

**“5 VALLEYS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY”**  
**THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR**

**The Immaculate Conception, Stroud; Our Lady & St Therese, Painswick,  
 St Joseph's, Stonehouse; and The Annunciation, Woodchester.**

**Parish Priest: Father Eugene Campbell - Tel: 01453 762442 [eugene.campbell@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:eugene.campbell@cliftondiocese.com)**

**Deacon** Steve Bentley Tel: (01453) 751101 - **Deacon** Bogdan Wasylkiw Tel: (01453) 821627

**Parish Administrator STROUD:** Marilynne Morgan Tel: 01453 762442

Parish Office, Beeches Green • STROUD • GL5 4AA • [stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com)

**Administrator for STONEHOUSE & WOODCHESTER:** Maggie Wakefield: Tel: 01453 822 121

[stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com)

**The Rosary Catholic Primary School**, Beeches Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AB

Telephone: 01453 762774 ~ Email: [admin@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rosary.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Representative: Caroline Rush** [PSR.stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:PSR.stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com)

**Parish Safeguarding Representative : Maggie Wakefield** [PSR.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:PSR.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com)

[PSR.woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:PSR.woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com)

**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.*

## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year A Psalter Wk 1

Date	Mass Times	Celebrations	Intentions	
<b>SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January 11:00am to 11:30am RECONCILIATION St Joseph's, Stonehouse</b>				
<b>SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> Jan Feast of The Baptism of the Lord</b>	6:30pm (Saturday) Stroud FE	<b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	People of the Parishes	
	8:30am (Painswick) FB			
	9:00am (Stonehouse) FE		Sr Catherine Sweet Int.	
	10:00am (Stroud) FB		Brian Hannon & Family Int.	
	11:00am (Woodchester) FE			
<b>Psalm Response: The Lord will bless his people with peace.</b>				
<b>Gospel Acclamation: The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: “This is my beloved Son; listen to him”.</b>				
Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9:30am Stonehouse	Ordinary Time Wk 1	Sandra Sowls Int.	
Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	7:00pm Stroud	Ordinary Time Wk 1	Jackie Hall RIP	
Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9:30am Stroud	Ordinary Time Wk 1	Thanksgiving	
Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9:30am	Ordinary Time Wk 1	Nancy Hyland RIP	
<b>SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> January 11:00am to 11:30am RECONCILIATION The Annunciation, Woodchester</b>				
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6:30pm Stroud FE	<b>Second Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>	Mr & Mrs B Blanch Family Int	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan,</b>	8:30am Painswick FB			
	9:00am Stonehouse FE		People of the Parishes	
	10am Stroud FB		Camillo Nappi Int.	
	11am Woodchester FE			

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

**Diocesan Prayer Links:** We pray for the parish of Immaculate Conception, Clevedon with Yatton

**Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for JANUARY 2026 - Prayer With The Word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**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 those who died in the recent house fire in our community and the pub fire in Switzerland, and all 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.

**PARISH OFFICES:** The Parish Office at Immaculate Conception, Stroud is Open Tuesday to Friday 10am ~ 3pm for Parish Business, including booking Masses, Baptisms, Hall bookings etc. Please be aware, if there is someone in the Office, please wait until they have finished their business before entering the Office. This is to allow everyone to conduct their business in privacy and discretion. Please always be respectful to the Parish Administrator, rudeness, aggressive talk, sarcasm and disrespect will not be tolerated. For safety reasons, entry to the Parish Office is at the discretion of the Parish Administrator. The Parish email address is [stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com) The Parish phone number is 01453 762442

**The Parish Office at St Joseph's, Stonehouse** is Open Monday, Wednesday to Friday 9am ~ 2pm for Parish Business, including booking Masses, Baptisms, Hall bookings etc. Please be aware, if there is someone in the Office, please wait until they have finished their business before entering the Office. This is to allow everyone to conduct their business in privacy and discretion. Please always be respectful to the Parish Administrator, rudeness, aggressive talk, sarcasm and disrespect will not be tolerated. For safety reasons, entry to the Parish Office is at the discretion of the Parish Administrator. The Parish email address is [stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com) The Parish phone number is 01453 822121

