

**THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF  
The Immaculate Conception, Stroud; Our Lady & St Therese, Painswick,  
St Joseph's, Stonehouse; and The Annunciation, Woodchester.**

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*Diocesan Safeguarding Tel. 0117 954 0993 The Diocese of Clifton undertakes to ensure that any allegations of a safeguarding issue are responded to promptly and to liaise openly with statutory authorities to support investigations, responding sensitively and compassionately to those in need, and ensuring perpetrators are held to account. We affirm our undertaking for the Diocese of Clifton to be a place where all can come in confidence, and that they will be cared for and loved by their Christian Community.*

## Advent ~ Week 3 Year 'A' ~ Psalter Wk. 3 proper of Season

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions
<b>SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. Gaudete Sunday</b>	6:30pm (Saturday) Stroud FE	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT A</b>	Thanksgiving & Petition
	8:30am (Painswick) FB		Monica Blanch Int
	9:00am (Stonehouse) FE		Theresa Thompson RIP
	10:00am (Stroud) FB		Margaret Mason Int.
	11:00am (Woodchester) FE		People of the Parishes
	3:00pm STROUD		Mass of Anointing of the Sick
<b>Psalm Response: Come, Lord, and save us. Gospel Acclamation: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim the good news to the poor.</b>			
<b>Tues. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	9:30am Stonehouse	Weekday of Advent	Teresa Thompson RIP
	7:00pm Woodchester	Penitential Service	
<b>Wed. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	2pm Stroud	St Roses School Carol Service in Church	
	7:00pm Woodchester	Advent Mass	Teresa Thompson RIP
<b>Thurs. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	9:30am Stroud	Weekday of Advent	Theresa Finneran RIP
	2pm Stroud	Rosary School Carol Service in Church	
<b>Fri. 19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9:30am Woodchester	Weekday of Advent	Sue Trotman RIP
	3:00pm Woodchester	Funeral Service for Teresa Margaret COWLEY RIP	
<b>SAT. 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 11:00am to 12:00 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION &amp; EXPOSITION – WOODCHESTER</b>			
<b>SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	6:30pm (Sat.) Stroud FE	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT A</b>	Michael & Theresa Finneran RIP
	8:30am Painswick FE		People of the Parishes
	9:00am Stonehouse FB		Jeff Ross Int
	10am Stroud FE		Pat Stephens Int
	11am Woodchester FB		Private Intention

Monday is Fr Eugene's day off ~ Mass is available at 8:15am at More Hall every weekday morning.

**Diocesan Prayer Link: We pray for the Parishes of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Charlton Kings.**

**Pope's Prayer Intention for December: For Christians in areas of conflict.**

**Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be  
Seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.**

**We continue to pray for peace in the world, including the situations in the Middle East and Ukraine.**

**REST IN PEACE:** We pray for those who have died recently, especially **Canon Vincent Ryan**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time, those who have died alone with no one to mourn them, and those who have died because of violence and aggression.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. AMEN.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: THOSE WHO ARE SICK** in hospitals or nursing and care homes, those awaiting test results, undergoing treatment, those suffering physically or mentally. We pray Our Lord will send his healing love upon them.

**Mass of the Anointing of the sick.** ~ This Sunday 14th December 3.00pm Immaculate Conception, Stroud.

This will be an 'extra' Sunday Mass, and it will fulfil your Sunday obligation. During this Mass those who need the sacrament of the sick will be anointed. There will be refreshments and mince pies available after the Mass in the Parish Hall. If you know of someone who could benefit from the sacrament, why not bring them along. It may be possible to arrange transport via the SVP.

**TREE OF MEMORIES:** There are trees outside Immaculate Conception, St Joseph's and the Annunciation, for you to decorate! The decorations are provided for you to write the names of those who have died, those you will not see over Christmas and your intentions on, then place them on the tree. I will remember those intentions at all my Masses over the Christmas period. There is no charge for the decorations.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS IN ADVENT:** 17<sup>th</sup> Dec: The Annunciation, Woodchester.

