



Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Churchdown Gloucester

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Sunday 4th December 2016 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun. 4 Dec	8.30 a.m. Mass: Joan Rafferty (RIP) 10.30 a.m. Mass: People of the Parish 4.00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Benediction COFFEE CLUB after 10.30 a.m. Mass every Sunday	DPL: The Abbey Church, Downside with St. Benedict
Mon. 5 Dec	9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. Mass: Vocations to the priesthood & consecrated life	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>
Tues. 6 Dec	9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. Mass: Kenneth Rendel (RIP)	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>
Wed. 7 Dec	7.00 p.m. Exposition and Rosary 7.30 p.m. Mass: Rita and Kevin Marklove (Ints)	<i>Memorial of St. Ambrose</i>
Thur. 8 Dec	9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. Mass: Ray Carroll (RIP)	<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Fri. 9 Dec	9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. Mass: Rob Mackay (RIP)	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>
Sat. 10 Dec	9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 9.15 a.m. Mass: Smith Family (Ints) Confessions 9.45 a.m. – 10.15 a.m. or on request	<i>Weekday of Advent</i>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ALL WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCUR AT THIS TIME:

Ted Smith (4th), Brian Kelly (5th), John Casey (5th), Gabriele Ranocchiari (5th), Arthur Isaac (6th), Kieran Walker (6th), Rob Wilmott (6th), Joyce Welch (7th), Edgar Montaut (89th), Bridgett Newall (8th), Patsy Harding (8th), Eileen Guy (9th), Michael Ryan (10th), Tom Morgan (10th) and Helen Bird (10th)



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 together...

Lord God, we desire the warmth of Your love and search for Your light in the midst of the darkness, Help us to be peacemakers this Advent, giving us strength and courage to forgive those who have hurt us.

Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS: 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, May Noble, Thomas Jayaseelan, Gordon Palmer, Michelle Cooke, Caitlin Godden, Jo Beamish, Alex Geddes, baby Maggie Hansell, Joan Geraghty, Bernadette Metcalf, Martin Thomas, Judi Figgures, Rebecca Lansdown, Angela Woulfe, Phyllis Shore and Peter Kost

OFFERTORY COLLECTION for 27 November 2016 amounted to £408 + £350 = £758

Special collection for Poor Missions amounted to £81

Thank you so much for your generosity

Next week there will be a second collection towards the **Christmas Flowers**

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN ADVENT... Evening Prayer of the Church and Benediction will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at 4.00 p.m. every Sunday during Advent, starting **TODAY** All welcome.



200 CLUB MEMBERSHIP: The 200 club has been a massive success since its inception in April 2013. As we approach our 5th year we can confirm that to date we have given out a total of £26,000 in prizes and a further £26,000 has been given to the Parish. As a result of the money received by the Parish, a number of upgrades to the infrastructure of the Church and other improvements has been possible.

This could not have been achieved without the support of “**YOU**”, our 200 club members, and I should like to thank you personally. Please continue to support the 200 club. *Fr Kevin*

If you wish to become a member please call **Paddy on Glos. 309004** for further information. You can pay annually, monthly by Standing order, or cash. Each ticket number is £5 per month or £60 for the year. Currently we have a monthly draw consisting of 3 draws; £230, £120 and £60. In addition we have a Summer draw and a Christmas draw each approx. £1000 total. The saying goes *if you aint in it, YOU cannot win IT.* *Paddy*

ST PETER'S HOMELESS SHOEBOX APPEAL: Thanks to our parish Justice and Peace Group we are able to act as a collection point for the St Peter's Homeless Shoebox appeal this year. You will see a collection point in the Narthex. Please can you label your box or gift bag 'male' or 'female' or place individual items in the collection box provided. Suggested items: **baby wipes, socks, hairbrush or comb, sanitary towels or tampons, toothpaste, toothbrush, wrapped sweets or chocolate.** They are also collecting **Cup a Soups and chocolate bars or biscuits** for their winter soup runs.

