

Parishes of The Forest of Dean and Newent

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

forestrcchurches@cliftondiocese.com or newent.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office 01594 833173 Forest of Dean

PARISH PRIEST FATHER MARTIN QUEENAN

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Year C) - Sunday 13th April

Penitential Service: Newent, Our Lady of Lourdes, Thursday 10th April at 5.00pm

Penitential Service: Cinderford, Our Lady of Victories, Friday 11th April at 6.00pm

Lent Reflections and Soup Lunch - Saturday 12th April at 12 noon

Everyone is invited to join in with some Lent Reflections and a soup lunch in aid of CAFOD's Myanmar earthquake appeal. This will be held in the Church Hall at St Margaret Mary, in Coleford. Children are very welcome.

Assisted Suicide Legislation – update: The next chance for all MPs to vote on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will most probably take place towards the end of April. Postcards for parishioners to consider sending to their MP, asking them to use this opportunity to vote against the Bill, are available at the back of church. A concerned parishioner has kindly offered to sponsor the postage costs. If you did not have the opportunity last weekend to complete a card it is not too late to do so. When completed please pass the card to Father Martin.

Easter Offering: Traditionally, the Christmas and Easter offertory collections are the only collections given to the priest during the year and are an important way by which the parishes support the unsalaried priests of the Diocese. Envelopes, into which offerings may be placed, are available at the back of church and on the benches.

Good Friday Walk of Witness - Friday 18th April 10am at St Margaret Mary, Coleford

Everyone is invited to join in with the ecumenical Walk of Witness, which will gather at St Margaret Mary in Coleford. We will then walk down to the clock tower to join in with a short service of prayers and hymns. You are then welcome to go to the Baptist church for hot cross buns and tea/coffee.

This weekend there will be a retiring collection in all churches for The Holy Places and Friends of the Holy Land.

For more information on the Holy Places use this link: [Holy Places](#) and for more information on Friends of the Holy Land use this link: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>

WEEKEND MASSES - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 12th April 6pm Vigil Mass - Our Lady of Victories, Cinderford

Sunday 13th April 9am Mass - St. Margaret Mary, Coleford - live streamed

Sunday 13th April 11am Mass - St. Joseph, Lydney

Sunday 13th April 11am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

HOLY WEEK MASSES/SERVICES

Tuesday 15th April 10am Mass - St Margaret Mary, Coleford

Wednesday 16th April 11am Chrism Mass - Clifton Cathedral

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday)

Thursday 17th April 7pm - St. Margaret Mary, Coleford - live streamed

Thursday 17th April 7pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday 18th April 3pm - Our Lady of Victories, Cinderford

Friday 18th April 3pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

On Good Friday there will be a retiring collection in Our Lady of Victories, Cinderford and Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent for Holy Places of Palestine.

Please note:

There will be NO morning Mass on Wednesday 16th April at Newent

There will be NO morning Mass on Friday 18th April at Cinderford

Easter Vigil

Saturday 19th April 8.15pm - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

Saturday 19th April 8.30pm - St. Joseph, Lydney - live streamed

Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday 20th April 9am - St. Margaret Mary, Coleford - live streamed

Sunday 20th April 11am - Our Lady of Victories, Cinderford

Sunday 20th April 11am - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

Polish Families are welcome to bring their Świąconka baskets to any of the Easter Masses for a blessing.

Continued over

Jubilee pilgrimage for people with disabilities - 26 April - 01 May 2025

A pilgrimage to Rome for people with disabilities titled Living Fully with Value and Hope has been organised by the Kairos Forum for Jubilee 2025. It takes place from 26 April to 1 May 2025 and will offer accessible events, prayer, friendship and a morning with Pope Francis. For more information please use this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/celebrating-jubilee-2025-for-people-with-disabilities-livingfully-with-value-and-hope/>

Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent - next prayer group meeting is 26th April at 10am.

Testimonies to the Holy Spirit in Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

Have you felt the Holy Spirit working in your life? This is an invitation to share and witness to the Spirit's inspiration in many different ways. Please talk to Mary or Chris.

MISSIO Red Boxes - Forest of Dean Churches

Please bring your MISSIO Red Boxes into church for emptying and counting. They can be handed to the Welcomers in each church.

Walk, Talk, Pray and Celebrate - Thursday 22nd May to Wednesday 28th May, 2025

One of the first events in our Pastoral Area for the Holy Year is to be 'The Saint Wulstan Southern Way Catholic Pilgrimage'. Everyone is invited to take part in some small way, by being part of the walks, talks, prayers and celebrations that take place during the week of the pilgrimage. Join in as our churches step forward together - united as Pilgrims of Hope. Below is a list of dates and churches where events will be taking place in our parishes.

Friday 23rd May - Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent

Saturday 24th May - St Peter's, Gloucester

Sunday 25th May - St Joseph's, Stonehouse

Monday 26th May - St Dominic's, Dursley

Tuesday 27th May - Christ the King, Thornbury

Wednesday 28th May - Clifton Cathedral, Bristol

For more details of how and when you can join in with prayer, walking etc please go to our St Wulstan website <https://saintwulstan.org.uk/pilgrimage/>

If you are interested in being a perpetual pilgrim for which you need to be an adult please register your interest by no later than 27th April as we need to ensure that everyone complies with safeguarding and health and safety requirements. Day and half day pilgrims need to register by 11th May. The registration is on the website page given above.

At present there are four perpetual pilgrims who will be walking the whole route of the pilgrimage and they would be very grateful for the support of parishioners in the following ways please:

- 1 All pilgrims would be very grateful for an afternoon tea upon arrival at their destination church for day.
- 2 Perpetual pilgrims supper after Mass if possible, please. Could this be a parish event which would include all parishioners to join together for a meal?
- 3 Perpetual pilgrims will require accommodation for the night, they will have their own sleeping bags. They will need breakfast in the morning if possible, please. They all have completed Clifton Diocese Safeguarding requirements.
- 4 The perpetual pilgrims luggage to be transported to their next destination.
- 5 A telephone number for an emergency contact who would be willing to pick up a pilgrim if emergency assistance is needed.

If you are able to help with any of these requests please email: forestrchurches@cliftondiocese.com thank you.

Parishioners in The Forest of Dean Churches - Day or Part Day Pilgrims

The pilgrimage does not pass through the Forest of Dean parishes area. However, Peter is open to spending Day 3 of his pilgrimage (Saturday 24th May) walking from Cinderford to join pilgrims at St Peter's in Gloucester which would include Mass at the end of the day. If you would like to join as a day or part day pilgrim please email forestrchurches@cliftondiocese.com or ring 01594 833173 to express your interest.

Please remember in your prayers the house-bound and sick of our parishes.

Pope Francis

Please continue to pray for the Holy Father who was discharged from hospital on Sunday 23rd March and returned to Casa Santa Marta where he will be convalescing for at least two months.

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter via email please inform our parish administrator, Sam Buchanan, contact details at the top of the newsletter.