

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

Solemnity of All Saints
1st November 2020

Sunday Mass available from 3pm)
Friday Talk available from 9am)

<https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>

Good out of bad

Some people want to get back to normal, some people talk of a new normal. Then there are some who look to something different. I wonder if this is going to be a milestone in the history of the Church? Persecution, Reformation, the Second Vatican Council have all helped to shape the Church. Might the Church look different after this pandemic?

For sometime now there has been a shift in emphasis. Pope Francis is asking us to be an outward looking Church. Our pre-COVID Church in this country has been going in one direction. Falling numbers, elderly congregations, fewer Priests, an influx of people from Catholic countries but not very good integration. At present we have different people coming to our Masses. We have new people, people from neighbouring parishes and some people who have started again. Perhaps when this is all over we will have a different set of people at Mass than we had pre-COVID. And that may be our chance to do things in a new way.

I see what other Churches are doing in the area. The way they are helping people, the food parcels they are taking out. This makes me wonder what we could be doing. Ah, but we don't have the people to do this! True. But which comes first? Is it because they set out to do this work that the volunteers come? Part of me thinks this may not necessarily be our calling, but our calling is to be looking outwards. Where is the need and what could we be offering? Being of service to others brings its own Blessing.

Bless you all.
Barnabas

Noah's Camp next year will be 9th-13th August, please God!

A camp for the whole family with three days of worship,
teaching, prayer and endless opportunity to encounter God.

'Know that I am with you always' Matthew 28:20

<https://www.noahscamp.co.uk>

Whites Farm, Brooms Green, Dymock GL18 2DP 07961 346343

New telephone befriending scheme in the Forest of Dean 'Two's Company'

If you would like to volunteer to be a friendly voice on the phone or you know someone who would benefit from this service please phone Mrs. Louise Maclay on 01594 368558 or for more information go to www.linkinglives.uk

Saturday Vigil Masses to be resumed - for details on booking see below

As we are now reintroducing the Saturday Vigil Masses from the end of October we will need to clean St Joseph's, Lydney twice a week on Wednesday and on the Saturday before we have a Vigil Mass. We could do with more volunteers to assist the existing cleaners, please get in touch with Dorota Rapacz on 01594 563062 or email fhdrapacz@yahoo.co.uk if you can help. Some extra stewards and cleaners are also needed at St Margaret Mary, Coleford; please contact Beverley Chisholm on 01594 861345 or email beverleychisholm@yahoo.co.uk if you can help. Many thanks.

Masses & Services

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

Sunday 1 st	9am Cinderford - Mass	To book phone Fiona 01594 516175
	11am Newent - Mass	To book phone Mary 01531 822 156
Tuesday 3 rd	10am Coleford - Mass	To book phone Beverley 01594 861345
Wednesday 4 th	12noon Newent - Mass	To book phone Mary 01531 822 156
Thursday 5 th	10am Lydney - Communion Service	To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054
Saturday 7 th	6pm Lydney - Mass	To book phone Dot and Brian 01594 560054