



# ST TERESA'S CHARLBURY

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

**SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY**  
Sunday Readings: Year C

**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

*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*

Dear Parishioners

This last week, I have been lucky enough to spend time in Andalusia, that lovely part of Southern Spain that was the centre of a brilliant civilisation in the Middle Ages, when Europe was struggling to crawl out of the Dark Ages. Islamic, Christian and Jewish cultures intertwined like the flowers so abundant in that beautiful part of the Iberian Peninsula, and many great poets, philosophers and scientists flourished in the gardens and courtyards of the Moorish rulers. So much of Greek culture which had been lost to the West, was preserved, debated and transmitted to the emerging schools of Oxford, Paris, Padua and so many other centres of learning.

Eventually, the Arabs and Berber peoples were either driven out or amalgamated with the native population and the Catholic Monarchs took the last Moor kingdom of Granada in 1492. They laid the foundations for the dynamic and world-conquering Spanish Empire that spread across the world, from Argentina to China.

In all this, there were good and bad actions, high and low motives, acts of great charity and also evil. Time and again, killing resulted in more bloodshed, recrimination and retaliation. Are things any different in our world now? Palestinians and Israelis kill each other, fuelled by hatred and revenge. Russia and Ukraine stare at each other in mutual animosity, and no apparent peace on the horizon, ethnic tensions in Africa explode with displacement and horror the outcome. Can anything stop the bloody cycle?

Jesus tells us: " Love your enemies...".

This seems humanly impossible, almost an affront to natural feelings. Yet there are individuals who have shown that by the act of forgiveness, reconciliation can be found...not easy, not without great pain sometimes, but vital if the trauma is to be healed in some way. Desmond Tutu, the Anglican archbishop of Cape Town chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that did so much to prevent what many had predicted would be mass killings and reprisals after the end of Apartheid in South Africa, and this is his verdict:

" Forgiveness is the only way to heal ourselves and to be free from the past. Without forgiveness we remain tethered to the person who harmed us...When we forgive we take back control of our own fate and our feelings. We become our own liberator."

No one can tell you to forgive. We all have to find it...and on the Cross we see the ultimate forgiveness, of God for us and of Christ for those who were His enemies.

" Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Is there someone who has hurt us deeply but whom we know in our hearts that we must forgive, to find real peace within ourselves? Ask the Lord Jesus to give you the strength and grace you need, to free yourself.

Masses/Rosary next week as usual

First Communion class starts up again. Dates for the First Communion Mass will be published soon and there will probably be one at St Teresas and one at Holy Trinity, both in May, with a second Holy Trinity Mass in June for the children at our primary school. Very exciting!

Today( Sunday 23rd) we have a First Communion and Confirmation of Larry and Eileen at Holy Trinity. A great day for them and their family.

Saturday 1st March: St Teresa's Revels Memorial Hall, Charlbury.

## NEXT WEEK in St Teresa's:

Monday 24 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

*Open for private prayer*

Tuesday 25 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

*Open for private prayer*

**Wednesday 26 Feb**

**Weekday in ordinary time**

**Mass at 9.15**

**Followed by Exposition and Benediction**

Thursday 27 Feb

Weekday in ordinary time

*Open for private prayer*

**Friday 28 Feb**

**Weekday in ordinary time**

**Mass at 9.15am**

Saturday 1 March

St David

*Open for private prayer*

**Sunday 2 March**

**7<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday and Thursday 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](mailto:fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk)

07484 158642

Parish Website: [www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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The Film Club opening night was a great success with all seats taken. A big thank you to Johnny Hulme, Declan Soper and Ben Dytor for organising it. The next date will be published soon.

Look ahead...Wednesday 5th March: Ash Wednesday.

God bless everyone

Fr Clive

**Today's Mass:** *The children of the parish are very busy at the moment preparing for their contribution to the Revels and for some of them, for first communion, so the lighter music Mass, scheduled for today, has been postponed until after Easter.*

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:** 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.

Also we are looking for a volunteer to take over putting the weekly newsletter together. This is a great job for someone who would like to be more involved in parish life.

## ST TERESA'S PARISH REVELS AND TEA PARTY 1 March 2025

A celebration of the talent of the parishioners – a feast of music, stories, and other entertainment from your fellow parishioners at the Memorial Hall from 2-4.30 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Tickets are £5 and available from Peter Clifton.

As a part of the Parish Revels on 1 March we also also having a tea party. If you could donate a cake, some fancy biscuits, cookies or sandwiches (none of which need be home-made) that would be very generous. I'm also looking for teapots and coffee pots, plus volunteers to set up, serve and clear away are also needed. If you can help with any of this, please contact Suze

**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

**ACN's JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE: York and the North: Heartland of faith and hope 21-26 July 2025**  
York and Yorkshire are at the heart of English Christianity and Catholicism, and suffered greatly during the Reformation. This pilgrimage will encourage us to reflect on why over 50 Yorkshire men and women were prepared for die for our faith, and how their great sacrifices paved the way for the survival of faith today. Based in York we will visit the great cathedral of Ripon and the Minster at Beverly, and the site of Cistercian monastery at Fountains. For further information or secure your place, please email [bridget.teasdale@acnuk.org](mailto:bridget.teasdale@acnuk.org)

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