

Bishops encourage Catholics to place Sunday Mass at the heart of their post-pandemic lives: The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a reflection on post-pandemic recovery and the challenges faced by the Church in encouraging people back to the Church and her Sacraments. The bishops met for their Spring plenary meeting from 19 – 22 April 2021. You can view a copy of the reflection on the home page of the parish website or by clicking [here](#).

COVID-19 Safety: A strict cleaning regime will continue to take place, with both churches being fogged after each Mass ensuring that the highest standard of cleanliness is achieved. Please remember to sanitise your hands on entering and exiting the church and to wear a face covering unless exempt.

☪ In our Prayers this Week...

Our Sick and Housebound:

In view of legislation concerning confidentiality, if you would like your own or a member of your family's name included in the prayers for the sick, please confirm with Fr. James in writing or speak to him.

Valerie Hutson, Tony Hutson, Velma Patricia Giblett, Brazil Gomes, Mary (Sister Miriam) O'Donovan (Fr Pat O'Donovan's sister, Gulzar Wazir, Una Fitzgerald, Harry Orrow..

Anniversaries: We remember especially all those whose anniversaries occur during **November** Gladys Bullimore, Nicola Mercato, Gill Frayling, Nicola Mitchell, Margaret Hicks, Ben Conners, Marion Tomkins '20, William Fitzgerald '20,

If you would like a member of your family or friend added to these lists, please let Father James know.



Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord: Please remember in your prayers Martin O'Neill and Maurice Lewis who died recently. Martin's Requiem Mass will take place at St Vincent's on Thursday 25th November at 11am. Maurice's funeral service will take place at Westerleigh, Woodland Chapel on Thursday 30th November at 11:30am. May the light of Christ shine on them for all eternity and may the Lord comfort all who mourn.

Pope Francis Thought: Let us bring an outlook of to the poor, without judging them. For there, with who awaits us



hope to our world. Let us bring it with tenderness them, is Jesus; because there, in them, is Jesus,

Attending Mass: While appreciating that any number of reasons can cause someone to be late, we do ask all attending weekend and weekday Mass to make every effort to be on time. Arriving unnecessarily late for Mass is not only a distraction for the priest and congregation, but it dishonours the attention and participation that is due to the celebration of Mass.

Advent Bible Study: Please come and join the Parish Bible study group each week in Advent as we read, reflect on, and discuss each Sunday's readings in the run-up to Christmas. We will be returning to face-to-face meetings throughout Advent, meeting each Thursday from the 25th of November at 8pm in the sacristy at St Teresa's church building (use the side door). All are welcome and you can participate as much or as little as you want in the discussions, but we are a friendly group! For more details email Chaz Hickman (chaz@hickmanz.co.uk), or just turn up and enjoy the opportunity to share our understanding of the Bible and make a little more of this Advent.



St Vincent's Website: I have had a few people mention to me that they are unable to find a website for St Vincent's. St Vincent's and St Teresa's share the same website and both can be accessed from the following addresses www.stteresasfilton.org.uk and www.stvincentssouthmead.org.uk

Weekend Mass Times: As you are aware with the releasing of lockdown and the re-opening of both churches the weekend Mass times were changed for both parishes. These will remain the same and not change back to pre-pandemic Mass times. The reason for this is that the current Mass times allow for me and other priests help to supply for other churches in the Deanery when the need arises.



Singing is back at St Teresa's: I am very pleased to inform you that from the First Sunday in Advent we will be reintroducing singing at St Teresa's during the 10:30am Sunday Mass. The format will be different from before with only 2 hymns being sung one at the beginning and one at the end. There will be no printed sheets, but the hymn numbers will be published in the newsletter and up on the board. Hymn books will be available to collect from the back of church.

These are small steps, but I hope you agree with me on ones we have to take to ensure a safe return to this part of the liturgy. I would like to thank Fiona and Tom Douglas for providing the music and for Lisa who will play the hymns during Mass. I appreciate singing whilst wearing a face covering is restrictive, but I do encourage you to join in and continue to wear a face covering unless exempt.

St Vincent's Heating: Unfortunately, has failed and the church is very cold. An engineer has been called and will visit the site on Tuesday. In the meantime, may I suggest you wrap up warm when attending Mass at St Vincent's.



