



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 usually open 9am to 4.30pm Mon. & Tues. and 9am to 12noon Fri.

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:

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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



Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 19th December 2021

Entrance Antiphon	Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.
Responsorial Psalm	God of hosts, bring us back let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
Gospel Acclamation	I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.
Communion Antiphon	Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

DATE	ENGLISH MARTYRS	SAINT AUGUSTINE'S	MASS INTENTION AND LITURGICAL DAY
Sat 18 th Dec		6.30pm Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
Sun 19 th Dec	9.00am Mass	11.00am Mass	Thomas Henderman Anniv Claire Copper's Intentions
Mon 20 th Dec	9.30am Adoration 10.00am Mass		Private Intention Rita Smith
Tues 21 st Dec		9.30am Adoration 10.00am Mass	Bernard Adrian Hayes RIP
Wed 22 nd Dec	6.30pm Mass		Ros Payne RIP
Thurs 23 rd Dec	Fr Gerry will be the Principle Celebrant at Albert Turner's Requiem Mass at St Peter's London Road at 11am		
Fri 24 th Dec	5.00pm Christmas Mass with Children's Play 10.00pm Christmas Mass during the night	7.00pm Christmas Mass	World Peace Bridie O'Boyle RIP People of the Parishes
Sat 25 th Dec		10.00am Christmas Mass during the day No evening Mass	Thomas and Caroline Maher RIP

Confessions this week: St Augustine's Saturday 18th Dec 5.45pm to 6.15pm and after Mass 6.30pm Mass. Both parishes after all Masses from 19th to 23rd December inclusive. No confessions on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

ALL MASSES AND LITURGIES ARE AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM AT
<https://zoom.us/j/96050045104?pwd=YWsrTnVXVUJsL2dxMlVkUy9aU1c5UT09>

Meeting ID: 960 5004 5104 Passcode: 448036



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

The Synod and Advent “Celebration” From Clifton Diocese - Advent Reflections

We are about to celebrate one of the greatest feasts in the Christian Calendar, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that the birth of Jesus was not into some luxurious palace, into a world of peace and harmony. Instead, he was born a refugee, in a rough, outhouse with only his parents for comfort. Essentially there was no room for him, no place of welcome or hospitality. Yet his coming brings us great joy and untold blessings. His birth in poverty reminds us that Jesus came not to be served but to serve. St. Paul remind us that this is the call to each one of us in his letter to the Philippians:

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Scripture

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice, and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

Elizabeth rejoices and celebrates when she realises that her cousin Mary is also pregnant AND not just pregnant, but about to give birth to the Son of God. What joy they express to each other, what hope they must have had in that moment of encounter with each other. Mary shocked and fearful by the enormity of what has been asked of her, ponders on her answer, while the world holds its breath. Then comes her, ‘Yes’ and the world breathes with joy. It is indeed something to celebrate

Ponder

- Who or what do I celebrate in my life?
- What are the joys I experience and what are the sorrows?
- How do we make tangible room for Jesus in our life?
- How as a parish, do we celebrate?
- What are the things in our parish that bring us joy?
- What the are things in our parish that cause us sorrow?
- What is your greatest hope for your parish?

Pray

For hope and joy throughout this journey together

The Synod Prayer

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.

Act

Mary was challenged when she was asked to become the Mother of God. Make a list of the challenges your parish might face as it journeys together and then make a list of opportunities that these challenges present.

From last week name your dreams for the Parish and the Global Church. Write them down and bring them them or give them to someone coming to Church marked for the Synod Delegate of English Martyrs or St Augsutine's. Alternatively email them to Fr Gerry who will pass them on marking your email 'Dreams English Martyrs or St Augsutine's.'

In English Martyrs Hall we have a Christmas Tree where English Martyrs Dereams can be hung if written on the gift tags. Flit Rogers last week also encouraged us to write down on the gift tags to be hung on the tree acts of kidneess we would seek to do whether at home, school work or in society or in our parish over the coming weeks in what remains of Advent and then into Christmastide and beyond.

Now Accepting Contactless Donations

You will find our new DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE, contactless terminal in the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/ device to make a donation.

