



ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

COMBE, DUNS TEW, ENSTONE, GAGINGWELL, GLYMPTON, MIDDLE BARTON,
RADFORD, RAMSDEN, STEEPLE ASTON and STONESFIELD

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024
Sunday Readings: Year B

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Please pray for the sick and the housebound of our parishes: Paula B, Lynette M, Carol W, Tom C, Elizabeth P, Bridget K, Audrey N, Richard O, Mary W, Betty, Ania.

Dear Parishioners

The opening lines of today's First Reading from the Book of Job in the Old Testament are striking:

"Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,

His time no better than hired drudgery".

Job, the good, upright, wealthy man, has had his life completely shattered, losing all his children, possessions and his health. He sits in the dust, criticised by friends and scorned by his wife. He has lost everything and covered in ulcers, he is reduced to a broken outcast.

Job rails against God but eventually he accepts that suffering is his lot which he must accept as one of God's mysteries.

Why we suffer, particularly why the innocent do, is a perennial question, one that priests are asked all the time. The truth is that there is no satisfactory "pat" answer. When tragedy hits, the only response to help is silence and support. Glib answers are useless.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is besieged by the suffering crowds. He heals, he cures many. Soon he will enter on that road of suffering Himself, the Via Dolorosa, on His way to Jerusalem and the gruesome pain of Crucifixion.

God the Father allows suffering in the world. God the Son shares in this pain and God the Holy Spirit continues in the Church and the world the work of healing and reconciliation which that Calvary Sacrifice brought for us all.

Many suffer on different levels: physically, emotionally, spiritually. Christ the Suffering Servant offers us healing at the altar, in the Confessional, in the warmth of human sympathy and care. Bring your pain to Him and ask the Lord of Life to help you to carry your Cross. He will not abandon you because He has promised to be with us always...to the end of Time.

Next week: Masses as usual.

Tuesday : 10.15 am Finance Committee meeting (St Teresa's).

The week after...

Please note that the following week, there will be no Mass at Holy Trinity on Monday (12th) as I am with the Carmelite sisters in Wolverhampton on a pre Lent retreat, and no Friday (16th) Mass at St Teresa's as I will be with Fr. Tony at Fr. Sandy Brown's Requiem (celebrated by the Archbishop).

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th and there will be Stations of the Cross after Mass every Wednesday (St Teresa's) and Thursday (Holy Trinity) during Lent.

There is the possibility of an on-line " Lectio Divina "for anyone interested through Lent. If you would like to share in this with Fr Martin, a retired priest who worships with the St Teresa congregation, please let Fr Martin or me know after Mass.

We all need to start thinking about Lent. How can we draw closer to the Lord? Is there something getting in the way? What can I do about that?

God bless everyone.

Fr Clive.

Coffee after Mass during the Winter Months

In the wet and cold winter months, we are unable to have coffee after Mass on the patio outside church as we do in the warmer months, so **from today, the 4th February**, a table has been booked at the Brazilian restaurant in Market Street for after-Mass coffee. For a trial period of a month, all coffee will be paid for, so no need for parishioners to pay for it - if you want one of the delicious pastries that are available, then you will need to pay for those yourself.

Everyone is very welcome to join for coffee after Mass, and many thanks to the people who have kindly organised this.



NEXT WEEK in

St Teresa's:

Monday 6 January

St Agatha

Open for private prayer

Tuesday 7 January

St Paul Miki and

Companions

Open for private prayer

Wednesday 8 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Mass at 9.15am

Followed by Benediction

and Exposition

Thursday 9 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Open for private prayer

Friday 10 February

St Scholastica

Mass at 9.15am

The birds begin to sing.

Saturday 11 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 12 February

6th Sunday in Ordinary

Time

Mass at 9.15am

ALL WELCOME

For Confessions, please
contact Fr.Clive.

Weekday Mass in our
sister parish, Holy Trinity,
Chipping Norton, on
Monday, Tuesday, and
Thursday, all at 9.15am,
with Rosary group at
9.15am on Friday, vigil
mass at 6pm Sat and
Sunday mass at 11am

Parish Priest: FR. CLIVE DYTOR

fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk

07484 158642

Parish Website: www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com (see website for links to the Holy Trinity website)

To subscribe to the parish email group, please email : StTerasasNetwork+subscribe@groups.io

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is

Sharnalee Foster. She can be contacted at sg.stteresa.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Saint Teresa of Lisieux is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust: Registered Charity number 234216

