



The Parish of the Assumption, *Holy Trinity*

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 21st June 2026 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

This last week I was at a residential conference for the Birmingham Archdiocese priests, up in Leamington Spa, a sort of halfway point in this large diocese (it stretches from North Staffordshire right down to Caversham in Reading... five counties and seven cities).

The central point of discussion was the remedy for the serious shortage of clergy that is now becoming clear. There are approximately 120 active priests to serve 250 parishes but almost half of these will be retiring in the next ten years. Although there are three young men being ordained this Summer, after them the cupboard is almost bare.

The Archbishop and his hierarchy were with his 106 priests and we spent time listening to presentations and then discussing the ways forward. Here, in Chipping Norton and Charlbury, we have already made the transition and we were among the very first following the recommendations from our Visitation of three years ago. Since the Mass times had already been rearranged in preparation, there has been no discernible change in our pattern of worship. In fact, numbers at both churches have risen and it is very encouraging that a steady stream of new faces are appearing, both cradle Catholics and those seeking Reception into the Church. Long may this continue! As always I am so grateful for the positive manner in which it has all been accepted and implemented. This Autumn will see our first Assumption pilgrimage to Winchester and environs and proposals for an Assumption party this Summer are in the air.

The proposals for some Deaneries are drastic indeed. In South Oxfordshire for example, seven parishes are to be subsumed into one mega parish, with a senior priest in charge, one Finance board and one Pastoral council. To be honest, I cannot see how this can work but...

Change is often a threat particularly if it is deep rooted. In today's Gospel Jesus is trying to prepare and steel His followers for what lay ahead after He had physically departed and was no longer with them to support and motivate. The key phrase which we read throughout the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament is:

"Be not afraid..."

Jesus says this to His chosen ones, He has said it through the ages to those who look to Him in the face of danger and anxiety.

"It is I. Be not afraid."

He says this to us, with our fears, worries and anxieties, real or imagined.

"Take heart. It is I. Be not afraid."

Is there something or someone causing real anxiety if possibly fear? Turn to the Lord, ask Him to help you to carry the burden, lay your head on His Sacred Heart.

"Be not afraid."

P.S. I intend to start *Adoration & Benediction* again in July beginning on 1st in St Teresa's and 2nd in Holy Trinity. From then it should be our usual Wednesday/Thursday after Mass. Tuesday remain *Carlo's Coffee Club*. This last week we had a full house around the table with visitors from Stow parish. My thanks to the ladies who set it all up and deliver the goods, liquid and biscuity! We are hoping that the kitchen will be finished soon with tiles and painting.

On the subject of restoration, a lot of work has gone into overhaul of the churches and properties and slowly it is all being done. The big-ticket item at Holy Trinity of course is the roof and we have had to apply for a Faculty and special permission as the building is Grade II Listed. At St Teresa's a lot of work has gone into upgrading the cottage. My eternal gratitude to Hugh at Charlbury, Johnny and Pat at Chippy for all their work behind the scenes.

*"Speak to God before Mass
Listen to God during Mass
Talk to each other after Mass"*

God bless everyone, Fr Clive

Second Collection: A Day for Life.

Masses & Rosary: Monday and Tuesday Mass 9.15am. Friday Rosary for Peace 9.15am. **No Mass Thursday** as Fr Clive is away in Bicester for a Safeguarding course.

A Notice from the Good Counsel Network: On Tuesday 23rd June, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact *The Good Counsel Network* on [020 7723 1740](tel:02077231740), or via www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

"And the people of Ninevah believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least...God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10)

Garden Party at Newman's College, Littlemore, Oxford - Saturday 4th July 2026 - 3 to 5pm

This is a fundraiser to support the Sisters of The Work in their mission at Newman's College. Enjoy an afternoon in the beautiful garden with a cup of tea, homemade cakes, ice cream, various stalls, a quiz, and live music performed by a string quartet. For those who have not yet visited the college, guided tours will be available. For raffle tickets (1st prize: a non-electric scooter plus helmet) or further information, please contact the Sisters at [01865 779743](tel:01865779743) or littlemore@newman-friends.org

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parish. In

addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. The people of the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tina Short** (sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk) and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

National Day of Prayer & Fasting For Life

A great prayer for Life is urgently needed. St John Paul II



**Vigil of the Feast of
St John the Baptist**

Join us each month in Prayer and Fasting:

Fasting

Fast from all food except bread and water for the day

Or

Fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV.

Fast from whatever you can given your state of health etc, but make sure it is something that involves a sacrifice to yourself.

Prayer

We are asking people to say a Rosary (or an extra Rosary if you say it daily already).

You could also offer an extra effort such as going to Mass (or an extra Mass) on the day, or going to Adoration. You can even pray before a closed tabernacle if Adoration is not available near you.

*And He said to them; This kind (of demon) can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.
(Gospel of Mark 9:29)*

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