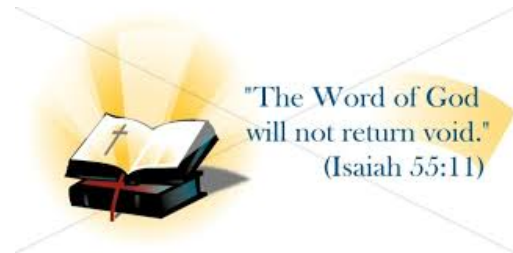


**Parishes of the Forest and Newent**  
**Parish Priest Barnabas Page 01594 833173**  
**barnabas.page@cliftondiocese.com**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**(Year B)**  
**24th January 2021**



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

<https://vimeo.com/forestrcchurch>

**Spring**

For those who missed the sermon last Sunday I include part of it here:

'I feel it is time for me to be more direct in my vision for the Parish. In the Forest we use three Churches. I feel we should have one building; one for the Forest and one for Newent. Much of our money, time and energy in the Forest goes on keeping these three buildings going. Our congregation is divided into three smaller groupings. I think it is time to bring our people into one Church. This is the wrong time to be making decisions but it might be the right time to be saying a prayer and asking God what is right for our Parish. However, it is no good this being my vision unless it is also your vision! As a Parish we have a duty to provide Mass so that, post COVID, people can come, sit at the back and say "No they don't want to join in but thank you they are grateful for Mass being provided." But we also have a duty to those who feel called by God. A duty to form them, give them confidence in their faith, commission them and send them out in the name of Jesus Christ.'

After a hard Winter comes Spring. I have already seen primroses and snowdrops and also daffodils that are coming on. Little by little the days are lengthening and despite the pandemic, thank God, we have our faith. Praise be to Jesus Christ!

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.

**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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> January      9am Cinderford      *To book phone Fiona 01594 516175*

11am Newent      *To book phone Mary 01531 822156*

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January      10am Coleford      *To book phone Beverley 01594 861345*

***Private prayer in the Church after Mass until 12 noon.***

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January      12 noon Newent      *To book phone Mary 01531 822156*

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.***

***Please note that the Candlemas on Tuesday 2nd February at Coleford will be at 9am not 10am as Father Barnabas has a funeral service.***

**A reflection taken from 'A Year with the Bible by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB' published by CTS**

**Matthew 4:18-25; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-51**

### **The Call of the First Disciples**

The accounts in the four gospels are so different that it is impossible to harmonise them historically. It is best to regard each of them as conveying a different lesson about discipleship. Matthew's account follows Mark's closely. Both of them have a double account, the call of the first two brothers, fishermen, with the charge that they are to become fishers not of fish but of people, followed by the call of another couple of brothers. In both cases the stress is on the immediacy of the response: they immediately drop everything and follow Jesus. Or is the stress on the magnetic power of this unknown stranger who walks past them on the shore of the Lake of Galilee? The shape of the story is perhaps borrowed from the call of Elisha by Elijah in 1 Kings 19:19-21; there again the stress is on the absolute priority of the call.

Luke's account, also at the shore of the Lake, has a different shape and timing. Much the same story appears in John 21, which also has the prelude of an unsuccessful night's fishing. There is the same emphasis on the obedience of the disciples, but it is significant that Luke delays the event until they have had the experience of the wonders of Jesus: he has already started proclaiming the Good News when he calls them to join him. One factor in this evangelist of repentance is that Jesus makes the first move, but you cannot be his disciple unless you first confess that you are a sinner – just like Zacchaeus at Jericho and the 'good thief' on Calvary. John's account is the most different, in location too, for the disciples called are followers of John in the Jordan Valley where John was baptising. Here the stress, as the disciples gradually assemble, is that they are gradually getting to know Jesus. For John this is the first prerequisite of discipleship.

**Question:** *In each of the gospels the burden of the call is that the disciples give themselves wholly to Jesus. Can I manage that?*

