



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown Gloucester

Parish Priest: **Father Paul Brandon.** Tel: **01452-713254**

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Sunday 24th December 2017 – Fourth Week of Advent		
DPL: Clevedon Immaculate Conception with Yatton / Nailsea St Francis of Assisi / Portishead St Joseph		
Services this week		In the Church Hall
Sun. 24 Dec <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8.30 am Mass: People of the Parish 10.30 am Mass: Kath Gallagher Ints 6.30 pm First Mass of Christmas: People of the Parish 9.30 pm Carols followed by Mass of the Nativity of the Lord: Private Intention	COFFEE CLUB after 10.30 am Mass every Sunday PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm
Mon 25 Dec <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	10.00am Christmas Day Mass: Sheila Mitchel Ints	Craft and Coffee group All Welcome - 9am – 11am term time
Tues. 26 Dec <i>Feast of St Stephen</i>	9.45 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass: Danny & Marie Connors and family Ints	Coffee Club after Mass
Wed. 27 Dec <i>Feast of St John</i>	9.45 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass: Jim Smyth Ints	Our Ladybirds Stay and Play group All welcome - 9am – 11am term time SVP Group – 24 th Jan at 6.30pm Justice & Peace – 1 st Weds at 7.30pm Private Hire – 2 nd Weds 06.30pm
Thur. 28 Dec <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i>	9.45 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass: John Tummilty Ints	HALL HIRE: If you would like to book the church Hall please contact Elizabeth Thomas in the office: 01452 713254
Fri. 29 Dec <i>Feast of St Thomas Beckett</i>	9.45 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass: John O'Brien Ints	Meditation Group from 1pm PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm
Sat. 30 Dec <i>Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas</i>	9.45 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass: Joe & Angela Smith Ints Confessions 10.30 am – 10.45am or on request	PRIVATE HIRE 2pm – 4pm
Sun. 31 Dec <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>	8.30 am Mass: People of the Parish 10.30 am Mass: Danny & Marie Connors and family Ints	COFFEE CLUB after 10.30 am Mass every Sunday PRIVATE HIRE 7pm – 9 pm

In our prayers
Anniversaries: Rachel Gurr (24 th), John Fitchett (25 th), Johannah Smith (25 th), Bridget Burridge (25 th), Phyllis Shore (25 th), Lillian Bell (26 th) and Ann Tierney (28 th).
Prayers for the sick: Pat Crompton, Consolacion De Dios Blanco, Carol Benson, Wynne McGhee, Terry Poole, Ian Vilanueva, Vicky Dunn, Natalie Edwards, Nigel Lamb, Doreen Baker, Anna Ryder, Keian Andersonn, 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, Angela Woulfe, Peter Kost, Margaret West-Sadler, Kerrie Lane, Ian Wright, Carol While, Theresa Cooper and 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:

God of hope be with us as we complete our Advent journey to the stable and beyond. Forgive us if on our journey we were distracted by the tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a Saviour. Amen.

<p>OFFERTORY COLLECTION for 17th December 2017 amounted to £424 + £398 = £822</p> <p>Thank you for your generosity</p> <p>Offerings at all the Christmas Masses are for the personal use of Fr Paul.</p> <p>(Please find envelopes on the Narthex table for your convenience)</p>

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 thank you for your warm welcome to Our Lady's and 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

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE – Mission

Christmas

In November a painting by Leonardo da Vinci was sold for \$450m. That makes it the most expensive painting ever. It is called *Salvator Mundi* - the Saviour of the World - and depicts Christ with his hand raised in blessing. In his hand he holds an orb, reminding us that Christ is the Saviour of all the world. We don't know exactly what Jesus looked like, but from his stories and parables Jesus has told us what God looks like. The woman you visited in prison - God looks like her, Jesus says. The rough sleeper you passed in the shop doorway - he bears the features of the divine. The money you gave to CAFOD - you placed that cash into the hands of God. We don't need to spend \$450 million to see the face of Christ. The child born in a stable and crucified between two thieves teaches us that we can see him in all around us.

For more information visit the Diocesan website:

<http://www.cliftondiocese.com/presentation-year-mission-resource-clifton-cathedral-29-november/>

R I P



Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Una Stokes** who died recently. Please remember too, her family and friends at this difficult time. Una's Funeral Mass will take place here at 1.30 p.m. on **Friday 5th January 2018**. *"May She Rest In Peace"*



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.

School term dates:

St Peter's High School: finish for Christmas Wednesday 20th December 2017, return on Thursday 4th January 2018

St Mary's Primary: finish for Christmas on Thursday 21st December 2017, return on Monday 8th January 2018



formally recognised as a Fairtrade Parish by CAFOD



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Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Thomas. Parish Office open Tuesday - Friday 9.15am - 12.30pm.

Please submit items for the Bulletin to the Presbytery by WEDNESDAY.

If you would like to receive a weekly electronic version of this bulletin please email: churchdown.ourlady@cliftondiocese.com