

# ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE & THE ANNUNCIATION, WOODCHESTER

## PARISH CLERGY

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

Deacon BOGDAN WASYLKIW  
07805093786  
bogdan.wasylkiw@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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - PSALTER WEEK 1 – 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

**THERE ARE NO PUBLIC MASSES TAKING PLACE THIS WEEK**

There is a live daily Mass from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Clifton Cathedral. The Mass is 9.30am and can be viewed on the Diocesan website: <http://cliftondiocese.com>

### LECTIONARY

Sun	Gn 9: 8-15	Psalm 24: 4-9	1Pt 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 12-15
Mon	1Pt 5: 1-4	Psalm 22		Matthew 16: 13-19
Tues	Is 55: 10-11	Psalm 33: 4-7, 16-19		Matthew 6: 7-15
Wed	Jon 3: 1-10	Psalm 50: 3-4, 12-13, 18-19		Luke 11: 29-32
Thurs	Est 4: 17	Psalm 137: 1-3, 7-8		Matthew 7: 7-12
Fri	Ez 18: 21-28	Psalm 129		Matthew 5: 20-26
Sat	Dt 26: 16-19	Psalm 118: 1-8		Matthew 5: 43-48

### 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

Mary Hughes, Virginia Cini, Marian Siwiak, Fr. Alan Blackford MSFS, Gregory Moore, Leonard Cleaver, Brian Bragg

### 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

### AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Wilfred Morgan, Arthur Stratford, Elizabeth McKnight, Violet Bowey, Francis Chambers, Bernard Mills, William Browning, Caroline Heslop, John Taylor

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

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

*Bedminster: Holy Cross*

# **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: WE ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR MASS AT BOTH PARISHES FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. SUNDAY OBLIGATION IS REMOVED AT PRESENT.**

## **IN GENERAL**

### **PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ 'Dare to Dream' is a Lent resource for our Diocese this year and I commend it to you. The resource follows on from our reflections over the past three years when we have looked at what it means to be a Church in communion, at prayer and with a mission. This Lent we are called to dream, and we do so in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. As we look to the future we ask what sort of Church do we want to be? What do we want for ourselves as members of the Church? As Pope Francis says 'this is a moment to dream big, to re-think our priorities – what we value, what we want, what we seek – and to commit to act in our daily life what we have dreamed', or to put it another way, as someone said to me recently: if we do not dream how can we shape the future? We can predict the future to a certain extent but the future can also be full of surprises – some pleasant, some not so. We plan for the future in this present time, but we have a past that gives us an identity. We have our own personal history, but we also have our history as part of the Church and humanity. Into our world comes Jesus, the way, the truth, the life. He comes to reconnect us to God, to one another and to the whole of creation. He comes to renew our lives and deepen our understanding of his dream which he calls the Kingdom of God. He never defines the Kingdom but he often describes it and always lives it to the point of death by crucifixion. However, that is not the end. There is resurrection, a new beginning, a new life. Jesus comes that we might have life and have it to the full. Jesus asks us to live the values of the Kingdom of God. He calls a people to himself and sends them into the world to make the world a better place and to give hope to those who are despondent, indifferent, or fatalistic. We are that people called and sent by God for the people and world of our day. Lent is a time of renewal and reconciliation for us as individuals but also as members of a community entrusted with the message of the Gospel, which is to be shared with others. Sometimes we forget that vocation, that responsibility. Lent invites us to allow God to rekindle in us what it means to be the Church. St Paul proclaims on Ash Wednesday: Now is a favourable time; this is the day of salvation. Self-denial is part of our Lenten journey to Easter. We deny ourselves something which we usually enjoy. The purpose of this is not to punish ourselves but to make us more aware of those in need who are our brothers and sisters. We are called to help them but also to challenge those structures which cause inequality and widen the gap between those who are rich and those who are poor. We are called to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God. This Lent we should acknowledge those who are working almost to the point of exhaustion in our hospitals, care homes, schools, essential services, and families who are having to provide schooling for their children. They have had to deny themselves for the good of others. To them we say thank you and promise our prayers. Prayer opens us to the presence of God. Prayer broadens our horizons because it moves us from being self-centred to being God centred and opens us to the needs of others. Prayer is listening to God through the Scriptures, the Sacraments and through one another. Having listened we are better able to make a response in word and action. Listening is often a

challenge because we may find our comfort zones questioned. One resolution for this Lent might be to ask for the gift of being able to listen before we speak. In today's Gospel Jesus touches the leper and cures him. The leper says to Jesus 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus replies 'of course I want to', and he cures him. As we prepare to enter the season of Lent we are allowing Jesus to touch our lives and to say to us 'be cured'. In that touch and that cure we dare to dream of what the Kingdom of God might mean to us as God's people journeying towards Easter and our eternal life.

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

### **SAINT ROSES'S SCHOOL**

Saint Rose's School in Stroud is seeking to raise £1.5 million to build Quentin House, a specially-adapted residential home-from-home for some of its children. Saint Rose's is unique within our diocese for the help it gives children and young people with complex physical and other needs to fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions. Quentin House, named after Sister Quentin, the former long-serving, dedicated and inspirational headteacher, will help Saint Rose's continue its mission. For more information about this project and how to donate or fundraise please visit <https://stroses.org.uk/quentin-house/> or contact the appeals office at the school (01453 763793 ext 225 or [gail.mattocks@stroses.org.uk](mailto:gail.mattocks@stroses.org.uk)).

## **THE ANNUNCIATION**

### **CAFOD**

On Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, a few from the Woodchester Priory CAFOD Group took part in the 'Big Walk for Water'. They walked 5 miles in order to raise funds for CAFOD's aims of bringing water to remote areas in Ethiopia. Angela has set up a Justgiving page which gives all the information. It is possible to still donate, by going to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/woodchester-priory-cafod-group> or contact her on 832911. Thank you.

- Angela Middleditch

### **LENT FAST DAY**

Lent Fast Day will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February and if we are still unable to meet in church, you can go to the CAFOD website at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day> where you can donate on-line. Both these events will be also be on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/woodchesterpriory>

- Angela Middleditch

## **ST JOSEPH'S**

### **PICTURE OF THE NEW PRESBYTERY GARAGE DOOR**

As promised, here is picture of the new garage door!



*Item for the Bulletin? You can send items for the bulletin (by the Wednesday) to [stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com) or post them through the presbytery letterbox. For The Annunciation, email: [woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com) or post in the church letterbox (by front gate) or leave a message on 01453 822121. Any financial matters for Stonehouse, please email [admin.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:admin.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com). Any health and safety matters for Stonehouse, please email [HS.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:HS.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com)*