**Deacon Steve** will be celebrating 30 years of Diaconal Ministry in this month. The 11am Mass on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January will be celebrated for Steve and Dee's Thanksgiving of 30 years. It is hoped to have a celebration after Mass in the Parish Hall. If you would like to contribute to a Gift for Deacon Steve, either place your donation in an envelope on the Offertory Plate, (please mark your envelope for 'Deacon Steve', or use the Digital Collection Plate or QR Code.

**Fr Benedict** will be leaving the area at the end of January 2026, and we are extremely grateful to him for covering Masses each weekend for many months while he was studying. Since I arrived, he has celebrated Mass in ALL our Churches, so as to give me the opportunity to celebrate Sunday Masses in all our parishes. I am also grateful to those who have transported Fr Benedict to and from our Churches, you done a great service to the whole community. You can donate to a gift for Fr Benedict via the digital collection plate / QR Code / or by putting your donation in an envelope labelled 'Fr Benedict'.

**NEW MASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS:** As I have mentioned since my arrival, there will need to be changes to the weekend Mass times to allow me as Parish Priest to celebrate ALL the Masses every week. With the departure of Fr Benedict, it is time to publish the plans from the 31st January 2026. Sadly, Our Lady and St Therese, Painswick will no longer have a Sunday Mass, I will celebrate Mass there on Fridays at 9.30am, when I am available. Saturday evening Mass is being relocated to The Annunciation, Woodchester at 6.00pm. Sunday Masses will be 9.00am at St Joseph's, Stonehouse and 11am at Immaculate Conception, Stroud. The numbers attending the current 6.30pm and 11.00am will fit into one Mass comfortably at this time.

**The weekday Masses** will be Tuesday 9.30am Woodchester; Wednesday 7.00pm Immaculate Conception; Thursday 9.30am Stonehouse; Friday 9.30am Painswick. (Obviously, these weekday Mass Times are subject to Funerals, School Masses etc. consult the Weekly Newsletter for up-to-date information) I know that the locations may not suit everyone, but it is the best way to allow me celebrate these Masses. Your prayers, patience and co-operation would be greatly appreciated to make these changes a success to serve the Catholic Community in this area.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2026:** Several people have contacted me to say they have been involved in the catechesis of our children for First Holy Communion. Would those willing to be involved this year, please email me and we can organise a meeting to plan the course. **APPLICATIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF FIRST**

**RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2026:** are now open! Please email [stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com) requesting an application form. Please note candidates must be 7 years of age by 31st May 2025. They must be a Baptised Catholic and a copy of the child's Baptism Certificate must be submitted with the application form. Candidates will be required to attend one of the weekend Masses and will need to sign in. They can attend Mass in their 'own' Parish. The course will run on Saturday mornings 9.30am ~ 11.00am in the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall during school term time. **Closing date for applications: SUNDAY 25th JANUARY 2026. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY will be SATURDAY 20th JUNE 2026.**

**JOURNEY IN FAITH:** The course will continue **THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2026, 7pm ~8.30pm**. We are unable to take new members, as those attending are moving on to the next stage of preparation to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday 4th April 2026. (Apologies for having to cancel our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan due to inclement weather.)

**EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:** Thank you to those who have been Eucharistic Ministers, both in Church and in the community. Many have asked to have a meeting with some time for reflection before the Blessed Sacrament on **SATURDAY 24th JANUARY 2026. 1pm ~ 2.30pm in Immaculate Conception Church.** This is for ALL Eucharistic Ministers from ALL Churches. We are also appealing for more people to become Eucharistic Ministers in all our Churches; you are welcome to come along to this meeting also. You need to be a Baptised Catholic and have made your First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. Training will be given.