FOODBANK: Everyone here is always very generous – the collection point/box can be found in the Narthex by the cupboard. The current shopping list on the website shows the following items are urgently needed (in order of scarcity) – **Nappies (size 4-6), Men's Toiletries, Packets Instant Mash, Tinned Fish, Steamed Puddings, Biscuits. Tinned ham, Long life milk, Selection boxes, Christmas cake (non-alcoholic), Packet stuffing Boxes of bird's trifle, Tinned custard, Jars of cranberry sauce, Christmas pudding (non-alcoholic) and Chocolate biscuits.** For more information please see the website www.gloucester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION: Talk on **Tuesday 6 Dec. at 2.30pm**, in the lounge of Sacred Hearts Hall, Moorend Road, Charlton Kings, Chelt., GL53 9AU. **Bishop Robert Evens** will speak on **St Thomas – a Man for all Seasons?** All welcome. Admission: £3. Students and members free. Enquires to Stephanie Jamison, tel: 01242 539810



THE SNOW QUEEN will be opening in St. Peter's Drama Theatre on **Tuesday 6th December at 6:30pm**, other performances on **Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December at 6:30pm**. There will be a **matinee performance** on Saturday 10th December at 1:30pm and an evening performance at 6:30pm. A grotto and photo-booth will be opening half an hour before each performance for the audience to enjoy. All money raised will go to the PFA. Tickets available from school reception on 01452 520594 or box office & are priced at £6 for adults & £4 for concessions & under 16yrs. Bring a cushion to sit on!

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PRINKNASH ABBEY EVENTS: Bible in a Year – 10th December 2016. 11am Talk in the meeting room. Break for lunch. 1pm Mass in the abbey chapel, rosary and adoration. 2.45pm Chaplet in the Grotto. **Exploring Faith** –All are welcome. Please see photo in the Narthex for more information.

MARY-JESS IN CONCERT AT OUR LADY'S CHURCH, CHELTENHAM ROAD EAST, CHURCHDOWN
on **Thursday. December 15, 2016** at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Join former St Peter's Student, Mary-Jess here for a magical evening of carols and Christmas songs! Mary-Jess is the English soprano who shot to fame after winning The Chinese X Factor. She has toured with Russell Watson, sang to royalty in Windsor Castle and was chosen to sing the Downton Abbey theme tune for the official sound track albums. Join Mary-Jess with her special guests: soprano Rosita and the Choir Factor. Tickets £10 available on the door and from www.mary-jess.com/tour

Advent Reflections at St John the Evangelist Church, Churchdown –

13th of December, 7pm

Unto us a child is born, but aren't there too many people on planet earth? "Don't Panic" An hour long film from the Gapminder foundation about the facts of global population show us that the world might not be as bad as we think.

20th of December, 7pm

Jesus said "the poor will always be with you" but the UN has pledged to end extreme Poverty by 2030. In this hour long film by the Gapminder foundation we ask the question "Has the UN gone completely mad?".

Reflections at a time to suit you

If you can't make the reflections and have an internet collection you can reflect at home. Log on to www.gapminder.org and look for the free videos "Don't Panic, The Facts About Population" and "Don't Panic, End Poverty".

FLAME 2017: As a follow-on to NYS, young people aged 14+ are invited to attend Flame, the largest gathering of Catholic Young people in the UK. Flame takes place on **11th March 2017** in Wembley Arena. To book your place as an individual or as a parish group visit: www.cliftondiocese.com/flare Tickets are selling fast so don't delay!

THE ART OF DYING WELL is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. **Launching in November** – the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead www.artofdyingwell.org There are some prayer cards available in the Narthex.

CONFIRMATION: If your child is in year 8 or above and would like to be Confirmed by Bishop Declan next June, please see Fr. Kevin or contact the Parish Office for more information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If your child is in year 3 or above and would like to make their First Holy Communion next June, please contact Elizabeth Thomas at the parish Office for an application form and information on our parish preparation.

BAPTISM COURSES during 2017:

- Sunday 15th January, 22nd January, 29th January, 5th February,
- Sunday 23rd April, 30th April, 7th May, 14th May
- Sunday 2nd July, 9th July, 16th July, 23rd July,
- Sunday 24th September, 1st October, 8th October, 15th October

Please phone or email the Parish Office to register for the course, to arrange a date for the baptism and to obtain a baptism application form. Tel: 01452 713254 Email: churchdown.ourlady@parish.cliftondiocese.com

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND for Young People (18-30ish). **21st - 30th July 2017.** Cost no more than £900. Organised by Downside Abbey and led by Fr Anselm Brumwell OSB. Fr Matt Anscombe will be travelling as Spiritual Director to the pilgrimage. Details can be found at www.downside.co.uk/shop/events/monastery-events/pilgrimage-holy-land/ The full itinerary is here: www.downside.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Itinerary.pdf Spaces are limited and we need to book flights very soon. Bookings can be made on the Downside website.

