

Parishes of Newent and The Forest of Dean

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Parish Office 01594 833173 Forest of Dean

WEBSITE: <https://www.forestrc.co.uk/>

PARISH UPDATES

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Sunday 3rd November

Please use this link to enable you to access all Live or Recorded videos from our

YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/@romancatholicchurchforesto5675>

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter 'Dilexit nos' - He loved us'

Pope Francis has issued his fourth Encyclical Letter since becoming Pope. The letter is entitled 'Dilexit Nos', on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ. To read the Encyclical Letter 'Dilexit nos' please use this link:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/Dilexit-Nos-ENG.pdf>

Care is the answer, not suicide

Oppose Assisted Suicide: Bishop Bosco in union with The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales is calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide.

For more information please use this link:

<https://cliftondiocese.com/news/oppose-assisted-suicide/>

To Ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law please use this link:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/AStreat>

Farewell for Deacon Paul

Our much-loved Deacon Paul sadly leaves us in early November to move to Cambridgeshire. There will be a get-together in the Parish Hall, Coleford, to which everyone is invited on Monday 4th November, 6pm - 8pm.

We would ask for anyone coming to bring a plate of food to share with a drink of their choice. We would encourage any drivers to offer lifts to those who may need one or think of car sharing for car park spaces.

Please confirm your attendance and the food that you are bringing with Sam via email -

forestrcchurches@cliftondiocese.com

Meeting for the St Wulstan Pastoral Area Jubilee Event in 2025

A meeting has been arranged on Saturday 23rd November at 2:00pm at the Immaculate Conception in Stroud, Beeches Green, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 4AA. This is to make arrangements to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025. Please do come along if you would like to be involved in the planning.



Safeguarding Awareness for all

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency level 1 leaflet is available in each Parish. It is important that each parishioner reads this leaflet to help understand Safeguarding and the work that the Diocese does in relation to it. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility so please do take the time to read the leaflet. If you would like to discuss any related issues to this notice please contact Fiona Mills (FoD Safeguarding rep) via the parish office 01594 833173.

The Origins of All Saints Day

If you are curious about the origins of 'All Saints Day' which we celebrate on Friday 1st November please use this link for some information <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/origins-of-all-saints-day/>

Zoom Prayer Opportunities

Why not join the Forest of Dean and Newent Rosary Group? We meet on Zoom every Friday at 4.30pm for approximately 20 minutes. Everybody is welcome, we have members from each of the churches, join every week or as and when you can. We pray for the needs of all our parishes. If you have personal prayer intentions you would like us to pray for or to join please contact Fiona via the parish office 01594 833173.

Lectio Divina every Friday at 11am

We meet on Zoom for approximately one hour, our group is made up of members from every church in the Forest of Dean and Newent Parishes. We prayerfully read and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel. As well as being an excellent preparation for Sunday Mass it is a wonderful way of praying with scripture together with other parishioners. Everyone is welcome - if you are not used to this way of praying why not give it a try? Please contact Fiona via the parish office on 01594 833173

Faith Group

This social group looks at various ways to grow and strengthen our faith. We reflect and share on different aspects of our religion and how God is present and at work in our lives. This group resumes on Wednesday 13th November at 7pm - 8pm in our Church Hall at St Margaret Mary, Coleford. Everyone is welcome to come and participate. At present these sessions consist of watching a short video clip relating to a book from the bible and reflecting on how scripture is relevant and active in our lives today.

Fun Bingo

Our Fun Monthly Bingo Evening supported by our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference will commence on **Friday 6th December** please save this date. It will be held monthly in our Church Hall at St Margaret Mary Church in Coleford from 7pm until 8.30pm on the first Friday in the month. Everyone will be welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult. Further details to follow.



Pilgrim lunch with insights and reflections on the Camino de Santiago

Everyone is welcome to a pilgrim lunch on Saturday 16th November at 12 noon in the Church Hall at Coleford. There will be some pictures, insights and reflections on the Camino. Please if you are thinking of joining us let Beverley know (beverleychisholm@yahoo.co.uk) this is to ensure that lunch numbers are catered for. Very many thanks.



NEWENT NEWS - OUR LADY OF LOURDES



Please remember in your prayers the house-bound and sick of the parish:

Mags Oke, Mo Blinman, Catherine Williams and Aroon Spencer. Val Young is very unwell and currently in Tewkesbury Community Hospital. Prayers are also urgently asked for Pat Milsom's brother Tim, who has severe heart problems and for Pat herself whose operation has now taken place.

TAIZE EVENING PRAYER

The next Taize Evening Prayer will be on 17th November starting at 6pm. The last gathering of this year will be on 8th December. Both to be followed by refreshments.



DON'T FORGET THE HOLY SPIRIT – AN INVITATION

Following Fr. Matt Anscombe's inspirational address a small group has met on two subsequent Saturdays for breakfast followed by prayer. Is the Holy Spirit suggesting an emphasis on more specifically Catholic devotions?

**MASS of ALL SAINTS at 11am
at Our Lady of Lourdes this Friday 1st November**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM

This year's PPC meetings concluded on 2nd October. Please note that the AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held on Saturday 2nd November at 10.30am following the 10.00am Mass for All Souls. All parishioners are warmly invited to the AGM.

What is a Pastoral Council?

