



THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



www.gloucesteremaoc.com

'Together, Reach Out and Welcome All with Joy, Compassion and Unfailing Love'

PARISH PRIEST FATHER GERRY WALSH

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Parish Administrator Marisa Wood

The office is open 9am to 4.30pm Monday & Tuesday and 9am to 12noon Friday.

English Martyrs Church, 247 Tuffley Lane, Tuffley, Gloucester, GL4 ONX

Tel 01452 504997 Email: tuffley.englishmartyrs@cliftodiocese.com

Catholic Schools for the Parishes

St Peter's Catholic Primary School

www.st-peters-pri.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01452 524792

St Peter's Catholic High School & Sixth Form Centre

www.stpetershigh.gloucs.sch.uk Tel: 01452 711200

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

English Martyrs Sue Knight Email

PSR.tuffley.englishmartyrs@cliftodiocese.com

St Augustine's Katherine Heffernan Email:

PSR.matson.staugustineofcanterbury@cliftodiocese.com



Parish Prayer

O God, be at the heart of our parish and in all our hearts. Strengthen our faith and our hope in Your promises. Grant us a spirit of self-sacrifice, so that, with your grace, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may radiate Your love to everyone we meet.

Help us to reach out with joy and mercy, to build a loving, healing community.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen



First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Sunday 28th November 2021

Entrance Antiphon	To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.
Responsorial Psalm	To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Gospel Acclamation	Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Communion Antiphon	The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

DATE	ENGLISH MARTYRS	SAINT AUGUSTINE'S	MASS INTENTION AND LITURGICAL DAY
Sat 27 th Nov		6.30pm Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
Sun 28 th Nov	9.00am Mass	11.00am Mass	Phyl Williamson Birthday RIP Joanne for a speedy recovery
Mon 29 th Nov	9.30am Adoration 10.00am Mass		Mary McHugh Anniv
Tues 30 th Nov		9.30am Adoration 10.00am Mass	Feast of St Andrew Chris Nicholls RIP
Wed 1 st Dec	6.30pm Mass		Conversion of Souls to Know, Love and Follow Jesus' Way
Thurs 2 nd Dec			Fr Gerry's Day off
Fri 3 rd Dec		10.00am Mass	St Francis Xavier Philip George & Family Thanksgiving
Sat 4 th Dec	9.30am Rosary 10.00am Mass	6.30pm Sunday Vigil Mass	Repose of the souls of grandparents of Ajay Mathew & Honey Joseph

Confessions: English Martyrs Saturdays after morning Mass to 11.15am St Augustine's Saturdays 5.45pm to 6.15pm

ALL MASSES AND LITURGIES ARE AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AT

<https://zoom.us/j/96050045104?pwd=YWsrTnVXVUJsL2dxMlVUy9aU1c5UT09>

Meeting ID: 960 5004 5104 Passcode: 448036



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

The Synod and Advent "The Church is Listening" Fr Gerry

Today we begin a new liturgical year with the start of the season of Advent. A time when the Church once again is in anxious waiting, eager anticipation, and penitential preparations for the fulfilment of God's promises, that the Lord will come again in glory and in preparation for the celebration of his humble birth in a stable in Bethlehem.

Amidst all our concerns about the pandemic and day to day life Pope Francis's launch of a worldwide process of listening and discerning, a 'synodal pathway' in October may have escaped your notice. However, he really does what to know your views, wants to know what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and as your local shepherd he wants me to have the smell of the flock, to know them too.

Synodal means 'journeying together'. The Pope is inviting the entire Church to reflect on this theme: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."

The synodal process is a time of 'journeying together'. It is also a time to reflect together on the journey. Together we will begin in this season of Advent with prayer and by raising awareness in our Parishes as to what it is all about and indeed what it is not about. Then in early 2022 we will have various opportunities in both parishes to prayerfully listen to one another, sharing our experience of travelling together in a time of profound change, intensified by the challenging time of the pandemic. And we will consider our wider experience of journeying together, as members of the wider Church and alongside others journeying in the world. I will join whatever conversations I can during this process to listen and learn.

On 9th/10th October Pope Francis launched the Synodal Pathway in Rome. You can read his opening address on the synod on the Vatican website - **[Moment of reflection for the beginning of the synodal journey \(9 October 2021\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)**. The following weekend Bishops around the world including our own Bishop Declan began the Diocesan phase of the process. Bishop Declan's video talk is available at **<https://player.vimeo.com/video/632804783?h=9e75509947>**

Our Diocese has decided in order to facilitate the process to have Synod Delegates who are responsible for liaising with the Diocese and ultimately giving them feedback before the end of February. I am very grateful to Flit Rogers and Jan Ashton for taking this role on in English Martyrs and for Paul Taylor so far agreeing to do so at St Augustine's. I would welcome anyone who would be interested in being a second delegate for St Augustine's

Flit, Jan and I last Saturday attended the Diocese of Clifton Assembly of Parish Delegates in Bristol. There were some 120 people present from across the Diocese including Bishop Declan. Due to other commitments Paul from St Augustine's was unable to join us. At lunchtime by God-incidence we ended up sitting and talking to a Synod Delegate from English Martyrs, Chard.

On Monday and Tuesday of this week 29th and 30th November there will be two online Microsoft Teams meetings from 7pm to 8.30pm which anyone who is interested in being a parish local facilitator is welcome to attend. A parish facilitator is someone who is happy to engage with other parishioners facilitating appropriate conversations where we can prayerfully listen to one another. And where possible to facilitate conversations beyond the parish worshipping community in listening to their thoughts about the Church. To join these team meetings simply email synod@cliftondiocese.com as soon as possible in order that they can send you the necessary link.

Ideally each parish could do with five facilitators, more are welcome. Please let Fr Gerry, Flit, Jan or Paul know if you would like to be a facilitator even if you are unable to attend one of the online teams meeting this week as we prepare for the conversations and prayerful listening in January and February 2022.

Next week on Thursday 9th December there will be 5 hours of adoration from 1-6pm at English Martyrs for the Synodal Journey, for the future of our Parishes and indeed your own private intentions. Please sign up on the list in the Church lobby if you can be there for 30 minutes or perhaps an hour.

The season of Advent highlights the importance of prayerfully listening for the Spirit's guidance as we Journey together and donning the humble disposition of our Lady's words to the angel: "May it be done to me according to your word."

And so, I conclude with the simplified version of a prayer used by the Bishops at every session of the Second Vatican Council which I encourage you to pray daily knowing that you never pray alone:

As we stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Please pray: For all those who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those who mourn. **Please also pray for the sick especially:** Those in hospital with Covid-19 and John Connors, Susan Maher, Ellen Wagner, Elizabeth Knight, Albert Turner, Maria Oldfield, Janet Wagner, Andrea Brushneen, Peggy Keogh, Lisa Knight, Maureen Moloney, Mary Gorman, Jim Young, Elizabeth Bopoto, Pat Murray, Deacon David Hebbes, Fr Donal Daly, Janet Peacey, Nicholas Payne a Claire Cooper and a lady undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Advent Resources: Are available in the Church lobbies. Walk with Me A Journey of Prayer for Advent 2021 and Walk with me Children's Calendars as well as My Day by Day which includes some of the readings of Mass for each day of Advent. These resources will not be sent by post. However please do get in touch if you would like a copy of anything and are unable to attend Mass.

First Holy Communion 2022: Applications are now closed. The first parents meeting will be on Wednesday 8th December at 7.30pm in English Martyrs Hall. Details of what we hope will be future in person meetings and the proposed dates of First Holy Communion will be distributed to parents at the meeting. This will be the only meeting till 2022.

English Martyrs First Thursday Adoration: The date this month has been moved to Thursday, 9th December AND times available for prayer have been increased from 1pm until 6pm. Please consider coming along for 1/2 hour or an hour to pray for the forthcoming Synodal conversations, as requested by Pope Francis, for our Parish as we look forward to the future and for your own private intentions. A sign-up sheet is available in the Church lobby to ensure we have at least 2 or 3 people in church at any one time.

St Augustines - A Christmas Musical Evening to Support the Homeless: In the Church hall on Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale at back of church at weekends from Sat/Sun 27th/28th November. £2.50 to include mulled wine and a mince pie. All welcome.

Christmas Music Evening at English Martyrs: On Sat 18th Dec 2021 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Enjoy Christmas music with the 'Love to Sing' Community Choir. Mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served in the interval. (Feel free to bring your own drink as well, if you want to!) Tickets are £5 Adult, £3 Child, £15 Family (2 adults, 3 children). Please remember to bring a face-mask. Tickets available after Sunday Mass. Get your tickets soon as places are limited!

English Martyrs Christmas Eve 5pm Vigil Mass with the children - Would your child/children like to take an active part in the Christmas Play during the 5pm Mass? If so, please see Lucy or Nikki after mass. Rehearsals will now be after each Sunday 9am mass until Christmas. For more information contact Nikki on 07976 958402.

Christmas Masses: The 4 Masses for Christmas 2021 in the two parishes are as follows:

Friday 24th December: 5pm at English Martyrs with Children's Christmas Play

7pm at St Augustine's and 10pm at English Martyrs

Saturday 25th December: 10am at St Augustines. Please note there will be NO evening Mass on 25th December.

Gloucester Feed the Hungry: Has asked for volunteers to provide and give out from their 'office' in town a simple hot meal Monday-Friday 6-7pm during the winter. Could you spare some time to join our parishes group please to help with this? Could you contribute/make meals and or/be involved with us to serve this? Men and women are needed. Your commitment can be as much as you feel able to give. As this service is to start very soon we do need a response asap please. Either phone or see the porch list. Thank you very much from Sue (619509), Moira & Pat.

Matson Lantern parade and Carols: On Friday 10th December starting at the Phoenix Centre. Matson Lane at 3.30pm. The parade will finish at Matson Shops and a Christmas fair will take place on the green. Local Churches are planning some carol singing on the green from 5.30pm and would welcome any extra singers - all welcome.

English Martyrs Cleaners required: Please let Marisa know if you can help out occasionally with cleaning, thank you.

Cafod World Gifts Catalogues: Now available in the church lobbies. Do pick one up and make some of the gifts within part of your Christmas shopping.

St Augustine's Red Boxes: Are now due for collection. If you need your box picked up please ring Rosemary on 617730

St Augustine's CAFOD Christmas Cards: Will be on sale after Sunday Masses this weekend.

English Martyrs Church in Tuffley Christmas Hampers: Please ensure all items are brought to Church by no later than 10am NEXT Sunday 5th December After that it will be too late for the items to go in the hampers. Thank you.

Christmas Flowers Collection: Will be take place in both parishes next weekend

Pope Francis on St Joseph

Continuing his catechesis on St Joseph on Wednesday 24th November the Pope reminded us that he is a model for meaningful human relationships, a servant of Christ, guardian of the redeemer and patron of the afflicted.

Once again he concluded his catechesis with a prayer:

Saint Joseph, you who guarded the bond with Mary and Jesus,
help us to care for the relationships in our lives.

May no one experience the sense of abandonment that comes from loneliness.

Let each of us be reconciled with our own history, with those who have gone before,
and recognise even in the mistakes made

a way through which Providence has made its way, and evil did not have the last word.

Show yourself to be a friend to those who struggle the most,

and as you supported Mary and Jesus in difficult times, support us too on our journey. Amen.

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-11/pope-francis-general-audience-saint-joseph-salvation-history.html

