The Parish of Our Lady & St Alphege

Parish Priest: Monsignor Robert Corrigan STB MTh
O7789 185 181 *(calls / text /whatsapp)*
Robert.corrigan@cliftondiocese.com

Right Reverend Declan Lang *Emeritus Bishop of Clifton*
Deacon Kevin Moloney Kevin.Moloney@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Administrator: Isabella Lo
bath.stalphege@cliftondiocese.com

2nd Sunday after Christmas **www.stalphege.org.uk** **4th Jan 2026**

Sun 4th Second Sunday after Christmas
11.00 Intentions of Bishop Declan (L)
18.00 Colin McFadyn RIP

Mon 5th Weekday of Christmas
No Mass

Tues 6th Solemnity of the Epiphany
0700 Private Intention
1200 John Joe Beirne RIP (50th Anniv)
1800 People of the Parish

Weds 7th Weekday of Christmas
1100 Requiem Mass for Kelly Parnell RIP

Thurs 8th Weekday of Christmas
1100 Requiem Mass for Frances McManus RIP
17.15 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
18.00 Intentions of Bishop Declan

Fri 9th Weekday of Christmas
12.00 Mary Timothy RIP

Sat 10th Weekday of Christmas
09.30 Rosary in the Lady Chapel
10.00 Intentions of the Creevy Family
10.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession

Sun 11th Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
1100 Nel Pestel RIP
1800 Private Intention

Mass Times at St Joseph Peasedown St John
Mass Sun 0900 & Tues 1100
Rosary Thurs at 1100 during Exposition

Diocesan Prayer link
St Peter Cirencester, St Michael Tetbury, St Aldhelm Malmesbury

Information
Psalter Proper / Readings Sun C / Weekdays Year 1

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
This is celebrated on Tuesday and is a Holyday of Obligation

Requiem Masses next week
Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Kelly Parnell who died before Christmas. Her body will be received into the Church on Tuesday evening at 4.00 pm and her Requiem Mass will be offered at 1100 on Wednesday followed by burial at Haycombe.

Frances McManus who died before Christmas. Her body will be received into the Church on Wednesday evening at 4.00 pm and her Requiem Mass will be offered at 1100 on Thursday followed by burial at Haycombe.

We offer our prayers and sympathy to their family and friends

Pope Leo's Prayer intention for January 2026
For prayer with the Word of God. Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Thankyou …
… to everyone who helped prepare the Church and the liturgy to celebrate the Birth of Christ our Saviour. A big thankyou also for your kindness with cards and presents and for supporting the Christmas collection.

Our new Parish Website
As some of you will have already seen the new Parish website is up and running. After a few last-minute adjustments, it became available on Christmas Eve. Most importantly I would like to say a very big thankyou to Tom and Paul who have worked so hard to prepare this and offer it as a gift to the Parish.
In a way we almost take websites and the online world for granted but they can be great tools for evangelisation. It was 50 years ago that St Pope Paul VI issued the apostolic exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi ("Proclaiming the Gospel") in which he

said that *"Our century is characterized by the mass media or means of social communication, and the first proclamation, catechesis or the further deepening of faith cannot do without these means..... when they are put at the service of the Gospel, they are capable of increasing almost indefinitely the area in which the Word of God is heard*.

With God's help this resource will help us to reach out to our local community and beyond and imitate Our Lord in his words to the disciples of John the Baptist when he invited them to "come and see". (Jn 1:39)

This is also the first stage as there are other opportunities to develop this. However for now I am very grateful that this is now working and supporting the mission and life of the Parish.

Parish Pastoral Meeting

Thursday the 15th of January at 1845 after Mass

Encounter Revive Day - Clifton Cathedral ,

You are invited to share in a Day of Encounter with guest speaker Ros Powell on Sat the 17th Jan from 9.30am to 4 pm. This is a day to renew heart, hope and mission. For more information about the day, email Encounter@cliftondiocese.com or contact Ann on 07815 751556. All welcome.

Finance

Offertory: £245.01 Gift Aid Envelopes: £98

Readers

11.00: Liz 18:00: Chris

Reflections on the visit of the Magi

Taken from Pope Benedict XVI addresses to the 2005 World Youth Day in and around Cologne Cathedral

The Journey we take

The Gospel says: "And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was."

"The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin." "Like the Magi, all believers — and young people in particular — have been called to set out on the journey of life in search of truth, justice and love," he said. "We must seek this star, we must follow it. The ultimate goal of the journey can only be found through an encounter with Christ, an encounter which cannot take place without faith."

The Magi's Inner Journey

The Gospel says: "They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage." Pope Benedict said that the moment the Magi found Jesus, a second journey started. "Outwardly, their journey was now over. They had reached their goal," he said. "But at this point a new journey began for them, an inner pilgrimage which changed their whole lives. Their mental picture of the infant King they were expecting to find must have been very different." He explained: "The new King, to whom they now paid homage, was quite unlike what they were expecting. In this way they had to learn that God is not as we usually imagine him to be."

The Gift of Adoration

The Gospel says: "Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

We all should give Jesus what the Magi gave him, Pope Benedict said. The way we do that is to give him our very selves. "They had come to place themselves at the service of this King, to model their own kingship on his," Benedict said. "Included in this were their gifts — gold, frankincense and myrrh — gifts offered to a King held to be divine. Adoration has a content and it involves giving. Through this act of adoration, these men from the East wished to recognize the child as their King and to place their own power and potential at his disposal, and in this they were certainly on the right path."

A Lesson in Power

The Gospel says "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

Pope Benedict said: "They knew that in order to change the world it is necessary to have power. Hence, they were hardly likely to seek the promised child anywhere but in the King's palace. Yet now they were bowing down before the child of poor people, and they soon came to realize that Herod, the King they had consulted, intended to use his power to lay a trap for him, forcing the family to flee into exile." Pope Benedict explained: "Now they were able to see that God's power is not like that of the powerful of this world. God's ways are not as we imagine them or as we might wish them to be. God does not enter into competition with earthly powers in this world. ... He contrasts the noisy and ostentatious power of this world with the defenseless power of love, which succumbs to death on the Cross and dies ever anew throughout history; yet it is this same love which constitutes the new divine intervention that opposes injustice and ushers in the Kingdom of God."