Simply choose what you wish to give to then amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader.

You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.



Please pray: For all those who have died recently especially Ros Payne, Albert Turner Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk 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, Claire Cooper, Dorothy Flower and a lady undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Happy Christmas: Fr Gerry, Marisa Wood and the Joint Parishes Pastoral Council wish all our parishioners in both parishes and their families a happy, holy and peace filled Christmas

Crib Donations: Donations will go to Gloucestershire Bundles, a charity that helps families in crisis all over the county, providing emergency packs for women and families with children up to teenage years who find themselves in crisis. In the run up to this Christmas the demand upon them has been unrepresented. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Collection: The offertory collection at the masses on Christmas Eve (5pm, 7pm, and 10pm) and Christmas Day (10.00am) is your offering to Fr Gerry's yearly salary, for which he is very grateful.

Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family: We will have our two normal Masses on a Sunday 9am at English Martyrs and 11am at St Augustine's. There will be no music at either Mass. A new 2-week newsletter will be available.

Office Closure: The office will be open Monday and Tuesday as usual this week and on Thursday this week. After that it will be closed until 9am on Tuesday 4th January as Marisa has a well-deserved Christmas holiday.

First Holy Communion 2022: The first parents meeting was well attended on Wednesday. The first longer child and parent meeting with activities will begin after the special 11am Mass which they are also asked to attend at St Augustine's on Sunday 9th January. The aim is to finish by 2.30pm

St Augustines - A Christmas Musical Evening to Support the Homeless: This was safely held in St Augustine's Hall last Tuesday and much enjoyed by those who attended. Special thanks to Moni for playing and Sarah for leading the singing

LGBT+ Mass: Is a monthly celebration of the Eucharist for LGBT+ Catholics their families and friends which takes place at St Nicholas Tolentino, Catholic Church, Lawford's Gate Bristol BS5 0RE. The Mass on December is on Sunday 19th December at 3pm and will be followed by Mulled Wine and a Mince Pies Live stream via <https://tolentino.org.uk>

Facemasks Compulsory and other Covid Matters: HM Government has made the wearing of face covering mandatory in Places of Worship from Friday 10th December. However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and those who are exempt for reasons of age or other medical reason. For everybody's safety please remember your face mask when you come to Church. Please also remember the following.

People displaying any symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person. Hand sanitiser is available for those attending either Church.

Good ventilation and air throughput in either Church is essential to reduce the chance of transmission. Because we are now in winter please remember to wrap up well when coming to church!

CAFOD/DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal: In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

St Augustine 200 Club: MONEY IS NOW DUE FOR THE 200 CLUB £12 FOR EACH NUMBER THAT YOU HAVE. PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES OUT TO "ST AUGUSTINE 200 CLUB MATSON". You can leave your money or cheque with Fr Gerry or Veronica. Please make sure your name, address & telephone number is enclosed. If you wish to set up a Standing Order or Bank transfer please phone Claire Cooper Tel 614173 or email her at claire249@btinternet.com THERE ARE 6 NUMBERS AVAILABLE TO JOIN. It costs £12 a year and there are £100 in prizes each month and a similar amount goes to the Parish. Thank you to all existing members for your continuing support.

The O Antiphons: Refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers or Evening Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17th to 23rd, with Dec. 24th being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. If you place the first letter of the word after the 'O' of the 7 antiphons in reverse order you spell out Ero Cras which literally means "Tomorrow he comes" and indeed the Evening Prayer on Christmas Eve is when we celebrate the First Mass of Christmas

Pope Francis 15th December Audience on St Joseph – 'Make Room for the Word Through Silence'

"We must learn from Joseph to cultivate silence: that space of interiority in our days in which we give the Spirit the opportunity to regenerate us, to console us, to correct us." And, he concluded, "the benefit to our hearts will also heal our language, our words and above all our choices," like St Joseph, who combined silence with action."

New Prayer to St Joseph

Saint Joseph, man of silence, you who in the Gospel did not utter a single word, teach us to fast from vain words, to rediscover the value of words that edify, encourage, console and support.

Be close to those who suffer from words that hurt, like slander and backbiting and help us always to match words with deeds. Amen.

