



The Parish of the Assumption **Holy Trinity Chipping Norton** **St Teresa's Charlbury**

Fr Clive Dytor

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 12th July 2026 – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

In recent years there has been a lot of “chat” about the dearth of young men coming forward for the Sacred Priesthood, and I have to admit that at times I have wondered how on earth we as a Diocese, and as a parish, will be able to function in the future. St Teresa's and Holy Trinity have now become the Parish of The Assumption and because of the preparation done for some time before the official merger, and the positive acceptance of reality, the transition has been fairly painless and without rancour. Individuals have worked quietly behind the scenes and I cannot express my gratitude enough for the faithful of both churches who are “pulling together” in our common aim to be a vibrant Catholic community here in West Oxfordshire. Whether it is the formation of new committees like the Finance (mandatory) and the Pastoral (optional), or the continuation of groups like *The Way Forward*, people have put their shoulders to the wheel and we seem to be rolling along happily as a new entity. This Summer and Autumn I hope we will enjoy some socials to celebrate our union, and again many thanks to those who are starting to think and plan.

This last week I saw a glimmer of hope. In St Chad's Cathedral, our Diocesan home and the first Catholic Cathedral built since the rupture with Rome in the 16th Century, there have been three Ordinations for our Diocese. The first, last Saturday, was Fr Jonathan Henry, an Oxford man. The second, on Monday, was Fr Jithin Titto a bi-ritual priest ordained for this Diocese and also the Syro-Malankar community. The third was Fr Tenny Antony, also bi-ritual, for this Diocese and the Syro-Malabar community. There is not enough space to go into what these churches are and how they came about but they all with millions of other faithful have sprung from the Apostle St Thomas and his planting of the seed in India after the Apostles were sent out “to all nations”.

In his “*Felicitations*” as it is called, after the service on Monday, *His Beatitude Moran Mor Basileos Cardinal Clemons Major Archbishop-Catholicos* said three things which have stayed in my mind. First: He congratulated Fr Jithin and reminded him that at 2pm on Monday afternoon he was a free man, at 6pm (yes it did take that long) he was now a broken man! Secondly: he thanked the family of Fr Jithin for giving him up. Thirdly: he thanked us all in Europe for having sent the Jesuit missionaries in the 16th Century and beyond, to water and continue spreading the Gospel... but now it was the turn of the Indian Church to evangelise us. Frs Jithin and Tenny are joining the other Indian, African, Philippino, and Polish clergy who already make up about 50% of our Diocesan priests. It is a reminder that the Catholic Church is exactly that... Catholic, i.e. Universal, not national. For some centuries we have enjoyed the ministrations of the Irish clergy and now they are being replaced by others from further afield. In today's Gospel Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. Christ Our Lord is the Sower, His Word is the seed. Some seed fell on stony soil. Some fell on thin soil. Some fell on thorny soil. None of these produced any crop. The seed that fell on good soil flourished and grew into a bumper crop.

What is our heart's soil? Stony and unreceptive? Thin and unfruitful? