



COMBE, DUNS TEW, ENSTONE, GAGINGWELL, GLYMPTON, MIDDLE BARTON,
RADFORD, RAMSDEN, STEEPLE ASTON and STONESFIELD

JANUARY 11th 2026

Year C

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MASS THIS WEEK;

St Teresa's Charlbury	Wednesday, Friday.	9.15 am
Holy Trinity Chipping Norton.	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	9.15am

Confessions: after weekday mass or please contact Fr Clive

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joanna who passed away recently. Please also pray for the sick and housebound of the parish, particularly Hilda and also for Derek Mathews as well as all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Monsignor Vaughan Morgan. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed Rest in Peace.

Dear Friends,

This Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season, in liturgical terms, although I suspect most of us will have taken down our decorations and trees by last Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, which in its own way marks the end of Christmas as the Twelfth Night. It is all quite confusing. In Russia and other Eastern Orthodox countries Epiphany is the real Christmas and this commemorates the earliest practice in the Church before December 25th became popular in the West. Why December 25th you may well ask? As the Gospel spread westwards across Europe, Holy Mother Church in her great wisdom took over the pagan Winter solstice observance from 22 December, the shortest day of the year, and "baptised" it to focus popular culture this time around the Nativity of the Lord rather than the foul goblins and spooks of the Northern forests! It seems to have worked.

And to add further confusion, tradition says we keep the Crib up until February 2nd, Candlemass and the Presentation of the Lord (or as it used to be known, The Purification of the Blessed Virgin). So through the gloom and misery of January/February we are reminded of that momentous event: the Word made flesh.

Today is the Baptism of the Lord. The immediate question is the one St John the Baptist asks in our Gospel:

"I need to be baptised by You, and do You come to me?"



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Why indeed does the Sinless One, the Son of God, have to be cleansed from sin when he has none? The same question can be asked about the Crucifixion. Why does He who is without blemish have to be sacrificed?

Because at both baptism in water and baptism in blood the Lord Jesus is the obedient Son of the Father, taking our sins upon His shoulders," fulfilling all righteousness" as St. Matthew says in our Gospel. The path to the Jordan is the same as the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross up to Calvary. It is Jesus Christ, Son of God, offering Himself for the sins of the world. That means you and me. For our wilfulness, self-centredness, pride, spite, jealousy...and on a bigger scale for the diseases of war, tyranny, exploitation and all the evil that human beings continually inflict upon each other.

" Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

As we come into His presence at Mass, let us try to remember and give thanks in our hearts for His suffering and offering up of Himself in Love, for our salvation.

" O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine

All praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment Thine."

Masses/ Rosary this week as usual. Tuesday 13th is a school Mass when we will remember the Baptism of the Lord.

Thursday 5 pm: Vespers of the Dead at Oxford Oratory for Monsignor Vaughan Morgan, one time parish priest of St Teresa's, former senior Roman Catholic Chaplain in the Royal Navy, and Chaplain to Oratory school.

Friday 11.30 am Requiem Mass for the Monsignor, also at Oxford Oratory.

Look ahead:

Monday 26 th January 11.30 Requiem Mass at St Teresa's for Joanna Callaghan, former Charlbury parishioner.

First Communion classes have begun. A reminder: First Communion is on 7th June! It looks like we will have another " bumper" year. My thanks to Mary and Nareen our Catechists.

Reception class begins Tuesday 20th January.

All who want Confirmation for their children please remind e mail me so we can set up classes.

I am looking for more altar servers to support our hard-working team. Don't be shy!



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Very exciting!

God bless everyone

Fr Clive

ACN – We raised £510 from Christmas card sales and additional donations; that's the largest amount since I started selling ACN cards in 2013. Thank you all very much for your continuing support of ACN and its important and much needed work. I always say we are a small parish with a very generous heart. Let's all pray for peace and generosity of spirit for the persecuted in 2026 and beyond.

Suze

Please look at the St Teresa's website for further information about the latest appeal. Please keep Haiti in your prayers where the situation continues to worsen. ACN has released its annual report on persecuted Christians globally, it makes for sobering reading. <https://acnuk.org/RFR-2025>.

Radio Maria is a Catholic voice from speakers who will help you to grow in your faith. Listen at www.RadioMariaEngland.uk on DAB radio, download the free mobile app or ask your smart speaker to "PlayRadio Maria". Please take a leaflet from the back of the church.

URGENT: Parish Revels; The team that ran the parish Revels is planning another *Mardi Gras* feast cum entertainment just before Lent, this one will be on **St Valentines Day**.

It will feature the bring-to food which we cook so superbly, which will be organised by the same team that provided us with so much good food in the past.

This time it is lunch from noon to 3pm on **Saturday 14 February 2026**.

WE ARE LIMITED to two gigs of 10 minutes each, performed by artistes drawn from our teeming pool of musical talent, yet to be finalised. Just right between courses!

Suze Mathews will lead the banqueting team, but there is a vacancy for the Publicity Organiser (PO). Can you help? Programme design, publicity, ticketing and welcome, and this time we would like to invite in more of Charlbury. The need for a PO is urgent!

The theme is definitely **Valentine's Day**, and we have an offer from two young parishioners to contribute ideas.



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Our venue is settled and booked, and the ticket price (specially adjusted for families) will ensure an offering to **Aid for the Church in Need**.

Contacts. Suze Mathews and Peter Clifton (relinquishing publicity) peter@romewalk.co.uk

Hosting Fr Tony. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church to host Fr Tony for lunch – this does not need to be at your home, it could be somewhere local. Please consider whether you can host Fr Tony and sign up!

Marriage Support; Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues. www.retrouville.org.uk

Tel 07787 296983.

Parish Finance : bank account details are as follows if you would like to set up a standing order: Please advise Nick Paines (ga.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk) so he can claim the gift aid if applicable .

NatWest bank – sort code 55-81-35

a/c number 07048211

a/c name B'ham Roman Catholic archdiocese parish Charlbury

SUNDAY COFFEE/TEA URGENT HELP NEEDED

volunteers needed to help with Tea & Coffee after Mass. The more helpers we have, the easier it will be. We hope to get a rota together, with people working in pairs. Everything is provided, apart from the milk, so it is very straightforward. Your help would be hugely appreciated. For further information, please see Sharnalee after Mass, or email her at sharnaleefoster@gmail.com.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Sharnalee Foster. She can be contacted at sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns."

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