**MINISTRY OF READER:** Thank you to all those who have been Readers in our Churches. It would be good to have a meeting and time of reflection as we enter a new year. There will be a meeting for our current Readers and those who would like to be Readers in Church, on **SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2026**. (Sorry for the mistake in last week's newsletter) **1pm ~ 2.30pm in Immaculate Conception Church**. This is for ALL Readers from ALL Churches.

**NEWSLETTER ~ COMMUNITY EMAIL.** If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email on a SATURDAY, then please send your email and name to [stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:stroud.immaculateconception@cliftondiocese.com) The mailshot will be 'blind sent' so no one's email is disclosed. The email will be in PDF format, so content cannot be altered. You can request to have your email removed at any time. Families of First Holy Communion children will be contacted via email and automatically added to the Newsletter database as will other Sacramental candidates. This system works well to communicate with those involved, should updates / news need to be disseminated to all at any time. Emails will be treated with the strictest confidence.

**DEFIBRILLATOR AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.** I mentioned to some parishioners just in general conversation that it might be good to have a Defibrillator available at the Church, there have been medical events in recent years involving parishioners. I have made enquiries with the charity, London Hearts' London Hearts is a registered charity specialising in the procurement and supply of portable, internal and external life saving Defibrillators. Their aim is to help locations obtain the equipment for a lower cost and therefore increase the number of AED's throughout the UK. If we were to have an AED at Immaculate Conception, outside, it would be included in a list of available units to the Local Ambulance as well to us if needed. The cost of such a unit is £966.00 for an AED, heated external box and all necessary guides and online training. The only additional cost would be for the unit to be connected to the electric. As a result of my discussion, I was given a donation of £300 anonymously, and so we need to raise the rest. Any donations will be gratefully received, as Stroud parish will pick up any shortfall. You can donate in cash / cheque / via the digital Collection Plate you can also place your donations into the Parish Office letter box or on the Offertory Collection Plate. For more information about the London Hearts Charity, go to <https://londonhearts.org> If any of our other Church communities which to avail themselves of this service, let me know.

**200 CLUB:** (Immaculate Conception). It is the time of the year when most people are due to renew membership. Payment by cash or cheque (payable to Church of the Immaculate Conception) to either the office or to Carmel Tel: 01453 762260. Payment is £12 for the year with 3 draws every month. This is a valuable form of fund raising especially in light of the various building / boiler projects we have to undertake in the near future. The more who join, the better the fund raising.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** (Immaculate Conception). The new supply of Offertory Envelopes is available this weekend. This is a worthwhile scheme to remember to give regularly to the Offertory Collection during Mass. There is a cost to providing these envelopes and so the minimum donation to cover the cost of the envelopes and give a donation to the collection would be at least £3. We can still claim the Gift Aid of 25p for everyone you donate, if you Gift Aid the donation. Thank you for using this form of donation. An alternative to this scheme for Taxpayers is to complete a Direct Debit Form for a regular payment and Gift Aid. Forms are available at the back Of the Church. Encounter Revive Day - Clifton Cathedral , 17th January 2026 – 9.30am to 4 pm Begin 2026 in the fire of the Holy Spirit by joining us for a Day of Encounter with guest speaker Ros Powell. Let us start the New Year "awake and alert" 1 Thess 5:6. This is a day to renew heart, hope and mission. For more information about the day, email [Encounter@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Encounter@cliftondiocese.com) or contact Ann on 07815 751556. All welcome.

**NEW MASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS** From 31st January 2026 SATURDAY ~ First Mass of Sunday ~ 6.00pm Mass The Annunciation Catholic Church, St Mary's Hill, Inchbrook, Woodchester, GL5 5HP SUNDAY ~ 9.00am Mass St Joseph's Catholic Church, Oldends Lane, Stoneholuse, GL10 2DG SUNDAY ~ 11.00am Mass Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Beeches Green, Stroud, GL5 4AA Week Day Mass Time and Locations Tuesday 9.30am ~ The Annunciation, Woodchester Wednesday 7.00pm ~ Immaculate Conception, Stroud Thursday 9.30am ~ St Joseph's, Stonehouse Friday 9.30am ~ Our Lady & St Therese, Friday Street, Painswick, Please consult the Weekly Newsletter for up-to-dated information on weekly Mass times.

