

Parishes of Newent and the Forest
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Second Sunday of Lent (Year B)
Sunday 28th February



Sunday Mass available from 3pm)

Wednesday Mass available from 9am)

Friday talk available from 9am)

<https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>

Green Shoots

At last we've seen some warmer weather. I've spotted my first lamb and you know spring is on its way when the birds are still singing after dark. There are also some green shoots within the Parish. I have been encouraged how many people are in contact with each other especially when reaching out to those who are in isolation. And although it only involves a few of you, I am also encouraged by the Zoom Groups taking place. Both the Lectio Divina on a Friday looking at the following Sunday's Gospel and the Lenten Groups following the Diocesan Course. Getting Catholics to reflect on Gospel passages and to share their thoughts is surely a way of helping one another to grow in our faith.

I've had my first jab as many of you have and was impressed by how organised the whole thing was. Please God we are making progress. Some people have expressed hesitation about the vaccine and these views also need to be respected. Some of my hesitation is worry about the poorer countries in our world. How will they manage? Family Fast Day this Friday is a chance for us to be mindful of our brothers and sisters in other parts of our world. Here at home the virus has unfortunately highlighted the inequalities in our society. Jesus said 'the poor will be with us always' but he also said 'Blessed are the poor in Spirit'. Hopefully this both includes those who are actually poor plus those who, recognising they are poor in Spirit, are able to reach out in empathy to their brothers and sisters.

This week in the Diocesan Lent Course our own Fr. Tom Finnegan from Cinderford is giving the talk. It is worth a look. Go to <https://cliftondiocese.com/dare-to-dream/> and scroll down to the short video.

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 Second Sunday of Lent – year B. This week we are looking at number 16 in the series.

LENT REFLECTIONS – Clifton Diocese has prepared a series of weekly online Lent reflections entitled 'Dare to Dream'. The third reflection is available on the Clifton website from Saturday 27th February <https://cliftondiocese.com/dare-to-dream/>

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
(Next group Monday 1st March)

for Saturdays 10.30am Zoom group - Mary on 01531 822156 or francismef@gmail.com
(Next group Saturday 27th February)

for the emailing group contact Chris at 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 Appeal

'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 are available in all Churches.

Please act to end water poverty this Lent.

This year the **Lydney World Day of Prayer** will be held at the Lydney Christian Fellowship (LCF) in Swan Road on **Friday, 5th March at 10.30am** (social distancing measures are in place). Everybody is welcome. The service will be live streamed via 'You Tube'. Join at 10.20am by opening 'You Tube' search for 'Lydney Christian Fellowship' and click on the 'LIVE' link which will connect you. Or click here **World Day of Prayer** to open link. Booklets are available at LCF and also at St Joseph's.

Job opportunity for an **Activity, Faith and Leadership Development Programme Leader**.

This is a full time role, based in the Forest of Dean. £30-35k. Deadline 10 March 2021.

Explore this opportunity at www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/one-life/

Masses

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

Sunday 28th February 9am Cinderford To book phone Fiona 01594 516175

11am Newent To book phone Mary 01531 822156

Tuesday 2nd March 10am Coleford To book phone Beverley 01594 861345

Private prayer in the Church after Mass until 12 noon

Wednesday 3rd March 12 noon Newent To book phone Mary 01531 822156

Thursday 4th March 10am Lydney To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054