COFFEE & CAKE FOR PARENTS/CARERS (babies and toddlers also catered for with snacks and toys to play with). **Every Wednesday: 9am – 10.30am in Church Hall.** Pop in for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of homemade cake straight after the morning school run! A chance to meet and catch up with other parents from school in a relaxed and friendly setting. Suggested donation of £1.



FAITH & LIGHT (Gloucester Community) – NEXT MEETING TODAY at 3 p.m: A Christian Association that brings together people with special needs, their families and friends. **Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month** (except January) at 3pm in Our Lady's church hall, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown. Contact Fr. Kevin on 01452 713254 or email kevin.hennessey@priest.cliftondiocese.com or Shelley Sullivan on 07808608991 or Shelley1270@gmail.com

PARISH CRAFT AND NEEDLEWORK GROUP - fortnightly 9am-11am.

Upcoming dates - 5th Dec, 19th Dec, 2nd Jan 2017, 16th Jan, 30th Jan. Do you like to knit, sew or crochet? Would you like to chat with other likeminded people to share ideas and gain in confidence in any craft? Have you wanted to learn a new craft but not sure where to start or need a little confidence boost? This new group in the parish hall of Our Lady's Churchdown is the perfect place. It has evolved into a relaxed, friendly & supportive group. People of all ages and abilities come for a cuppa & chat whilst working on their own craft. Please bring yourselves, any materials you may need and a suggested £2.50 donation per session (towards refreshments and up keep of hall) Organiser Natalie Edwards 01452 678565 or e-mail natalie.edwards@hotmail.co.uk Details can also be found on Our Lady's Parish website.



INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (**RCIA**) is a process which is primarily aimed at people who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith. Please see Fr. Kevin or Jackie Bailey if you would like more information. **Meetings are every Tuesday evening during Term Time.**



MEDITATION GROUP

Friday's at 1.00pm
Our Lady's Church Hall. **All welcome**



If you would like to join our **200 CLUB** please contact Paddy on Glos. 309004 or e-mail: [the parish office](mailto:the.parish.office)

OUR LADY'S SVP GROUP: Members are volunteers who are happy to give their time to serve others wherever possible - visiting the housebound, lonely and sick; offering lifts and helping in a variety of ways.



Our contact number can be found on the SVP leaflets in the Narthex or please contact us on: 01452-713254.

Monthly meetings for members will be held in the Church Hall at 6.30 p.m. on the FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH starting in January 2017.

May we also draw your attention to our blue SVP Collection Box for anyone wishing to contribute to the work of the Society. **Thank you so much for your generosity so far.**

VOCATION MATTERS: 2nd Sunday of Advent:

"Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" (Luke 3:4)

Going Straight, the spin-off to the classic BBC sitcom *Porridge*, saw Norman Stanley Fletcher leave prison and seek to become an honest member of society. Sin locks us up in prison. Our call is to 'go straight' and, through right relationship with God, to allow God's will to be done in us. Whatever state of life God is calling you to, be it marriage, priesthood or consecrated life, the call to 'go straight' will always be strong. Don't worry if you're not there yet. Who is? The good news is that we can get ever closer by going to confession.

ADVENT LITERATURE AVAILABLE: Day by Day £1, Bible Alive £2.50, Walk with Me £1, Children's Advent Calendar FREE. **Also:** CAFOD World Gifts order books/forms on the Narthex table – Please take one **2017 Diocesan Diaries (£6 each) and Directories (£5 each) are now available for purchase**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES – 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE Saturday 24th December,
9.00am Morning Prayer 9.15am Mass
6.30pm Children's Christmas Mass
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass of the Nativity of the Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25th December
8.30am Christmas Morning Mass
10.30am Christmas Day Mass



formally recognised as a Fairtrade Parish by CAFOD



'Like' our new page on Facebook ~ Our Lady's Churchdown and follow us on Twitter @ourladyschurchdown

Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Thomas. Parish Office open Tuesday - Friday 9.15am – 12pm.

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.ourladys@parish.cliffondiocese.com