

WELCOME

SUNDAY Year A
During the Season of Creation

Newsletter 17th September 2023

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35



Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27-30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

Second Reading of letter of St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia speak, Lord, your servant is listening you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL according to Matthew 18:21-35

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Diocese Prayer Link: Sacred Hearts, chew Magna. St Pius X, Withywood.



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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Email: matson.staugustineofcanterbury@cliftodiocese.com

Parish Administrator Marisa Wood

The office is open Monday, Tuesday from 9.00am and Friday 9am until 12 noon.

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

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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

Parish Liturgies and Liturgical Days

DATE	ENGLISH MARTYRS	SAINT AUGUSTINE'S	MASS INTENTION AND LITURGICAL DAY
Sat 16 th Sept		6.30pm Vigil Mass (Sunday)	People of the Parishes
Sun 17 th Sept	9.00am Mass	11.00am Mass	Tony Doyle Anniv Jack O'Sullivan Anniv
Mon 18 th Sept	<p>Fr Gerry is away in Lourdes on Pilgrimage. No masses during the week. You can access details of Masses at St Peters on their website www.stpetersgloucester.org.uk</p> <p>Please note there will be no virtual Masses whilst Fr Gerry is away</p>		
Tues 19 th Sept			
Wed 20 th Sept			
Thurs 21 st Sept			
Fri 22 nd Sept			
Sat 23 rd Sept	NO MORNING MASS	No Vigil Mass	

No Confessions this week

Please pray for the sick especially: and those who have recently and for those that mourn.

James Broslin, Margaret Knight, Max Hall, Zita Drummond, John Connors, Susan Maher, Ellen Wagner, Maria Oldfield, Janet Wagner, Andrea Brushneen, Peggy Keogh, Maureen Moloney, Jim Young, Elizabeth Bopoto, Pat Murray, Fr Donal Daly, Janet Peacey, Nicholas Payne, Claire Cooper, Dorothy Flower, Bernadette Williams, Teresa Kilker, Jan Donnelly, Desmond Woods, Roman Peacey, Rita Smith, Myra Merehan, Monica Evans, Patrick McGovern, Julia Brenchley, Kathleen Withers, Anne Hancock, Edgar Rebello, Fr Gerry, Ian Gough, Maria Oandasan, Alan Dinsmore, George O'Neill and Maria McGovern. *A gentle reminder that names can only be added to the pray list for the sick if individuals or their legal representatives have consented in order to comply with GDPR regulations.*

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU.

We would like to welcome and thank Father Bob Rainbow who was ordained on 20th July 1985 at St Augustine's, Matson for celebrating our Sunday Masses. This weekend.

First Holy Communion 2023/4: Application forms for children in school year 3 to 6 to make their First Holy Communion in either parish in 2024 are available as usual from THIS weekend in both parishes and on our website at <https://gloucestermaoc.com/sacraments>

If your child, **someone under 18 years old**, is in school year 7 or above who has been Baptised and now wishes to make their First Holy Communion please speak to Fr Gerry. First Holy Communion Masses will be on Saturday 4th May at English Martyrs and Sunday 5th May at St Augustine's. Both Masses will start at 11am

Confirmation for Children: In School year 9 and above in our parishes is scheduled for early summer 2025. (Please note Confirmation is not yearly)

OCIA, Reception into Full Communion or completing the Sacraments: For adults, those over the age of 18, who are not Baptised or Christened who wish to become Catholics, the official route to becoming Catholic is now called the OCIA (formerly RCIA). For anyone who has been Baptised or Christened in another Christian tradition one can become Catholic by being Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Finally there may be adults who are Baptised Catholic but have not completed their sacraments of initiation that is making their First Holy Communion and being Confirmed and who now wish to complete their sacramental journey. There is an application form for all these to provide essential information available from this weekend in both parishes and on our website at <https://gloucestermaoc.com/sacraments>

Children's Liturgy of the Word at St Augustine's: Will be available next on Sunday 24 September at 11am Mass. The Children's Liturgy team at St Augustine's is appealing for musical instruments for the children. No drums or recorders please, but more gentle music makers would be welcome. Thanks

The Faith Discussion Group: Their next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th September in St. Augustine's parish hall. The group will continue studying The Acts of the Apostles.



English Martyrs Youth Club: The Youth Group, open to youth from both parishes and beyond. Normally meets on the First and Third Fridays of the month. Usual times are between 7.30 – 9.30pm in the hall at English Martyrs. Come and join us on. The youth group is open to all children in school year groups 7 – 13. The current Youth Group Mission Statement and Ground Rules are on the notice board at English Martyrs and on the website.

The next meeting on Friday 6th October will be the AGM.

English Martyrs Children's Mass: We thank all those children who have participated in anyway at the Children's Mass this Sunday. The next scheduled Children's Mass is on Sunday 15th October at 9am. We continue to encourage children of all ages to take leading parts - playing music, singing, reading and offertory procession. Please let us know if your child/children would like to be actively involved. For more information or if you have any ideas, please speak to Fr Gerry, Nikki and George O'Neill or Flit Rogers.

