

ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE & THE ANNUNCIATION, WOODCHESTER

PARISH CLERGY

Fr. BILL WATSON
01453 822121
william.watson@cliftondiocese.com

Deacon BOGDAN WASYLKIW
07805093786
bogdan.wasylikiw@cliftondiocese.com

St Joseph's Church, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse Glos GL10 2DG
01453 822121 email: stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com
www.stjosephsstonehouse.org.uk

The Church of the Annunciation, St Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Stroud, Glos. GL5 5HP
01453 822121 email: woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com
www.facebook.com/woodchesterpriory/
web: www.woodchesterpriory.org.uk

For Hall Bookings at St Joseph's please contact Mike Gibbons: ☎ 01453 824332 or: mjpg53@btinternet.com

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - PSALTER WEEK 2 – 3RD JANUARY 2021

ST JOSEPH'S			THE ANNUNCIATION		
Sun	9.00am	Mass: <i>People of parish</i>	11.00am		Mass: <i>People of parish</i>
Mon		No Mass			No Mass
Tue		No Mass			No Mass
Wed		No Mass			No Mass
Thurs		No Mass			No Mass
Fri		No Mass			No Mass
Sat		No Mass			No Mass

LECTIONARY

Sun	Ecclus 24: 1-2, 8-12	Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-10	Eph 1: 3-6, 15-18	John 1: 1-18
Mon	1Jn 3: 7-10	Psalm 97: 1, 7-9		John 1: 35-42
Tues	1Jn 3: 11-21	Psalm 99		John 1: 43-51
Wed	Is 60: 1-6	Psalm 71: 1-2, 7-13	Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6	Matthew 2: 1-12
Thurs	1Jn 3: 22-4:6	Psalm 2: 7-8, 10-11		Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-25
Fri	1Jn 4: 7-10	Psalm 71: 1-4, 7-8		Mark 6: 34-44
Sat	1Jn 4: 11-18	Psalm 71: 1-2, 10-13		Mark 6: 45-52

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT ST JOSEPH'S

Mike Gibbons and Olga, Julie Wood, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Evans, Rosemary Mabud, Aine Anderson, Mary Scully, Maggie

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Janusz Sowa, Karel Siintak, Catherine Devlin, Christina Sweet, Antonietta Abela, Frederick Jennings, Marjorie Harasymowicz, William Cheyne, Eileen Driver

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT THE ANNUNCIATION

Fr. Richard Finn O.P. and family, Rebekah Hollingshead, Brendon Conboy, Della Cox, Barry Norris, Cynthia Stevens, Peggy Chapman, Barry Taylor, John Presland, Tony Thompson, Georgina Mazzone, Frances Little, Christopher Notley, Trese Hulbert, Elizabeth Lillinton, Chris Jay, Penny Gear, Lisa Parker

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Margaret Turner, Tom Breech, Henry Devlin, Osborne Workman, Sr. May Gertrude Phillips, Margaret Cartwright, Rosemary Jones, Charles Saunders, Ernest Dalby, Irene Street, Maureen Crick, Maria Makins, Michael Chambers, Rosina Chandler, Winifred Heffernan, John Caws, John McNally, Annie Jordan, Emma Severn, Mary Thomson, Mother Francis Mary Shanks, Thomas McCarthy, Mary Saunders

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

That the Lord will give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

DIOCESAN PRAYER LINK

Bath: St John the Evangelist

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: WE ARE ONLY HAVING SUNDAY MASSES AT BOTH CHURCHES CURRENTLY (9AM AT ST JOSEPH AND 11AM AT THE ANNUNCIATION). SUNDAY OBLIGATION IS REMOVED AT PRESENT.

IN GENERAL

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This is the 'Year of St. Joseph.' So, I thought we would have something of a prayer to St Joseph for each week.

Grant, we pray. Almighty God, that by St Joseph's intercession your Church may watch constantly over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.

May our parish, named under his patronage, be a refreshing spring of hope to its members and to all who turn to us for consolation.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. One God, for ever and ever. Amen

- Father Bill

MANY THANKS

I would like to say a very sincere 'thankyou' to you all for your generosity and kindness for Christmas, both personally to myself and also for the benefit of St Joseph's and The Annunciation. Though our celebrations were simpler than usual, some have said how much they appreciated them. We wouldn't have had anything like that had you not given so much time and devotion to the preparations: Thank you!

- Father Bill

PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP DECLAN

The birth of a child usually brings joy to a family – to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters. A new life has been born and perhaps many people will wonder what this child will turn out to be. The birth of a new child proclaims that the family has a future. As the child grows up, he or she comes to know the story and the traditions of the family. The child begins to take on an identity and contributes to family life. It is within the Christian family that the child first comes to know and live Christian faith. The family is indeed the domestic Church. Parents are the first teachers of their children. What is important to parent becomes important to the child even though later as a teenager he or she may question or challenge the ways of the parents. Within the family we should know how to say thank you, not taking one another for granted. We should have a profound respect for each other and learn to say 'forgive me' when we have hurt another family member. What is true of our family life is also true of the life of the Holy Family. They like all families had to face some harsh realities of life as well as celebrating the joys. They knew what it was to leave their homeland and become refugees. They knew the challenges of daily life; they knew the necessity of work and the importance of putting food on the table; they knew the death of a parent and the gap that this can bring in family life especially in a society where women and children were often vulnerable. Through his family, Jesus as a human being, learnt the story of his family and the wider family of Israel, called to be God's people. In the Gospel today, we are told that Jesus grew to maturity and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

When parents bring their children to be baptized, they are introducing them to the wider community of the Church. In the waters or Baptism, the child is immersed into the life of the Trinity and also the life and mission of the Church. In Baptism, we recognize every other human being as our brother and sister and

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we are called to share in the mission of Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent by the Father and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In time we begin to understand more fully what this means. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be missionary disciples sharing in the ministry of Jesus to reconcile the world to God, to one another and to the whole of creation.

The Gospel has been entrusted to us. However, there are times when that trust is broken and there is deep hurt experienced by members of the Church. In a shocking way, children and vulnerable adults have been abused by those in whom they put their trust. Their lives have been damaged which can have lifelong consequences. To anyone who has been abused, I say "I am deeply sorry", and I am willing to see anyone who may so wish. The Bishops of England and Wales have promised to do everything to make the Church a community where there is no fear, where people can trust one another and where children, young people and vulnerable adults can find a safe place to flourish and mature into the person God lovingly wants them to be.

Over the year's families change. People move away for work and enter into new relationships; people die and others are born. The family of the Church also changes, adapting to new circumstances into which to proclaim the Gospel and at the same time being faithful to the person of Christ. Change is not easy, and it can mean sacrifice. In a period of change, knowing one's identity can provide firm foundations on which to build the future. Next June on the Diocesan Family Day, we will be celebrating the life of our Diocese and planning for the future. One of the circumstances to take into account is the fact that in three years' time, it is estimated there will be only 44 Diocesan Priests under the age of 75. We need to look at the consequences of this in a positive way.

In preparation for the Diocesan day, I would suggest that each parish community looks at its history and has a parish exhibition telling the story of the community. These parish stories can be brought to the Diocesan day to enrich the wider family of the Diocese.

During this octave of Christmas, I wish you a joyful time and pray that as a Diocesan family, God's face may shine upon us during 2021.

With my best wishes and prayers,
Rt Rev Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton

ST JOSEPH'S

CRIB

For those of you who missed the Christmas masses, here is our crib! Father Bill thought we could use the painted backdrop from the crib (painted by Father Clabford), and he asked if it could be placed under the altar so that people can see it easily with having to get too close to others.