## SHARING THE WORD

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD 'A'

**First Reading: Is 42: 1-4.6-7** This passage is from the first of the four Servant Songs of Second Isaiah. Though the identity of the Servant remains a mystery, the early Christians saw the 'servant songs' as being perfectly fulfilled in Jesus. This reading is chosen for today because the words spoken by the heavenly voice at the baptism of Jesus (Gospel reading) are taken almost verbatim from Isaiah 42:1.

**Second Reading: Acts. 10:34-38.** The conversion of Cornelius (a Gentile) was a significant milestone in the transmission of the Good News and the formation of the people of the Church. In his sermon on that occasion Peter declares that God has no favourites: God would grant salvation to all people in Christ. For today's feast the relevant passage is the description of Jesus' baptism: an anointing with the Holy Spirit and with power.

**Gospel: Mt 3:13-17** The story of Jesus' baptism is an epiphany story: Jesus is revealed as the Father's beloved Son, and given power for the mission he was about to begin. This is Matthew's main emphasis. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mk 1:4). The fact that Jesus should undergo such a baptism was a source of embarrassment for the early Christians. Why did he undergo it? To give an example of humility, to show solidarity with sinners, and to inaugurate his mission to sinners.

**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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD 'A' Sunday 11th January 2026 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)

## **NEW TIMES OF MASSES**

**Beginning from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

**Saturday Evening Mass 6:00pm The Annunciation, Woodchester**

**Sunday 9.00am at St Joseph's, Stonehouse**

**Sunday 11:00am at Immaculate Conception, Stroud.**

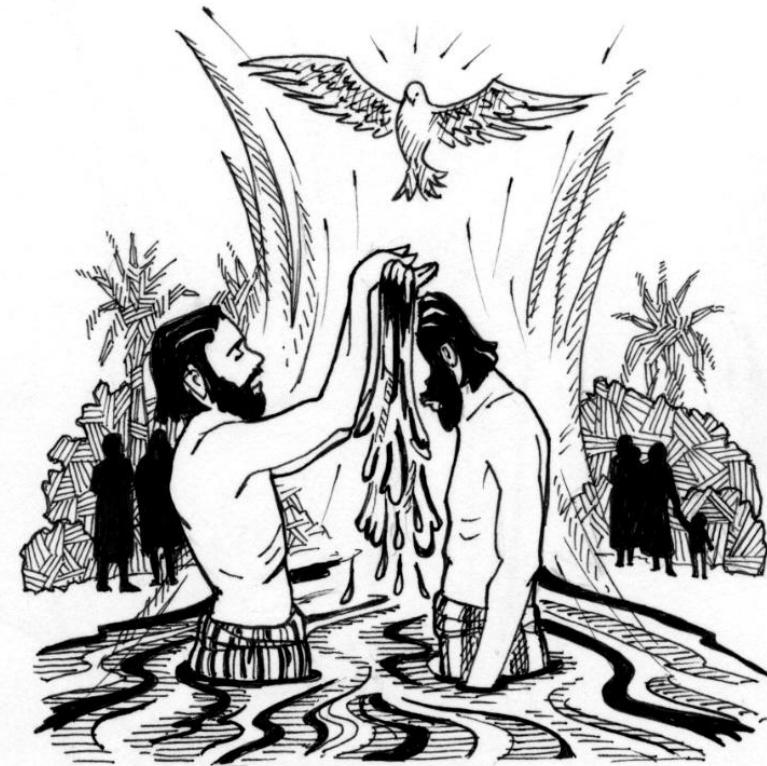
**Weekday Masses will be:**

**Tuesday 9.30am Woodchester;**

**Wednesday 7.00pm Immaculate Conception;**

**Thursday 9.30am Stonehouse;**

**Friday 9.30am Painswick.**



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

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