

**The Churches of Our Lady of Victories Cinderford,
St Margaret Mary's Coleford,
St Joseph's Lydney & Sacred Heart Sedbury.**
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Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Sunday 7th January 2018 (Year B-II)

This Sunday

Coleford - Sat 6pm
Cinderford - 9am
Sedbury - 11am

Next Sunday

Coleford - Sat 6pm
Cinderford - 9am
Lydney - 11am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday - 9am Coleford
Wednesday - 9am Cinderford
Thursday - No Mass
Friday - 9am Sedbury

The 2nd Collection this weekend will be for the **White Flower Appeal**. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. There will be cards left at the back of Church for you to sign and will be sent to your MP on your behalf by SPUC. MP is Mark Harper, Constituency is Forest of Dean.

St Margaret Mary will be having tea/coffee after Mass in the Church Hall on Saturday 6th January. Everyone welcome.

OLV Cleaning Rota: 12th January - B. Davis

Cinderford - United Service at St. Stephens, Bell Vue Road, Sunday 21st January 10.30am. All welcome.

Christian Unity The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is being celebrated in Lydney from Monday the 22nd of January to Saturday the 27th. Each day of the week there are prayers or services in the different churches in Lydney. The times are on a poster at the back of St Josephs. St Josephs are hosts on Thursday the 25th at 9.30am so there is no mass that morning. Please come along to our service and if possible try to attend one of the other services during the week. If you wish to know more speak to Deacon Paul or Fiona Mills.

OLOV. XMAS RAFFLE: Many thanks to all those who took part in our Xmas Raffle and donated Prizes and bought tickets. We raised £134.00 for the Church Repairs. Many thanks also to Jenny and Pat for their great work in selling the tickets. God bless you all.

A Future full of Hope was launched 28th October 2017. The resources can be found here
<https://www.cliftondiocese.com/diocese/future-full-hope/>

The Celebration of Marriage will take place at **Clifton Cathedral 3rd February 12 noon**. If any couples within our Parish who will be celebrating significant anniversaries this year - silver (25), pearl (30), ruby (40), sapphire (45), golden (50), emerald (55), or diamond (60) or beyond, please let Michelle know, who will forward your details to the Diocese.

Visiting Group - 'As part of our response to the Bishop's call for developing the mission of our Parish we already see parishioners taking on roles to support our work. There are new initiatives such as the Welcoming Group now working alongside traditional ministries such as music, readers, cleaning etc. We are looking to develop more roles within the Parish body and our next change is in the way we organise for Holy Communion to be taken to the housebound. We have a good number of Eucharistic Ministers supporting Fr Barnabas but the role of facilitating their work is being taken on by Steve Dunford from Lydney. He has all the details of who the Eucharistic Ministers are and their geographic location and will in future be supporting the Mass centres in the taking of Holy Communion out into our community.

We are also looking to call upon those who kindly volunteered via last year's Parish survey to set up a "Visiting Group" to befriend and offer practical help to those who are housebound and have requested support. There will be a meeting in the Parish Hall, **Coleford on the 6th Feb at 7:30pm** for all those interested in being part of this ministry. If you have already volunteered you will receive an invitation to attend but if it is something you feel you would like to be part of please come along and make yourself known, you will be warmly welcomed.

The Epiphany of the Lord - The western Church began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is associated with the visit of Magi (wise men or kings) to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the wonder of the incarnation of Jesus. The Magi (traditionally named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) found Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem. In the gospel according to Matthew, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matt 2:11). These gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing, frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek verb meaning "to reveal", and the feast is celebrated on 6th January (twelve days after Christmas), although sometimes transferred to the Sunday between 2 January and 8th January, inclusive.



Responsorial Psalm: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.