



Parish Office
Back of Drumlanrig, Ross Road,
Newent, Glos. GL18 1BG
Phone: 01531 821647

Parish Priest: Fr Barnabas Page
Barnabas.page@cliftondiocese.com

www.newentcatholic.org.uk
Office: newent.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com

4th Sunday in Advent – Christmas and New Year, Year C

**Please Pray for the Welfare of our Sick People
and those who care for them**

**Ian King, Steve Ebsworth, Bridget Spencer,
Marjorie Beard, Ruth Wolseley, Paddy Arnold,
Peter Gibbons, Joan Lumb, Mike Poole, Clare Duncanson
Lou Whitton and Honoria Houghton**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - PRAY FOR US



Dear Parishioners

Please God you and your families will receive the Blessings of Christmas. For many people this will have been a difficult year. But this is why God sent his son upon Earth. It was because God saw the state we are in that Christ was born. Peace on Earth is what we aspire to but this begins in me. If I am a person who seeks the path of Peace, thanks to the strength I receive from Christ, then I will be bringing this same Peace to my family and those around me.

Both Fr. Aidan and Fr. John send their best wishes to all and thank people for the cards they have received. Because of the Mass changes, some people have had to find other Churches to go to on a Sunday. Hopefully you will all still regard Our Lady's as your "home Parish". Bless all those who have had to make this move.

Thank you for all the cards and gifts you have given.

On behalf of all the Parish may the Blessings of Christmas be with you.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

'Immediately after the Annunciation Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. After the overwhelming invitation to be the mother of the Saviour it would be understandable if Mary were to focus upon herself and her own well-being but Mary's first thought is not for herself. Her first reaction is to go and be of service to someone else.Mary can teach us about the effects of true prayer. When we encounter the Lord in prayer whether in solitude and silence or during the Liturgy, if it is genuine prayer, a genuine encounter with the Lord, then it will inspire us to serve others.' (From the diocesan resource for the year of prayer.)

Christmas

We come to crib and kneel before the image of the infant Jesus. The word infant means literally 'without speech'. God speaks his word to us silently. Before Jesus says a single word he silently reveals to us the face of God and in the infant Jesus we see that God is humble and gentle. That continues to be the way God speaks his word to us. The Lord silently gives himself on the Cross and in the Eucharist. As we sing in the

carol 'O little town of Bethlehem: 'How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in'.

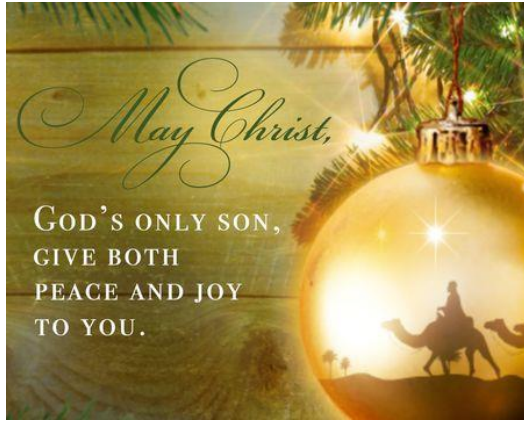
Feast of the Holy family

'Today's Gospel passage invites families to welcome the light of hope that comes from the home of Nazareth, in which Jesus' childhood unfolded in joy. Jesus, says St Luke, "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man" (2:52). The nuclear family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is for each believer and especially for families an authentic school of the Gospel. Here we admire the fulfilment of the divine plan to make of the family a special community of life and love. Here we learn that every Christian nuclear family is called to be a "domestic church", to make the Gospel virtues shine and become a leaven of good in society. The classic traits of the Holy Family are: reflection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, and a spirit of sacrifice, work and solidarity.' (Pope Francis Feast of the Holy family 2015)

THIS WEEK

Saturday 22 nd December	6.00pm	Carol Singing Pub Crawl proposed date Churches of Newent Mass Coleford	
Sunday 23 rd December	9.00am 11.00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mass – Cinderford Mass – Newent Crib Blessing	Office closed Intention: Charles Lumb
Monday 24 th December	5.30pm 6.00pm 8.30pm 9.00pm	Carols Vigil Mass, Cinderford Carols Vigil Mass, Lydney	Office closed
Tuesday 25 th December	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Mass Coleford Carols Mass Newent	Office closed Intention : Thomas Durstun
Wednesday 26 th December		FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR	Office closed

