



ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

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

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY
Sunday Readings: Year C

CANDLEMAS

Please pray for the sick and the housebound of our parishes: Paula B, Lynette M, Carol W, Bridget K, Audrey N, Richard O, Mary W, Betty, Ania, Catherine, Joanna

NEXT WEEK in

St Teresa's:

Monday 3 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

Open for private prayer

Tuesday 4 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

Open for private prayer

Wednesday 5 Feb

St Agatha, martyr

Mass at 9.15

Followed by benediction

and exposition

Thursday 6 Feb

St Paul Miki and

companions

Open for private prayer

Friday 7 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

Mass at 9.15

Saturday 8 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

Open for private prayer

Sunday 9 Feb

5th Sunday

Parish 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 at 9.15am, with

Rosary group at 9.15am on

Friday, vigil mass at 6pm

Sat and Sunday mass at

11am.

Dear Parishioners

The 2nd February is "The Presentation of the Lord", or to give it an older title "The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary". It is known popularly as "Candlemass" as the theme of Light is central and candles are blessed and sprinkled at the beginning of Mass. It falls on a Sunday every 6/7 years so 2025 is a special occasion, a good start to this Jubilee Year!

February 2nd is halfway between the Winter solstice and the Spring equinox and is held to be the "turning point" of Winter gloom. Certainly this January has been hard work with driving rain alternated by freezing cold and lots of grey skies. In Ireland it is "St Bridget's day", traditionally the herald of Spring and of course in the States it is "Groundhog Day". What does it mean? Quite simply, Candlemass marks 40 days since the Nativity and is another Theophany, a manifestation of the Divine hidden under Jesus' humanity. Mary and Joseph are doing their Jewish duty presenting the firstborn in the Temple as all were required to do under the Mosäic Law, and redeeming him with the sacrifice of turtle doves or pigeons, permissible for those unable to afford a lamb. Scooping up the baby, Simeon proclaims the "Nunc Dimittis"...

"Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace..." (sorry but I do prefer the older translation).

What the parents thought of all this is not recorded, but the chilling words that follow must have struck some fear into Mary's heart...

"And a sword shall pierce your heart..."

What sword and why? Mary would discover in time the pain of watching her son betrayed, humiliated, scourged and then crucified..but the Light did come back, from an empty tomb, abandoned grave clothes, a Risen Lord.

Our lives can be dark and painful, and confusing. With Mary we need to hang on to the promise that Jesus made to be with us, even to the end of time, even when we cannot understand or see what is happening. At times this is difficult, humanly impossible, but He will give us the strength if we turn to Him. May Mary, Mother of God, help us with her prayers.

Next week: Masses/Rosary as usual.

Thursday is the school Candlemass.

At St Teresas we are welcoming James Whybrow, one of our own Holy Trinity school teachers and a senior Cricket coach at Charlbury Cricket club, into full membership of the Church with his Reception and Confirmation. We wish him and his wife Harriet all the very best!

Today we have a Second Collection for Life the charity that works for the unborn and helps pregnant mothers.

God bless everyone as we head into Spring...

Fr Clive

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



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St Teresa's News

Flowers and Cleaning rota: We are seeking more volunteers to help with cleaning the church and doing the flowers that make St Teresa's look so beautiful and welcoming. If you can help, please speak to Fr Clive.

Date for the diary: Parish revels is on the 1st March 2024 at the Memorial Hall. Tickets are now available from Peter Clifton.

Lifts to Mass: If you have difficulty getting to Mass and would like a lift, or if you know of anyone else who does, please contact Sharnalee at 01608 679731.



Other News

Caritas Social Action Network is launching **Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction**, an online course for staff and volunteers in parishes. The programme will be spread over **five one-hour Zoom sessions on each Tuesday in March and on 01 April 2025**.

The course is aimed at parishioners who are not so familiar with Catholic Social Teaching, or who would welcome a refresh. We will also be hearing from CSAN members who work on the front line of poverty and exclusion, bringing our theoretical discussions to life.

The course fee is £95 for all five sessions, which includes a copy of Raymond Friel's book, *Catholic Social Teaching: An Introduction for Schools, Parishes, and Charities*.

Details from the course administrator, Bernadette, at bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk.

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