

# ST TERESA'S



# CHARLBURY

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

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2026

Year A

FIFTH SUNDAY Ordinary time

**MASS THIS WEEK;**

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

St Teresa's	Wednesday, Friday	9.15am
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Holy Trinity	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.	9.15am
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Confessions: after weekday mass or please contact Fr Clive

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

Dear Friends

Last weekend I read out the Decree from our Archbishop announcing the "extinctive union" between St Teresa's, Charlbury and Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton. For those who missed it, the decree is now on both church websites, and also posted at the back of each. It has also been conveyed electronically to those who receive the newsletter weekly.

Fundamentally, the two former parishes of Holy Trinity and St Teresa's are merging into one new parish, called "The Assumption" with Holy Trinity as the parish church. Both churches will keep their dedications as Holy Trinity and St Teresa's.

In terms of weekday and weekend Masses, nothing will change. When the Archbishop asked me to take on the two parishes, instead of St Teresa's only, the Mass pattern was altered to the one we now operate and which has proved to be successful. The major issue in Charlbury is parking with so many of the congregation travelling into town from the outlying villages, not an unusual country practice! Chipping Norton does not suffer from either of those aspects as many live in the town itself and there is adequate parking with the use of the adjacent school car park on a Saturday/ Sunday.

In recent years, numbers have grown in both churches, as the COVID "slump" works itself out. It is particularly pleasing to record a healthy stream of First Communion and adult Confirmations. Long may this continue! I must record my great thanks to Mary Prior and Nareen Bowers for taking on the Catechist roles so proficiently and easily. Both churches boast small armies of volunteers some prominent but many working quietly behind the scenes to ensure all runs as it should. Recently, Sharnalee Foster has

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stepped up as the PA to both churches and her unflappable approach to challenges is greatly appreciated by this parish priest!

Obviously, change can be unsettling, even threatening, but I want to reassure everyone that I am fully confident in our new parish situation. The name chosen by the Archbishop is a wonderful gift to Our Lady and I believe she will bless us over the years. Now we must work out how we can work together, with the many strengths and gifts in each church.

This week all Masses/ Rosary/ classes as usual

God bless everyone

Fr Clive

## PARISH NOTICES:

**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>

**Radio Maria** is a Catholic voice from speakers who will help you to grow in your faith. Listen at [www.RadioMariaEngland.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

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**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*)

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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns."

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