Thursday 27 th December		FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST	Office closed
Friday 28 th December	9am	FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Mass - Sedbury	Office closed
Saturday 29 th December	6.00pm	FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR, PATRON OF PASTORAL CLERGY IN ENGLAND AND WALES Mass - Lydney	Office closed
Sunday 30 th December	9.00am 11.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Mass – Cinderford Mass - Newent	Office closed
Monday 31 st December		SEVENTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS	Office closed
Tuesday 1 st January	10.00am	SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Mass - Coleford	Office closed
Wednesday 2 nd January	8.30am – 9.00am 10am	United Church Prayers at St Mary's Mass Coffee and Chat	
Thursday 3 rd January	10am 7.30pm	Mass - Newent Come & SEE – Luke Wathen SMILE Charity Romania	
Friday 4 th January	9am	Mass - Sedbury	
Saturday 5 th January	6.00pm	Mass – Coleford (Teas & Coffee)	
Sunday 6 th January	9.00am 11.00am	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD. Mass – Cinderford Mass - Newent	



23rd December

Ministers of the Word: Gillian Johnson – Rosie Mason

Ministers of Communion: Debbie Page – Silvana Whitton

25th December Christmas Day 10am

Ministers of the Word: Robin Notley – Chris Roy

Ministers of Communion: Gail & Steve Ebsworth

30th December

Ministers of the Word: Paul & Sarah Rowe

Ministers of Communion: Jenny Heseltine – Mary Francis – Kevin Gilligan

Collections:

The collection for w/e 25/11/18 was £123.10.

The second collection for the Catholic Youth Service was £79.10.

The collection for w/e 2/12/18 was £125.17.

The second collection for Poor Missions of the Diocese was £108-50.

The collection for w/e 9/12/18 was £135.01.

SAVE THE DATE

Noah's Camp date 2019 12th -16th August watch this space for more information.

VOLUNTEERS the Community needs you.

If you feel that you can help with getting the annex more user friendly, painting, collating books or cleaning please let either Maria Coleman or Pat Milsom know so that when we need to get into action they know who to contact.

There is also a great need for people both young and old to help with the projection each Sunday and we need help with Servers on a regular basis. Can you help let Gail or Mary Francis know?

Looking Forward CHRISTMAS CARDS 2018

£2.00 per pack of 5 cards/ 3 packs for £5

All profits from both sizes of cards will be donated to Local Homeless and Food Banks. Packs of cards will be this year A6.

Parish Christmas Card – Please sign your name on the mount and make a donation if you can.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Silvana is kindly organising the Christmas Raffle again this year and is appealing to people to offer exciting prizes, no matter how big or how small, simply to encourage people to buy tickets. The raffle this year will be sold from the back of the church so you have time to view what's on offer over a cup of tea? Please can you help make this a success!

HOSPITALITY - talking about tea and coffee.....

Every Sunday after Mass, Silvana is in the kitchen making tea and coffee and despite numerous requests for people to commit their names to a rota perhaps just once a month, we have been unsuccessful in getting her help.

Silvana wants to be there for our community and provides tea/coffee, orange juice and also a few volunteers who make cakes and biscuits BUT we need more help. Please put your name on the rota to help in the kitchen every now and again, every little helps!

Our Lady of Lourdes needs you.

**The Smiles
FOUNDATION**

Luke Wathen

Please come hear what this young man is doing in the missionary field, encourage and support him.

THURSDAY 3rd January
AT 7.30PM
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
ROSS ROAD
NEWENT GLIS BS6

Come and SEE—(Spiritual Enlightenment and Encouragement.) Program for 2018/19 for the 1st Thursday of the Month at 7.30pm.

A series of talks about people's journeys with prayer and how it helps them in their vocations and life.

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COME AND S.E.E LUKE WATHEN 3RD JANUARY 2019

Luke is a local lad who is now a missionary in Romania. He is going to tell us about his journey with Christ and a bit about the work he is doing. Please come and support him.

FILM CHOICE FOR JANUARY 6th January 2.30pm

Choice

A wrinkle in time: Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon: journey home to find life love.

Wonder: Julia Roberts Owen Wilson you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

If you would like to come and want a lift let Gail or Steve know.

SALE

As I have sold all of this year's Christmas card design I have reduced the price of remaining stock to **ONE POUND PER PACK OF 5 CARDS**. As all printing costs have been paid for now any money given will be 100% donated to Gloucester and district **HOMELESS AND FOOD BANKS**.

Dear Fellow Parishioners.

First the good news: The OLL/GARAS Project is progressing well. The Committee passed a motion of thanks to Julian, Maria, Craig, and Pat for the energy and sheer hard work, they have expended in bringing it this far. It's anticipated that keys of Drumlanrig will be handed to GARAS early in February.

Chris Roy and Sue Felton are delivering Christmas Cards to our neighbours, please contact Chris if you can help.

We are hosting the Unity Celebration on 24rd January.

Which brings me to the challenge: Too few of us are doing too many jobs. We are chronically short of Altar Servers, for example, and our committees are under-manned, or not functioning. There is a real possibility that some non-liturgical activities we are accustomed to, will have to stop for lack of help.

There will be ANOTHER recruitment drive in January, following which the Pastoral Council will review what we can take up, and what we may have to lay down.

Love In Christ, Mary Francis

