



ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

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

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024
Sunday Readings: Year B

6TH 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.

NEXT WEEK in

St Teresa's:

Monday 12 February
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Open for private prayer

Tuesday 13 February
Weekday in Ordinary Time

Open for private prayer

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday

Mass at 9.15am

with imposition of Ashes

(Mass at Holy Trinity at

7pm)

Thursday 15 February

Weekday in Lent

Open for private prayer

Friday 16 February

Weekday in Lent

Open for private prayer

Saturday 17 February

Weekday in Lent

Sunday 18 February

1st Sunday of Lent

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*

Dear Parishioners

This weekend I am on a pre-Lent retreat in Wolverhampton. Why Wolverhampton, a Black Country town not usually associated with silence and reflection, you may well ask?

In that bustling industrial setting there lies an oasis of calm and prayer called the Carmel of the Magnificat, celebrating a centenary recently of its foundation and housing a small enclosed community of contemplative sisters. You can find it on www.carmel-in-wolverhampton.org.uk

The " Discalced " Carmelites arose in the great reform of their Order by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross, the two great Spanish mystics of the 16th Century. The sisters are totally dedicated to prayer and penance and do not leave their enclosure except to visit the doctor's or to vote.

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (after whom our lovely Charlbury church is named), was a Carmelite, as was St Benedicta Ward(formerly Edith Stein), martyred at Auschwitz, and the history of the Catholic Church is illuminated by priests, sisters and lay of this Order. Here in Oxfordshire we have a very active Carmel at Boar's Hill where the fathers carry out a great apostolate of teaching, in person and on-line.

The Carmelites have been an inspiration for many years, since I first studied the two Spanish saints at Oxford back in the 1980's. The depth of their spiritual life is inspiring and beautiful and I feel very blessed to have this weekend with the sisters.

Thank you to Fr Martin at St Teresa's and Fr Paul at Holy Trinity, for celebrating Mass while I am away. I will offer the Holy Sacrifice for everyone in Carmel. Please do not hesitate to contact me in an emergency, and send through any particular prayer requests.

Next week there is no Mass on Monday at Holy Trinity (in Carmel) and no Mass on Friday at St Teresa's (Fr Sandy's funeral).

Please pray for Fr Sandy's eternal soul and also for those who are mourning his departure.

Wednesday 14th is Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting and Abstinence (missing a meal and not eating meat). St Valentine can be fêted on Tuesday 13th! Mass with Imposition of Ashes will be:

9.15 am St Teresa's

7 pm Holy Trinity.

Lent will be on us soon. Stations of the Cross at St Teresa's on a Wednesday and Holy Trinity on a Thursday, both after Mass at 9.45 am. This is a time to draw closer to the Lord of Life, the Person who can give us real,lasting peace.

"A good Lent makes for a better Easter!"

God bless everyone

Fr Clive.

From Fr Martin:

Might I suggest that this Lent you avoid just giving up something? Note the word "just!" By all means give up

chocolate or alcohol or cakes or whatever, but maybe St Paul in our 2nd

Reading gives us a hint of something else we could do. He writes "Whatever you do... do it for the glory of God."(1 Cor 10:31-11:1)

So this must mean taking on something that more clearly glorifies God and trying to stop doing something that clearly does not glorify God. The latter is the more difficult of course, especially as many things could glorify God if we only approached them differently. I am

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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.

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going to give some examples of this in the Homily. As for the Gospel on the leper who is healed, (Mark 1:40-45) perhaps we should remember what an extraordinary thing Jesus did when he actually touched the leper. This is an indication of what God is like, actually bothering to reach out into our so very imperfect world with his love and compassion. Jesus is not just a good and holy man, but God coming close to us, becoming one of us. It reminds us that we too might reach out to someone whom others reject or look down on.

Online Lectio Divina

Don't forget to sign up for the Online Lectio Divina. If you have already done so but have not received anything, then we must have recorded your email address wrongly, so send your correct email to the email address below.

This is what the Online Lectio Divina is:

You are sent the Readings on Sunday afternoon for the next Sunday. You have three days to find time to read them through prayerfully and then find a phrase or just a word that you like, that speaks to you. You do not have to be clever.

If you miss a week because you are too busy it doesn't matter.

If you want to add a comment, another phrase, or indeed a question, you can, but you don't have to.

You email your response to Father Martin by Tuesday midnight and he collates them and sends them back for everyone to see on Wednesday afternoon. Your email address is not shared with others and you are identified only by your Christian name.

Email Address is: frmartinflatman@gmail.com

Second Collection: There will be a second collection this Sunday for LIFE.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

There will be a meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th March in St Teresa's Church.

The agenda will be circulated as soon as possible. Please make every effort to attend.

The meeting is open to all parishioners.

ACN UPDATE: As a part of our ongoing support of our 'twin' the Seminary of St Therese in Haiti, I've just sent off cheques totaling £300. The Seminary has almost no other income other than what it receives from ACN, so our contributions are crucial to the seminary's survival... many grateful thanks.

SAVE THE DATE: ACN is organizing a **family/children's pilgrimage** for St Teresa's and Holy Trinity to Stonor on **Sat 14 September**. St Teresa's is sponsoring this event to help keep the costs as low as possible. More information and how to book will be available shortly.

Thoughts, prayers and thanks, Suze

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 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.

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