

## Mass at Tetbury & Cirencester Week commencing Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011

Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec ember 2011	St Peter's, Cirencester	6.00pm
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012</b>	<b>St Michaels Tetbury</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
	St Peter's, Cirencester	11.00am
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2012	St Peter's, Cirencester	10.00am
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>	<b>St Michaels Tetbury</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>	<b>St Michaels Tetbury</b>	<b>14.30pm</b>

### Ministerial Lists

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012

Minister of Holy Communion: Volunteer

Lectors: Volunteers

Flowers: Carol Hancock and Pam Penn-Taplin

Church Cleaning: Week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012

Anne Walsh and Sue Rooker

#### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Minister of Holy Communion: Les Holland

Lectors: Graham Wright and Mary Dignan

Flowers: Carol Hancock and Pam Penn-Taplin

Church Cleaning: Week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Hancock Family

### Parish Office

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Davies MA

In case of emergency Father Michael can be contacted on: 01285 652087

If Father Michael is unavailable, Elaine can be contacted on 01666 824439

**St Michaels Office: 31 Silver Street, Tetbury, GL8 8DH Tel: 01666 502367**

**Parish Administrator:** Elaine Wright

Email: [elaine.wright@stmichaelstetbury.org.uk](mailto:elaine.wright@stmichaelstetbury.org.uk)

Diocesan website: [www.CliftonDiocese.com](http://www.CliftonDiocese.com)

St Michael's website: [www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelstetbury.org.uk)

### Parish Office Hours this week:

Tuesday	13.00 - 16.00
Wednesday (Fr Michael)	10.30 -12.00
Thursday and Friday	10.00 -15.00

### Church Open for Quiet Prayer and Reflection:

Monday	11.00 - 13.00
Tuesday	13.00 - 14.00
Wednesday	11.00 - 13.00
Thursday and Friday	10.00 - 15.00

## Saint Michaels Catholic Church Tetbury

1<sup>st</sup> January 2012

The Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God

Last weekend we celebrated the Birth of Jesus; we sang carols, we lit the white candle of the advent wreath signifying Jesus birth, prayed at the crib which creates the scene of Jesus birth over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

Today, New Year's Day, the octave day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular salvific event: for Our Lady it was the foretaste and cause of her extraordinary glory; for us it is a source of grace and salvation because "through her we have received the Author of life".

The solemnity of the 1 January, an eminently Marian feast, presents an excellent opportunity for liturgical piety to encounter popular piety: the first celebrates this event in a manner proper to it; the second, when duly catechised, lends joy and happiness to the various expressions of praise offered to Our Lady on the birth of her divine Son, to deepen our understanding of many prayers, beginning with that which says: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, sinners".

In the West, 1 January is an inaugural day marking the beginning of the civil year. The faithful are also involved in the celebrations for the beginning of the New Year and exchange "new year" greetings. However, they should try to lend a Christian understanding to this custom making of these greetings an expression of popular piety. The faithful, naturally, realize that the "new year" is placed under the patronage of the Lord, and in exchanging New Year greetings they implicitly and explicitly place the New Year under the Lord's dominion, since to him belongs all time.

A connection between this consciousness and the popular custom of singing the *Veni Creator Spiritus* can easily be made so that on 1 January the faithful can pray that the Spirit may direct their thoughts and actions, and those of the community during the course of the year.

New Year greetings also include an expression of hope for a peaceful New Year. This has profound biblical, Christological and incarnational origins. The "quality of peace" has always been invoked throughout history by all men, and especially during violent and destructive times of war.

The Holy See shares the profound aspirations of man for peace. Since 1967, 1 January has been designated "world day for peace".

Popular piety has not been oblivious to this initiative of the Holy See. In the light of the new born Prince of Peace, it reserves this day for intense prayer for peace, education towards peace and those value inextricably linked with it, such as liberty, fraternal solidarity, the dignity of the human person, respect for nature, the right to work, the sacredness of human life, and the denunciation of injustices which trouble the conscience of man and threaten peace.

**Welcome to St Michaels Church;** if you are a visitor, we hope you enjoy your stay in Tetbury. If you are new to the parish, please complete a parish registration form and give to Elaine or post through the letter box of the Parish Office, thank you.

**Thank you:** We would like to thank all those who have helped to make our Christmas Masses special and successful. Thank you too for those who have prepared the Church with flowers, decorations, prepared the crib and donated and decorated our tree; it all looks lovely.

**Wilf Smith RIP:** Please pray for the repose soul of Wilf Smith who passed away on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2011; reunited with his wife Joyce. We also remember and send condolences to his children Bridget and Hilary. Wilf's funeral is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012 here at St Michaels Church @ 2.30pm; followed by Cremation at Westerleigh Crematorium @ 4.00pm.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Fr Michael will be available before Mass on Sunday and Wednesday mornings if you wish to go to confession.

**New Missals and Prayer Books:** The New Sunday Missals have arrived and will be available for collection at today's Mass. We have some extra copies; if you would like to purchase one costing £13.50; please see me after Mass, thank you.

**Parish Social Life:** Although attending Mass is an important part of Parish Life, it is also important for us to meet socially. Social activities have always been an important part of this Parish. Next year we want to introduce a few more parish activities than we have had over the past few years; if you have any ideas on what you would like us as a parish can do please let Elaine know as soon as possible, so we can prepare a programme for an active 2012 in St Michaels Parish.

**Diocesan Directories and Liturgical Diaries for 2012:** Both are on sale in the porch; Directories are £5.00 and the Diaries are £5.99. If you wish to buy one please give the money to Elaine or Tony; thank you.

**Celebrating Marriage:** Bishop Declan invites the people of our Diocese to join him at Mass on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 in Clifton Cathedral @ 12.00pm as part of National Marriage Week (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February 2012). It would be lovely if some married couples represented our parish at this celebration. If any couples are celebrating their silver (25), pearl (30), ruby (40) golden (50), emerald (55), or diamond (60) or beyond, please would you let me know as soon as possible, thank you. There is a poster on the Church Porch.

**TACT:** The Tetbury Area Churches Together (TACT) AGM is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 commencing with an ecumenical service at 6.00pm followed by refreshments and the AGM at 7.00pm; everyone is welcome.

**Alpha Course:** Explore the meaning of life. The Alpha Course is a 10 week introduction to the Christian faith and an exploration of what life is all about. Open to all wonderers, explorers and seekers, Alpha will help you deepen your spirituality, discover a new way of living and encounter God in amazing ways. The Alpha Supper is a free meal to welcome people to the course. It will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30pm in St Marys Road Day Centre. For further information or to book your place, please telephone: 01666 500169.

**Prayers Requested:** In your Prayers please remember those parishioners and members of our families who are ill, housebound, or recovering from surgery, especially, HRH Prince Philip, Fr Sean Fleury, Liz Langley, Pam Penn-Taplin, Monica Whaley, Catherine Elgar, Theresa Triggs, Patrick Dignan, Anne Dewey, Santina Long, Sue Johnson, Shelia Moore and those injured in conflict. Please also remember in your prayers our clergy who are sick or recovering from illness.

**May they rest in Peace;** please pray for Wilf Smith and all those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries fall at this time especially Philip Lowsley-Williams and Peter Meredith. May they all rest in peace in God's heavenly Kingdom; Amen.

**Second Collection Next Sunday:** There will be a second collection next Sunday for the White Flower Appeal 2012 for The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

*If you would like anything inserted in the next bulletin please let me know by Thursday morning; thank you, Elaine.*



*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.*

*We wish you and your families God's Blessing for a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.*