St Teresa's Church Lighting: I am pleased to share with you the exciting news that the Sanctuary lighting and the side chapels lighting will be upgraded in January/February. The work will take 3 days to complete and will greatly improve the lighting of the dome, sanctuary and sanctuary. The cost is approximately £5K any donations towards the cost of this upgrade would be most appreciated please place in the baskets at the back of church in an envelope marked Church Lights or post through the presbytery door.



First Holy Communion Autumn 2021: Please continue to pray for our 39 First Holy Communion Children as they prepare to meet Jesus for the first time. We give thanks for the Catechists supporting them and pray the Lord will bless and support them and all on this next step of their spiritual journey.

IMPORTANT Message for Parents of First Holy Communicants:

Unfortunately, due to the rising numbers of infection rates of Coronavirus in the area I have decided to restrict the numbers of guests attending the First Holy Communion Masses on Saturday 11th of December to 6 per child. This does not include the First Holy Communicant. Your support and understanding of this decision is much appreciated.

Returning to a Sunday Obligation: Since we entered Lockdown in the Lent of 2020, the Bishops released us from the Sunday Obligation. Now we venture out of lockdown and into some sort of freedom, the Bishops call us to have our eyes focused on returning to the routine of coming to church. Our coming together as Catholics is a distinctive characteristic and the autumn gives us opportunity to reflect upon the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of Community as something that gives us identity. We come together as the Body of Christ to celebrate and participate in Mass and to remember to 'do these things in memory of Jesus.' We will find a way of journeying together across the autumn months to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist and our understanding of the challenge to be 'communion', too



We remember all those from both parishes who have died since we celebrated the Feast of All Souls last year: *Eusebio Alulod Dorothy Walsh, Marion Tomkins, William Fitzgerald, Paul Mayes, Joseph Byrne, Angela Curnock, James Rowe, Margaret Sargent, Jamie Aldridge, Caterina Albanese, Eva Hermanova, Mieczyslaw and Antonietta Milewicz, Edward Bowden, Fiorella Polacco, John Coughlan, John Minihane, Patricia Leahy, Alan Puddy, Susan Hennessy, Peggy Mason, Baby Kathleen Gilheaney, Filippo Merlino, Baby Alexia Kasadha, Nicholas Hand* and all those names placed in the basket at the front of the altar. May they rest in peace and the light of Christ shine on them for all eternity.



Dona Contactless Donation Plates: During August I introduced Contactless Donation Plates to both parishes. This is a quick and easy way of donating to your parish as you enter or leave the church. Please do consider this way of supporting your parish and if you are a UK taxpayer you can easily gift aid your donation allowing the parish to claim back the tax on your donation 25p per £1 donated. The first time you gift aid your donation it does ask for a few more details but the system will remember you for the next time. There is also a link on the home page of the parish website to donate if you prefer.

Time to Start School? If you have a child born between **1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school in the Diocese. You must complete an application form (either online or on paper) that is available from the school admissions team of either South Gloucestershire or Bristol Council depending on where you live, for admission during the **2022-23** school year. If your child has been baptised, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to your preferred school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15 January 2022**.



Into the Archives: Following on from Bishop Declan's request for parishes to think about their history, please click [here](#) to view a resource you may find helpful.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Christmas Eve Friday 24 th	St Vincent's	6:30pm	Weekday of Advent II	Harry Bullimore (Anniversary)	
	St Teresa's	9:30pm			
Christmas Day Saturday 25 th	St Vincent's	9:00am	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	Kevin Patrick Power	
	St Teresa's	10:30am			
Boxing Day Sunday 26 th	St Teresa's	9:15am	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	George and Mary Kennedy (RIP)	
	St Teresa's	10:30am			
Tuesday	28th	St Teresa's	10:00am	Feast of the Holy Innocents	Derek Walter (Anniversary)

Wednesday	29 th	St Vincent's	9:15am	Feast of Saint Thomas Beckett	
Thursday	30 th	St Teresa's	10:00am	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas	Doris Gittoes (RIP)
Friday	31 st	St Vincent's	9:15am	Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas	Private Intention
Saturday 1 st January 2022		St Teresa's	12 noon	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	Alice Sneddon (Anniversary)
		St Vincent's	5:15pm		Private Intention (JF)



Synod Prayer

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts.
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.
Amen*

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