



## Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Churchdown, Gloucester

Email: [churchdown.ourladys@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:churchdown.ourladys@cliftondiocese.com)

Parish Priest: Father Paul Brandon

Tel: 01452713254



Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS		
	Services this week	In the Church Hall
<b>Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30 am Mass: Martin Rafferty R.I.P 10.30 am Mass: Pro Populo	COFFEE CLUB after 10.30 am Mass every Sunday PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm
<b>Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent II</i>	9:15am Mass: Mary-Jo Costello RIP <u>6.30 pm</u> Mass: Private Int. <u>9.30 pm</u> Mass: Private Int.	
<b>Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<u>10.00 am</u> Christmas Day Mass: Pro Populo	
<b>Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feast of Saint Stephen, The First Martyr</i>	<u>10.00 am</u> Mass: D. Emanuelli Int. <u>No Exposition or evening Mass.</u>	SVP Group – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed of mth at 6.30pm Private Hire – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds of mth 6.30pm
<b>Thur. 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feast of Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	<u>10.00 am</u> Mass: K. Gallagher Int.	PRIVATE HIRE 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm
<b>Fri. 28<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>Feast of the Holy Innocent Martyrs</i>	<u>10.00 am</u> : S. Mitchell Int.	Meditation Group from 1pm PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm
<b>Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Feast of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr, Patron of Pastoral Clergy</i>	<u>10.00 am</u> Mass: R. Taffe Int. <u>10.30 am</u> – 11.00 am: Confessions	PRIVATE HIRE 1.30pm – 4pm
<b>Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</b>	8.30 am Mass: Pro Populo 10.30 am Mass: John Cooney R.I.P	COFFEE CLUB after 10.30 am Mass every Sunday PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm

In our prayers
<b>Anniversaries:</b> Rachel Gurr (24 <sup>th</sup> ), John Richard Fitchett (24 <sup>th</sup> ), Michael Joseph Lowe (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Johannah Smith (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Bridget Burridge (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Phyllis Shore (25 <sup>th</sup> ), Lillian Alma Bell (26 <sup>th</sup> ), Ann Tierney (28 <sup>th</sup> ), John King (31 <sup>st</sup> )
<b>Prayers for the sick:</b> Pat Crompton, Consolacion De Dios Blanco, Carol Benson, Wynn McGhee, Terry Poole, Ian Vilanueva, Vicky Dunn, Natalie Edwards, Nigel Lamb, Doreen Baker, Kieran Anderson, Brian Phillips, Maria Kent, Edith Cull, Christopher Brown, Thomas Jayaseelan, Gordon Palmer, Michelle Cooke, Caitlin Godden, Alex Geddes, Maggie Hansell, Joan Geraghty, Bernadette Metcalf, Martin Thomas, Rebecca Lansdown, Peter Long, Angela Woulfe, Peter Kost, Kerrie Lane, Ian Wright, Nathan Wright, Carol While, Geraldine Armitage.



**We welcome everyone who is joining us today, and hope that you find it helpful to spend five minutes of silence and reflection before Mass: We pray the Diocesan Prayer together:**

God our Father open the horizons of our minds and hearts so that we can see what hope your call holds for us. Pour out the overflowing gifts of your Spirit so that we, your church, may become a people of hope for our world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Our Lady, Woman of Hope, pray for us. St. Peter, Rock of Hope, pray for us. St Paul, Apostle of Hope, pray for us.**

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Sunday, 16th of December: £750:12. Christmas Flowers: £89:90

**Offerings at all the Christmas Masses are our gift for Fr Paul.**

(Please find envelopes attached for your convenience) Thank you.

### A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE – Prayer

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

‘Immediately after the Annunciation Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. After the overwhelming invitation to be the mother of the Saviour it would be understandable if Mary were to focus upon herself and her own well-being but Mary’s first thought is not for herself. Her first reaction is to go and be of service to someone else. ...Mary can teach us about the effects of true prayer. When we encounter the Lord in prayer whether in solitude and silence or during the Liturgy, if it is genuine prayer, a genuine encounter with the Lord, then it will inspire us to serve others.’ (From the diocesan resource for the year of prayer.)

### CHRISTMAS

We come to crib and kneel before the image of the infant Jesus. The word infant means literally ‘without speech’. God speaks his word to us silently. Before Jesus says a single word he silently reveals to us the face of God and in the infant Jesus we see that God is humble and gentle. That continues to be the way God speaks his word to us. The Lord silently gives himself on the Cross and in the Eucharist. As we sing in the carol ‘O little town of Bethlehem: ‘How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in’.

**Baptism Preparation 2019:** If you are seeking Baptism for your child here at Our Lady’s, please phone or email the Parish Office to register for the next preparation course, to arrange a date for the baptism and to obtain a baptism application form. The dates for 2019 are:

**\*13th Jan / 20th Jan / 27th Jan / 3rd Feb\***

**\*28th April / 5th May / 12th May / 19th May\***

**\*15th Sept / 22nd Sept / 29th Sept / 6th Oct\***

**Sacrament of Confirmation 2019:** If you are in the Y9 or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next summer, please complete an enrollment form which are available in the Church Narthex. Please complete and return to the Parish Office with the copy of your baptismal certificate (not required if baptised at O.L.O.P.S.) **A meeting for candidates and parents will be arranged in the New Year 2019.**

**PRINKNASH ABBEY:** Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve 4pm. 1<sup>st</sup> Vespers, 9pm Vigil Mass of Christmas. Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 8:15am Mass for the Laity, 10:30am Day Mass, 5pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Vespers & Benediction.

**Hospital stay:** *It is essential that individuals and families let either the parish or the chaplaincy know if somebody is in hospital. To leave a message on the chaplaincy answer phone, call 0300 422 4286 for Cheltenham or 0300 422 6200 for Gloucester, stating clearly the name of the Catholic Patient, and, if known, what ward they are on. If you are able to see a priest and receive the Sacrament of the Sick before you go into hospital, please do so.*

## Merry Christmas

As the season of advent reaches its highpoint in the celebration of the Lord’s Nativity, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. If you are visiting the parish, you’re very welcome. If you’re going away to visit family and friends, I hope you arrive safely and your family ties are strengthened. In celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we are filled with a deep joy and a peace the world cannot give. We rejoice in God’s nearness to us in the Christ Child and as we do the Lord renews with us that sense of being children of God. We become more aware of Christ in our neighbour, especially in those who are weak, poor or marginalised. We renew our efforts to make the love we receive from God an incarnate love, that is, a concrete love for our neighbour.

I would like to thank everyone who has prepared our Church for the liturgical celebrations. The Crib and the flowers invite us to be still and enter into the wonder of the Lord’s Nativity, while the choir, musicians and altar servers enable us to adore the Lord in the Scriptures and the Breaking of Bread. I would like to thank everyone involved with parish ministries; we remember that Jesus came not to be served but to serve and in imitating Him we grow as children of God. I hope the Christmas season will be a very happy and holy time for us all as the Lord renews within our hearts the mystery of his love for humanity.

**Peace and Joy, Fr. Paul**

**Parish Office is closed until 9:30am on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.**