

**Parishes of the Forest and Newent
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**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
17th January 2021**

**Sunday Mass available from 3pm)
Wednesday Mass available from 9am) <https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>
Friday talk available from 9am)**

Honest to God

This is being written on Monday for the weekend so things may change. I'm half expecting public Masses to be stopped because of the growth of the virus. This would be a shame but understandable. We will see!

Last Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, brought to a close the Christmas season. Now we are in 'Ordinary Time', which means outside of the Liturgical Seasons; Christmas, Lent, Easter and Advent. The colour at Mass, both the Priests vestments and the veil over the tabernacle behind the Altar, goes back to green. We are in Cycle B for Sunday Readings and Cycle 1 for Weekday Readings. This year the Gospels are mostly taken from Mark.

It is January, we are post Christmas, it is cold and we are about to reach a peak again with the pandemic. It is perfectly understandable if you are feeling down, so are many others around you. Be gentle with yourself. God understands. Be real about how you are feeling. However, put how you are feeling now within the wider context of our Faith. This Sunday we hear the call of the first Disciples. You are called by God, you are chosen by Him. You are going to be able to look back on this episode and you will thank God for bringing you through.

For the time being we will stop the Saturday Vigil Mass. This is a combination of COVID, the low numbers who are attending and consideration for the Stewards. I would like to thank our Stewards and Cleaners who are helping to keep us safe at this time.

Bless you all
Barnabas

The Forest Food Bank is in need of the following items: tea, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, sponge puddings, rice pudding, instant noodle/pasta/rice snacks and canned potatoes.

If you are able to donate any of these items safely and during your normal shopping trip, these items may be dropped off at the following points: Co-op in Coleford/Cinderford/Lydney, Tesco in Lydney, Vale Butchers in Drybrook, Eskimarket in Coalway, Kevin's Butchers in Mitcheldean, St James Church Hall in Bream, The Post Office in Ruardean, Town Council Offices in Coleford. Your help in supporting the Food Bank is very much appreciated, thank you.

White Flower Appeal 2021

A collection for 'The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children' (SPUC) will be held in all Churches for the week beginning Sunday 17th January.

SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortion, which gives women abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision.

Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and help protect mothers from increased risk of coercion and serious health risks.

Donations can be made: in Church for the week beginning Sunday 17th January or online at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Donate>

Or if you would prefer to give by cheque, please send your donation to FREEPOST SPUC, Unit B, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London, SE11 4AB. Cheques should be made payable to "SPUC".

The Catholic Deaf Association in the Clifton Diocese would like to make you aware of their presence as a Ministry. They want to reach out to the many deaf among us to find out how they can best serve you. Please contact Fr Richard McKay on richard.mckay@cliftondiocese.com for information on this Ministry.

There is a **signed Mass for the Deaf** (signing by Sherrie Eugene-Hart) which is live-streamed from St Nicholas of Tolentino in Bristol on the first Sunday of the Month, to access go to:

<https://vimeo.com/event/282657>

Masses

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

Sunday 17th January 9am Cinderford *To book phone Fiona 01594 516175*

 11am Newent *To book phone Mary 01531 822156*

Tuesday 19th January 10am Coleford *To book phone Beverley 01594 861345*

Private prayer in the Church after Mass until 12 noon.

Wednesday 20th January 12 noon Newent *To book phone Mary 01531 822156*

Thursday 21st January 10am Lydney *To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054*

Unfortunately Saturday Masses at Lydney and Coleford have been suspended due to the current situation.