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 7.00pm The Annunciation, Woodchester. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Immaculate Conception, Stroud.

### **ALL CHURCHES:**

**THE ROSARY SCHOOL:** Is your child due to start school next September? If you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022, it will soon be time to apply for admission from September 2026. We hope that you will be considering the Rosary as your child's school as we are a great option for your child. Please visit our school website <https://www.rosaryschool.org.uk/> to find out more information about the school. We believe that every child has gifts and talents from God and that our job is to search out those gifts and talents and nurture them. We are also proud to work closely with the other schools within our Little Way Catholic Educational Trust, working together with the whole family to ensure the very best outcomes for the children entrusted to our care. Please complete an application form - available from the school admissions team of Gloucestershire County Council by the closing date of 15th January 2026. If your child is Catholic, you must provide the school with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate prior to this deadline, as Baptised Catholic children have preferential treatment in our Admissions Policy.

If you have any questions about the admissions process for our school or indeed would like to know more specific information about the Rosary School, please contact the school directly: Telephone: 01453 762774 Email: [admin@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk)

**ST PETER'S HIGH SCHOOL:** Consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for Saint Peter's High School, please go to <https://www.sphs.uk.com/school-information/admissions>).

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIED LIFE** Bishop Bosco is to celebrate Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14 February (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. You are all very welcome to join our diocesan family for this Mass. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2026 please do let us know. You just need to send names to: [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, we look forward to seeing you there.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:** As in the Advent Booklets **FINAL WEEK** (do take one if you haven't done so). We are looking for donations for the following: Christmas Crackers, Christmas puddings, deserts, cake, chocolate selection packs, sweets, tinned veg, tins of ham, tinned meat, tinned fruit, long life milk, custard, mince pies, biscuits, crisps gravy granules, stock cubes, stuffing, long-life fruit juices, teabags, coffee, hot chocolate soups, jams, peanut butter, breakfast cereals, porridge, soft drinks, shampoo, shower gel, bars of soap, deodorants, washing up liquid, all purpose spray cleaners, toilet cleaner toilet rolls, colouring books, crayons, pens, Christmassy stoking fillers etc. Bring donations to church and place in the box on the altar. You can also donate online via the Immaculate Conception Parish website.

**SVP GIVING TREE:** Items required by Wednesday 17th December please. You will see the tree at the back of Church - please take a tag (or two) and simply purchase what is on the tag and return it to Church (Stroud) marked for Giving Tree (with the tags please) OR to the Parish Office Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm. SVP members will then make up Shopping Bags of goodies for families identified by Rosary School as in need of help. Bags will be taken down to School for distribution in time for Christmas.

200 Club: Winners for October and November Draws - please see notice board for winners and see Marilynne in Parish Office for prizes (Stroud). Let us know if you require your winnings posting to you.

**LAUDATO SI - DISCUSSIONS:** Come and join us in our series of discussions based on 10 years of Laudato Si **All are welcome!** Lead by our CAFOD Teams. The First Date for your diary is: **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2pm at St Joseph's, Stonehouse** Refreshments provided. **Theme: The beauty of the world – an introduction to Laudato Si. M**

### **STONEHOUSE & WOODCHESTER NEWS:**

**ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE** ~ Flowers for Christmas Once again parishioners will have the opportunity to donate poinsettias in memory of loved ones, these should be placed near the altar or left at the back of the church and we will make sure they are distributed around the church, plus we will make sure there are some little dishes to stand the plants in to protect the carpet.

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** The last session before the Christmas holiday will be TODAY Sunday 14th of December. The sessions will resume on the 11th of January.

**CAROLS ON THE GREEN (Stonehouse):** on **Saturday 20 December 11am** - CTiS and the Town Council with Nailsworth Silver Band come together with the community. Hot Chocolate and mince pies to follow, this is a free event, open to all, please support.

