

ST TERESA'S



CHARLBURY

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

February 15 th 2026

Year A

SIXTH SUNDAY Ordinary time

MASS THIS WEEK;

Sunday St Teresa's Charlbury 9.15 am, Holy Trinity Chipping Norton 11 am

St Teresa's	Wednesday Ash Wednesday , Friday	9.15am
Holy Trinity	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.	9.15am
Ash Wednesday	Holy Trinity.	7.00pm

Confessions: after weekday mass or please contact Fr Clive

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the parish, particularly Hilda. Remember in your prayers Richard Lethbridge and Derek Mathews who passed away recently, as well as those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed Rest in Peace.

Dear Friends

Why do we need laws? Wouldn't life be much better if we could all do as we liked? This approach has been tried and generally ends in chaos. Indeed, social scientists suggest that humans have an innate tendency and need to make laws in order to create order, not anarchy. There are some areas of the world not governed by laws: Antarctica is one example. The 1959 Treaty ensured that no-one owns this enormous territory. That may change with the current American President! This is unusual and can create tensions, as we are seeing at present.

For the Hebrews there was one overriding and dominant set of laws: the Torah, or Law of Moses, 613 commandments contained in the first five books of the Old Testament. A better translation of Torah would be "Teaching" or "Guidance" as this code lays down the rules on ceremonial, civic and moral life, in fact every aspect of Jewish existence. The Ten Commandments delivered by Moses on Mount Sinai are simply the summary for everyday living.

In today's Gospel Jesus says:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them".

He then addresses individual issues like anger, desire, divorce and so on. What does the Lord mean? If you examine His words, you will discover that the focus is on, not the external but the internal. The Old Law concerned itself with the outward observance of

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rules laid down by Moses and the elders of Israel over the centuries, circumcision of baby boys, clean/unclean foods, ritual purity etc. Jesus is trying to shift attention to the intention or motivation for actions. So anger harboured against another person is the root for murder, sly glances at another are the seed of desire, casual treatment of a wife leads to infidelity.

Jesus uses hyperbolic language to shock and make a point:

"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away...if your right hand causes you to sin, chop it off and throw it away."

If we took these words literally, the churches would be full of one-eyed, one-handed worshippers!

The point is that we need to be aware of our intentions and motivations, what is going on inside, that determine what happens in our words and actions. "God looks on the heart".

This next week we have an opportunity to reflect on our inner selves as we begin the great season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes this Wednesday. Why not make this year one of substantial spiritual progress and growth by following the Church's guidance for deeper Prayer, regular Fasting and generous Alms giving? Let's remember the old saying: A good Lent makes for a better Easter! Holy Week is only six weeks away!

Masses/ Rosary/ Classes this week as usual.

Wednesday: Mass with Imposition of Ashes 9.15 am St Teresas, 7 pm Holy Trinity .

Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. That means no meat and one substantial meal only and two lighter ones.

Second Collection: Life, the charity that supports the unborn and their mothers.

The Requiem for Richard Lethbridge is at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 25 th February. Note: it will be celebrated in St Mary's, the Anglican parish church in Charlbury.

There will be another big funeral, for Aidan Hughes, this time in St. Mary's the Anglican parish church in Chipping Norton. Time and date to be confirmed.

God bless everyone.

Fr Clive

PARISH NOTICES:

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AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) – please look at the **St Teresa's** website for further information about the latest appeal and update from the Vatican regarding Haiti. 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>. Also see the [St Teresa's website for the article 18 information about religious freedom, where ACN are leading.](#)

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 pews.

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 rc archdiocese parish Charlbury

LENTEN GROUP Planned for three Wednesdays in Lent, led by Peter Clifton – **PRACTISING CHRIST'S PEACE.** It is based on the New Testament and Isaiah; on '*From Violence to Wholeness* (RC Active Non-Violence Course); *Jesus Christ, Peacemaker*; and input from Pax Christi's *Peace Preaching Course*. Brisk, prayerful and practical, it will be chez Peter and Anne in Heathfield Cottage, Browns Lane from 7.30 to 8.30 on February 25, March 4 and March 11. (*First run in 2025*)

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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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