

**CONTACT US** *Parish Priest - Fr Philip Thomas*

**ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,**

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**ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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*Please contact Fr Philip through the relevant Parish Office;*

*Items for the Newsletter need to be in WORD not PDF. Thank you.*

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CIRENCESTER** St Peter's parish is looking for someone to represent them on the CTIC. If you are interested in representing us, please let the parish office know. Thank you

**CAFOD** There will be Cafod Christmas cards for sale after Mass, £4.95 for a pack of 20. There are a few Advent calendars, also £4.95 each. (St Michael's Church)

**VOLUNTEERS FOR 'LISTENING AND BEFRIENDING SERVICE' @ ST. MICHAEL'S NEEDED** We shall be launching a telephone befriending & listening service in the New Year for parishioners. We are now looking for some **additional volunteers** to make the service to parishioners sustainable over the longer term. **Duties are not onerous.** The basic requirements are to be a good listener, discrete and organised in handling this commitment (which is unlikely, estimate, to consume more than a couple of hours a week of anyone's time). The normal statutory checks will apply. If you are interested in helping with this important, new initiative, please speak to Maggie Marum or Catherine Elliott for more information. Alternatively, please give us your name and telephone number and one of us will get back to you shortly.

**'ACHIEVE AFRICA' CHRISTMAS LUNCH** Achieve Africa is resuming the much loved Christmas Lunch. It is on **Saturday, 3rd December from 12:30 till 4:30pm in St Peter's Parish Hall.** Full Christmas meal will be provided. It is best to get a ticket ahead of time, but there will be tickets available on the door. Price **£10.00** Please, come with friends and family to support the disabled and disadvantaged children in Africa this Christmas. For further details, please contact Fr. Issy in Swindon.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2023** These are available for £6.00 each; please give the money to Elaine or in her absence the duty Sacristan.

**INVITE:** To celebrate the start of Advent you are invited by the owner Alison for free coffees and cake at Llamas in Pyjamas coffee shop 4 Long Street Tetbury following today's mass on. We look forward to welcoming you

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** There will be a get together with coffee and cake after the 10.00am Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> December in St Michael's and after the 9.30am Mass on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, with Fr Philip as a thank you to those who make our churches look lovely each week. At which we will discuss the way ahead for Christmas decorations



St Peter's church  
7 St Peter's Road  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 1RE

St Michael's church  
Silver Street  
Tetbury  
Gloucestershire  
GL8 0DH



### **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A**

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)

11.00am Mass in St Peter's



### **WORSHIP THIS WEEK**

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Nov Advent FERIA

**FR PHILIP'S DAY OFF PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Nov Advent FERIA

9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE (Feast)

10.00am Mass in St Michael's (Dead List)

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Dec St Alexander Briant. (Diocesan Memorial)

9.30am Mass in St Peter's

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec Advent FERIA

9.30am Mass in St Peter's (Michael Ventham RIP)

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec St Francis Xavier.

9.30am Mass in St Peter's



### **ADVENT II – YEAR A**

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 6.00pm Vigil Mass in St Peter's

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.00am Mass in St Michael's (Pro Populis)

11.00am Mass in St Peter's



### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: CONFESSIONS**

In St Peter's: Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

In St Michael's: Wednesday 10.45am to 11.15am & by Appointment; please ring to arrange. Thank you

## **HAPPY NEW CHURCH YEAR**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR THE POOR MISSIONS OF THE DIOCESE GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE**

## **MASS PROPER FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

**Entrance Antiphon: To You, I lift up my soul, O my God, to You, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Not let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in You be put to shame.**

**First Reading - Isaiah 2: 1-5 *The Lord will gather all nations into the peace of His Kingdom***

**Responsorial Psalm I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's House.'**

**Second Reading - Romans 13: 11-14 *We are waiting for Our Lord to come***

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44 *Stay awake so that you may be ready***

**Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow His bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**



**ADVENT I** This season is a time of expectation, waiting and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," prompting us to pause each day and remember why Jesus came/comes/will come again and why we should come to Him. The Advent Wreath is originally a German custom for counting the Sundays before Christmas arrives and it is made out of evergreens. Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas; the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. One way to understand the candles follows.

- The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.
- The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

Attending Church during Advent we are able to sit in silence, away the commercial world in which we live in.

**ADULT EDUCATION DEPT. The Advent Mission Calendar** invites us all to keep those in material need in their hearts as we begin a new liturgical year. With the Cost-of-Living crisis, many people will feel the financial strain heavily this winter, and foodbanks have already experienced increased need. The Advent Mission Calendar offers a different suggestion for each day based on items foodbanks often need. This calendar can be done individually or as a group of parishioners. The gifts can be collected at Sunday Mass and delivered to the local foodbank. This a great opportunity to get more involved and make contact with the local foodbank, see if

there are more specific requests, and to start developing a relationship. **St John of God Homes for Ukraine Presentation** (1 December 18:00-19:30, Clifton Cathedral) Ukraine project is seeking to find individuals who may be able to sponsor a Ukrainian refugee. Mariia Pashkova, the Project Manager, and Zhenya Siryk, Project Officer, will be presenting the Homes for Ukraine matching service, as well as the support offered to sponsors. All are welcome to attend and to learn about this important service. For more information, please email Jason.Charewicz@cliftondiocese.com

**TETBURY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** Set up for the festival will be at **St Saviour's on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The festival takes place from 2<sup>nd</sup> December until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023.** We have a tree that was donated that we use along with lights etc. WE NEED SETTER UPPERS, to take the tree and decorations to the church and remove again at the end. We need to keep St Michaels visible in the town and therefore it would be great if we can continue with this town tradition. To volunteer, please speak to Elaine this weekend or email the parish office. Thank you for your co-operation.

**ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** Goodies for a hamper, other prizes appreciated too; tickets will be on sale at 50p per ticket from this Sunday, Advent I. Please support your parish in its continuing building of its parish life. Proceeds of the above will be donated to parish funds, Mary's Meals and CenterPoint UK Homeless Charity. Any questions on the above, please speak to Elaine. God Bless

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- **Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> December** Table Top Sales in St Michael's after the 9.00am Mass. Help appreciated.
- **Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ Tetbury & Thu. 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ Cirencester - Meeting after Morning Masses 'Coffee & Cake with Thanks'** for flower arrangers (will also discuss Christmas flowers)
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Tetbury Festive Lunch; **Please note change of date.** Help appreciated. There is a list in the porch for names for those willing to help and those who wish to attend.
- **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December CHRISTMAS "BIG CLEAN" IN ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December CHRISTMAS "BIG CLEAN" IN ST PETER'S CHURCH**
- **Christmas Masses –**

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass in St Peter's
	9.00pm Mass of Christmas Night in St Michael's
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.00am Mass of Dawn of Christmas in St Michael's
	11.00am Mass of Christmas Day in St Peter's

**ALL MASSES 26<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022 WILL BE AT NOON IN BOTH CHURCHES**

**FR. PHILIP WRITES** I am delighted that Elaine's health is improved. We continue to support her in her bereavement from earlier in the year. This is not an easy time for anyone who has lost somebody. May I remind everyone that the Parish Office is operating normally and that usual business, notices etc, should flow through the Office. Do speak to Elaine or to myself about any concerns or queries.