

**Parishes of Newent and the Forest**  
**Parish Priest Barnabas Page 01594 833173**  
**barnabas.page@cliftondiocese.com**

**First Sunday of Lent (Year B)**  
**Sunday 21st February**



**Sunday Mass available from 3pm )**  
**Wednesday Mass available from 9am )**  
**Friday talk available from 9am )**

<https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>

**Opening doors**

Lent for me, like Advent, is about opening doors. Seeking to make that connection between God and my life. Ash Wednesday always seems to come around too quick but once I have started I mostly enjoy it. Our difficulty this year is that it comes on top of lockdown. If we're struggling already, Lent can seem like an extra burden. And yet hopefully it is our faith that is helping us to get through this.

One Lent I was lucky enough to go on Retreat to Buckfast Abbey in Devon. Walking the lanes as Spring was beginning was a tonic in itself. But one evening another priest and I went for a walk not realising that they locked the door after night prayer. On our return we were locked out! One of the monks had his room above the door and his light was on. To our embarrassment we had to shy stones against his window to get him to let us in. We didn't make the same mistake again.

How is your prayer going? Some have talked about their prayer deepening through the pandemic, others have said they are finding it more difficult. Perhaps we feel as though the door is locked and we are shying stones at the window to be let in. Remember in the Gospels that it is the cry of the heart that is often answered. The father of the sick child who says to Jesus "I have faith, help the little faith I have!" The blind beggar who shouts out "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Whether we find prayer difficult or not the genuine prayer is always the prayer of the heart.

Bless you all  
Barnabas

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – Here is a link to the Sunday Gospels and reflection aimed at children [Children's Liturgy Playlist](#) although, it can be enjoyed by all the family. Each new Sunday Gospel is posted on Saturday afternoons. This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent – year B. This week we are looking at number 14 in the series.

**LENT REFLECTIONS** – Clifton Diocese has prepared a series of weekly online Lent reflections entitled 'Dare to Dream'. The second reflection is available on the Clifton website from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February <https://cliftondiocese.com>.

As we are unable to meet physically this year, our parish is offering the opportunity to join either a weekly Zoom meeting or an emailing discussion group to share our thoughts and ideas on these reflections with others from our parish. To join one of these groups please contact:

for Mondays 2pm Zoom group - Fiona on 01594 516175 or [fionaammills@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fionaammills@hotmail.co.uk) (Next group Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February)

for Saturdays 10.30am Zoom group - Mary on 01531 822156 or [francismef@gmail.com](mailto:francismef@gmail.com) (Beginning Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February)

for the emailing group contact Chris at [christine.roy@virgin.net](mailto:christine.roy@virgin.net)

Everybody is welcome, you can join at any time during Lent, as and when you can, but please register your interest to receive the joining link.

### **CAFOD Lent Fast Day is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

'Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty'

*Isaiah 55:1*

The coronavirus pandemic has shown how important it is to have access to clean, safe water. During these challenging times, your donation to CAFOD's Lent Appeal is needed more than ever.

For information and to donate online please go to

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>

Envelopes for donations will be available in all Churches from this Sunday. Please act to end water poverty this Lent.



A bench has been installed  
**in memory of Sister Celestine**

Former Headteacher  
of St Antony's School,  
on Belle Vue Road, Cinderford,  
in front of the council offices.

**Saint Rose's School** in Stroud is seeking to raise £1.5 million to build Quentin House, a specially-adapted residential home-from-home for some of its children. Saint Rose's is unique within our diocese for the help it gives children and young people with complex physical and other needs to fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions. Quentin House, named after Sister Quentin, the former long-serving, dedicated and inspirational headteacher, will help Saint Rose's continue its mission. For more information about this project and how to donate or fundraise please visit <https://stroses.org.uk/quentin-house/> or contact the appeals office at the school (01453 763793 ext 225 or [gail.mattocks@stroses.org.uk](mailto:gail.mattocks@stroses.org.uk)).

#### **Bad Weather or COVID Alerts**

If there is a likelihood of closing our churches due to bad weather or because of a COVID-19 incident, the information will be posted on the Church Website <http://www.forestrc.co.uk>, on the Church FaceBook Page <https://www.facebook.com/forestrcchurches> and also by email to all those that have opted to receive the Newsletter by email. So please check the Church Website or FaceBook Page before travelling to church for Mass, Service or Private Prayer particularly if the weather is bad. We don't want you to arrive at a closed church!

#### **Masses**

Please book a place by phoning the following contacts for each Church, thank you.

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	9am Cinderford	To book phone Fiona 01594 516175
	11am Newent	To book phone Mary 01531 822156
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	10am Coleford	To book phone Beverley 01594 861345
<b>Private prayer in the Church after Mass until 12 noon</b>		
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	12 noon Newent	To book phone Mary 01531 822156
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	10am Lydney	To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054