

Tel: (Mob) 07836 384932 or 01608 674354

MASS TIMES in DECEMBER:

**Weekend 27th/28th November.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)**

Sat. 27th November. Vigil Mass **6 pm**.
Sun. 28th. Sung Mass **9 am**. (2nd
Collection both Masses: Clergy Training
Fund).

Mon. 29th. Weekday of Advent.

Tue. 30th. **St. Andrew. Apostle 9 am ST
LAWRENCE Anglican Church, Bourton.**

Wed. 1st December. **St. Alexander
Bryant, Martyr 9 am**. (Clifton Diocesan
Saint).

**6 pm. Reflections on St. Luke's
account of the Nativity by John
Huntriss. Bring a Bible.** (In church at
Stow)

Thur. 2nd. Dec. W'kday of Advent. **9 am**

Fri. 3rd Dec.. **St. Francis Xavier, Priest.
9am**. Intention: Repose of soul of Fra'
Matthew Festing, 79th Grand Master of
The Sovereign Order of Malta, whose
Funeral takes place today in Malta.
(Matthew was a good friend and
Cambridge colleague of Fr. Stephen).

**No Mass on Saturday mornings.
Sacrament of Reconciliation after any
Mass. or by arrangement.**

**Weekend 4th/5th December. SECOND
SUNDAY OF ADVENT.** Bible Sunday.

Sat. 4th December. Vigil Mass **6 pm**.
Sun. 5th. Sung Mass **9 am**.

Mon. 6th. St. Nicholas. Bishop. **9 am**.

Tue. 7th. St. Ambrose. Bishop. Doctor
of the Church. **Mass at 9 am. St
Lawrence's Anglican Church,
Bourton.**

Wed. 8th. Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary. **6 pm (Note
time).**

Thur 9th. Weekday of Advent. **9 am**.

Fri. 10th **Our Lady of Loreto. 9 am**

**Weekend 11th/12th December. THIRD
SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

Sat. 11th December. **12 noon**. Baptism
of Zara O' Shea Vigil Mass **6 pm**.
Sunday 5th. Sung Mass **9 am**.

Mon. 13th. St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr.
9 am.

Tue 14th. St. John of the Cross. Priest,
Doctor of the Church **Mass at 9 am
St Lawrence's Anglican Church,
Bourton.**

Wed. 15th Weekday of Advent. **Mass** as
usual at **9 am. From 6 pm – 7 pm
EXPOSITION of the BLESSED
SACRAMENT and Sacrament of
Reconciliation.** During this time Fr. Paul
and Fr. Stephen will be available for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Thur. 16th. Weekday of Advent. **9 am**.

Fri. 17th. **O Sapientia. 9 am**.

**Sat. 18th O Adonai. 10.30 am. (Note
time).** Today we are being visited by a
group of 55 NHS key workers from
London who will come to Mass. Then
we will give them a picnic lunch.

**Weekend 18th/19th December. FOURTH
SUNDAY OF ADVENT.**

Sat. 18th December. Vigil Mass **6 pm**.
Sun. 19th. Sung Mass **9 am**. **O Radix
Jesse.**

**6 pm. Ecumenical Carol Service: St.
Mary's, Chastleton, GL56 0SU** followed
by drinks at 17th Century Chastleton
House, by kind permission of the
National Trust. Parishioners from Our
Lady & St. Kenelm specially invited. (A
group of our young servers will be
performing a tableau at the Service.

Mon 20th. **O Clavis David. 9 am**.

Tue 21st. **O Oriens. Mass at 9 am. St Lawrence's
Anglican Church, Bourton.**

Wed 22nd **O Rex Gentium. 9 am**.

Thur. 23rd. **O Emmanuel. 9 am**.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Please book sulharcomb@aol.com (You are
not restricted to one Mass)

**Dec. 24th. 6 pm. Vigil; Mass and Blessing of
Crib (candlelit). Children specially invited.** (A
group of our young servers will be performing a
tableau at the Mass).

**10.00 pm Midnight Mass. (Carol singing from 9.30
pm).**

**CHRISTMAS DAY. 10.30 am. Mass of the
Day.**

**CHRISTMAS OCTAVE: Sun. 26th. Feast of the Holy
Family. Sung Mass 9 am.**

Mon. 27th **St. John. 9 am**.

Tue. 28th. **Holy Innocents. 9 am. at Stow.**

Wed. 29th. **St. Thomas Becket. Bp. Martyr. 9 am**

Thur. 30th. **6th day in the Octave. 9 am**.

Fri 31st **7th day in the Octave. 9 am**.

**Sat. 1st. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.
9 am.** Saturday evening/Sunday Masses as usual.

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CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES. Honouring Sunday.

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the Bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

Longing for our Lord. We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a "homesickness." We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many

people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist.

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday

obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your Bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift. We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love

for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds Thursday 18th November 2021