should always be Joyful that we have been called by Him.

The Holy Gospel According to John 1: 6-8, 19-28.

This Gospel, together with all the other Gospels describe John's mission as the Prophet Isaiah's quotation 40:3 "a voice of one crying in the wilderness." This passage is all about pointing to Jesus "the one who is coming after me." John's Gospel is constantly translated as the Jews did this or that, but it might be less contentious to think of them as Judeans, as this is the same word used in Greek for both. The opening of the mission of Jesus is established and recognised by John the Baptist as superior to his own mission. John's mission is one of preparation for the Messiah (Jesus Christ). It was designed to invite the people to amend their lives and so be able to recognise the Christ when he appeared among us.

All this week's readings are to help us prepare ourselves to receive the arrival of Emmanuel (God with us), not just for the festival, but for his second triumphal coming in glory, so that we will be able to go out and meet him with confidence, by following the Gospel Life.

We have been called and chosen let us travel with confidence that God is with us.

God Bless you All. Deacon Vincent.

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@cliftondiocese.com or call 077110094976 for more information- he would be delighted to hear from you.

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.

Children's Liturgy cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy

www.churchservices.tv

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/cliftondiocese.html>
<http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/safeguarding.html>



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

Useful links:
www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk
www.cliftondiocese.com
www.vatican.va

If you are interested in learning about the ethos, aims, and works of the Legion of Mary Tel: 01454 321749