Refresh: You are warmly invited to St George's CofE, Grange Road, Tuffley as we continue to pray with our Christian brothers and sisters on Wednesday 20th September at 7.30pm.



CAFOD HARVEST LUNCH & AUCTION: Harvest Festival Lunch and Auction to be held at St Augustine's Church Hall on Sunday 15th October at 12.00pm. Lunch will be Chilli Con Carne with a vegetarian option which will be £5.00 per person. Auction to follow lunch. This Auction will consist of the fresh and tinned fruit and vegetables that are brought to the church for the Harvest Festival the weekend before

English Martyrs Gift Fair 2023: Will be held on Saturday 11th November. We will have several stalls selling all sorts of crafts/gifts plus a cake stall and a parish stall. Our Cafe will be open for delicious lunches or tea and homemade cakes. If you would like a stall then please see Nora in the kitchen after Mass. This is a lovely Parish event that brings the community together so put the date in your diary and come along and support it.

Date for your diaries St Augustine's Autumn Fete 2023: Is taking place on Saturday 25th November, 11 - 2. This is always a great social occasion with lots of stalls - tombola, books, cakes, bottles, and many others. Tasty refreshments too. The list for volunteers will soon be available, or you can call Moira on 07751289118. We are always delighted to welcome new faces and new ideas to the team. s

Fr Gerry future leave in 2023: Fr Gerry is away in Lourdes to Saturday 23rd September travelling by bus with Egalite Absolue... **Please note there will be no Vigil Mass at St Augustine's on Saturday 23rd September.** Fr Gerry will also be on annual leave in October before and after the weekend of 21st/22nd October when a Mission Priest will be coming to make the annual Mission Appeal. All 3 Masses for Sunday including the Vigil will be celebrated on 21st/22nd October.

Monthly LGBT+ Mass at St Nicholas of Tolentino Catholic Church Bristol BS5 0RE Mass THIS Sunday 17th September @ 3pm All partners and their families are most welcome. Followed by a social time and refreshments. For live stream follow the link on the parish website www.tolentiono.org.uk

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD Communion - Participation – Mission Journeying together from Vision into Action: Linking with the first Session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome (October 2023) Clifton Diocese will be exploring the same themes through a series of webinars. Each webinar will focus on a different element of the work of the Synod. You are welcome to sign up for any of the events on offer. Please use the webinar link to register via <https://cliftondiocese.com/news/we-are-the-people-of-god/> Beginning our series, we are delighted to welcome Rt Rev Bishop John Arnold (Salford Diocese) who will set our series within the context of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church – Lumen Gentium on Thursday 21st September (7.30-9pm).

Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14th October at 12 Noon for Married Couples: He is inviting all married couples to join him. If you would like a personal invitation to be sent to you or to your relatives from the Bishop as you have/will be celebrating significant anniversaries during 2023, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th or if you have or will be married in 2023 then please let Fr Gerry or Marisa Wood know including the names of the couple, the anniversary and the address to send the invitation to no later than Sunday 1st October.

Our Lady of Sorrows Memorial on 15th September

The title, Our Lady of Sorrows, given to our Blessed Mother focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering was not limited to the passion and death event; rather, it comprised the seven 'dolors' or seven sorrows of Mary, which were foretold by the Priest Simeon who proclaimed to Mary, This, child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare (Luke 2:34-35).

These seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother included the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when our Lord was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the cross; and then our Lord's burial. In all, the prophesy of Simeon that a sword would pierce our Blessed Mother's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it. More importantly, each new suffering was received with the courage, love, and trust that echoed her fiat, let it be done unto me according to Thy word, first uttered at the Annunciation.

Interestingly, in 1482, the feast was officially placed in the Roman Missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion, highlighting the great love our Blessed Mother displayed in suffering with her Son. The word compassion derives from the Latin roots 'cum' and 'patior' which means to suffer with. Our Blessed Mother's sorrow exceeded anyone else's since she was the mother of Jesus, who was not only her Son but also her Lord and Saviour; she truly suffered with her Son.

Focusing on the compassion of our Blessed Mother, Pope St John Paul II, reminded the faithful, Mary Most Holy goes on being the loving consoler of those touched by the many physical and moral sorrows which afflict and torment humanity. She knows our sorrows and our pains, because she too suffered, from Bethlehem to Calvary. 'And thy soul too a sword shall pierce.' Mary is our Spiritual Mother, and the mother always understands her children and consoles them in their troubles. Then, she has that specific mission to love us, received from Jesus on the Cross, to love us only and always, so as to save us! Mary consoles us above all by pointing out the Crucified One and Paradise to us!.

Therefore, when we honour our Blessed Mother, our Lady of Sorrows, we honour her as the faithful disciple and exemplar of faith. Let us pray as we do in the opening prayer of the Mass for this feast day: Father, as your Son was raised on the cross, His Mother Mary stood by Him, sharing His sufferings. May your Church be united with Christ in His suffering and death and so come to share in His rising to new life. Looking to the example of Mary, may we too unite our sufferings to our Lord, facing them with courage, love, and trust.