It is a driving force to ensure the success of active and varied Parish initiatives. It also advises and supports the Parish Priest, as well as evangelising and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

What Parish Activities might support the work of the PPC?

The Welcome Team, The Friendship and Care Group, Instruction for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Sharing our Faith with those who are not Christian or are seeking faith, Taking advantage of Prayer opportunities, or of activities to deepen our knowledge and love of God.

Pastoral Care is the Vocation of the whole People of God

CHRISTMAS BANNER

Ann Hay and Mary Francis have started a backdrop to our Nativity Scene. Please contact Ann if you are keen to offer your sewing skills to the project.

FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Fr. Mike offers us a new programme, Face to Face, for Advent, with daily readings. His homilies are highly recommended. More information as we approach the season of Advent.

NEWENT NEWS - OUR LADY OF LOURDES

REGULAR GROUP MEETINGS

The Friendship and Care Group channels assistance to those who need a friendly chat, practical help etc.

Contact numbers: 07291 639375 (Debbie) 01989 750847 or 07505 972 868 (Maria / Don)

Rosary, Adoration and Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: every Wednesday in the Parish Room starting with the Rosary at 10.15am and followed by silent adoration at 10.30am and coffee at 11.00am.

Bible Study Group: this group meets at 10.30am on every third Thursday of each month at 12 Aston Bank, Aston Ingham.

Lectio Divina: every Friday at 11.00am via Zoom with Forest Parishes. Ask Mary Francis for the link.

Beans on Toast Club: this After School club is usually run on the first Tuesday of each month by Lynne Heron, who writes:

WE have been running the club at the church every month for the past year and we are really enjoying the challenge! Over the past few months, those attending have enjoyed activities such as glass painting, making bracelets, card making, biscuit decorating, playing board games and lots of Lego building. We experience busy weeks and quiet weeks and we have lots of regular families attending, but we would love to have more. Please do spread the word about the club and hand out the leaflets to be found in the porch, whenever you can.

We really do appreciate the help that we receive from our Church Family especially the brilliant regular helpers with refreshments, cooking, tidying up and just chatting to the children and parents. Thanks also to the two parishioners who give cash donations on a regular basis - your help really does go a long way and helps to provide a variety of activities.

If anyone has any old games, or crafts and expertise that you would like to share at the club please let us know! Everyone is welcome to come and help – we would love to see you. Please could you also continue to donate the tinned beans – please keep the basket full.

The next session of BOT will be on Tuesday the 5th November in the afternoon.

Donations to Missio

If you would like to donate to Missio you can do so by using your phone and the QR code. If you have a Red Box that needs emptying, please bring it to Jenny at Sunday mass.



SCAN ME

The Parish Room

Regulars will see that the lay-out of the Parish Room has changed. The new format is designed to release more space for sitting and chatting and to offer a more welcoming space for new-comers. Please address your comments to Jeanette, Mary or Suzie.

IF YOU ARE AMONG THE LAST TO LEAVE THE BUILDING, DO PLEASE ENSURE THAT BOTH FRONT AND BACK DOORS ARE LOCKED. IF THE HEATING HAS BEEN ON, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO TURN IT OFF!

Health and Safety – useful information

Three car parking spaces are reserved for disabled drivers/passengers. Two are in the front car park at the top of the left hand parking area, the third is close to the rear door in the back car park.

There is now an accident book in the kitchen. Please use it to record all injuries, however slight, and their treatment.

Please park thoughtfully especially when parking outside the church grounds.

Volunteers are still sought to join the Cleaning Rota. Just two hours per month would be a great help in keeping our church clean and bright. Please contact Mary Francis who will be delighted to show you what is needed.

Reminder for our Advent Retreat Day at Brownhill

Due to the success of last year's retreat at Brownhill another Advent retreat day has been booked for this year on Saturday 14th December 2024.

At the moment there are three pick up points starting at 9.00am in Cinderford, then Coleford followed by Lydney.

Please put your name and contact details on the list on your church notice board or email Beverley at beverleychisholm@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to attend.

if any parishioners from Newent would like to attend please contact Beverley.

For the use of the Monastery and grounds, a three course cooked meal, and a talk by a Sister, a voluntary donation of £30 per person is kindly asked for. Information on the format of this day will be made available soon.

An inability to pay does not preclude anyone from attending.



[Advance Notice - Dates for your diary](#)

[Advent Retreat Day](#) - Brownhill Monastery Saturday 14th December 2024

[Diocesan Day](#) - Saturday 19th July 2025

Masses/Adoration/Prayer

Weekend

- Saturday 2nd November - 6.00pm Vigil Mass in Cinderford
- Sunday 3rd November - 9.00am Mass in Coleford - *live streamed*
- 11.00am Mass in Lydney
- 11.00am Mass in Newent

Weekdays

- Tuesday 5th November - 11.00am Adoration Service in Coleford
- Wednesday 6th November - 10.30am Adoration and Morning Prayer in Newent
- Thursday 7th November - 10.00am Adoration and morning Prayer in Lydney
- Friday 8th November - 9.00am Rosary Prayer in Cinderford

Live Mass is available from Clifton Diocese with this link:

<https://cliftondiocese.com/live-mass/>

Sunday Mass: 9.30 am (Family), 11.15 am (Solemn), 6.00 pm

Please note:

In the absence of a parish priest, should a priest be required urgently please phone St Peter's Gloucester on 01452 523603.