**COMMUNITY WELCOMING LUNCHESES** - have had a great year, we have raised over £440 for much needed church funds and £200+ for CAFOD as well as for local charities in the town. Someone was also spotted last week using the digital collection plate in the hallway! **The next lunch will be held on Thursday January 8th from 12.30.** Grateful thanks to all the helpers who make this happen and to all who attend and support. Good wholesome food, great company and conversation over our bottomless tea and coffee pots.

**Post-Christmas Gift & Clothes Donation Appeal:** If you are lucky enough to be the bearer of beautiful gifts at Christmas this year and they happen to be not quite the right fit or you have a similar item already. We can offer you a solution, rather than letting them gather dust, why not turn them into a blessing for others. Our Church is collecting unwanted or unused Christmas gifts to help raise funds for our ongoing church projects. Items will be used in an upcoming **“POP UP CLOTHES & TOY SALE”** **Your Church is collecting: New or nearly new items Toys, books, and gifts for all ages Duplicate presents** Anything still in good condition that someone else would love! **Drop-Off details:** St Josephs Church Sacristy **All donations to be received by the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2026** Your generosity will support the upkeep of our beautiful church whilst bringing joy to others all while giving your unused gifts a new home and bring joy to others. Thank you for your kindness and support! Laurie Brazington.

**WOODCHESTER: CHURCH CLEANING** As usual we will be having a big church cleaning session at Woodchester in order to get the brasses polished, candle holders cleaned, cobwebs removed as well as the usual dusting, hoovering, polishing etc. so that the church looks it's best for Midnight Mass. We will be there on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, between 10a.m. and Midday, and would ask for volunteers who can spare a little time, to come along and we will give you a job. Some of our regular cleaners are ill or away so we would be grateful for any help. Details from Angela (07973 421468)

## SHARING THE WORD

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'A'

**1st Reading: Is 35:1-6.10** This contains a message of hope for God's people in exile. The prophet assures them that God himself is coming to their rescue and will lead them back to Zion. He uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, crushed by misfortune. Their most crippling disabilities - blindness, deafness and lameness - will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people.

**Second Reading: James 5:7-10** St James is talking about the second coming of Jesus. He urges the kind of patience and hope farmers show in waiting for the harvest, and which the prophets of old showed as they waited for the promises to be fulfilled.

**Gospel: Mt. 11:2-11** John the Baptist's image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus did not fit this image. This may account for John's doubts about him. Jesus dispelled John's doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of things that had been predicted for the messianic times (by prophets such as Isaiah). Once again, Matthew presents Jesus as the one who fulfils the messianic prophecies. Jesus goes on to praise John, declaring him to be a true prophet. He is more than a prophet: he glimpsed the age of fulfilment. As the forerunner of the Messiah, he was in a very privileged position. Yet he himself did not belong to the kingdom. Jesus says that 'the least in the kingdom is greater (more privileged) than he' Far from diminishing John's role in God's plan of salvation, this increases his heroism in that he prepared the way for a kingdom that he himself would never enter (on earth).

### PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

**The Immaculate Conception, Stroud: Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm**  
**St Joseph's, Stonehouse: Monday, Wednesday to Friday 9am to 2pm**

### CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Please Note: Parish Offices (Stroud and Stonehouse) will close on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and reopen on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Local Catholic Communities Newsletter:** Please, to help us we are asking that items for publication are submitted as soon as possible. The 'cut-off' for submission of items for the following Sunday will be **MIDDAY ON WEDNESDAY**. Please note the best item gives clear information Date – Time – Place – Reason – who to contact for more information – any costs. Please email items to: [stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com) Thank you.

**Pastoral Area St Wulstan Website:** [www.saintwulstan.org.uk](http://www.saintwulstan.org.uk) **Newsletter:** [stroudnewsletter@catholicweb.org.uk](mailto:stroudnewsletter@catholicweb.org.uk)

**Parish Twitter:** @stroudRCchurch

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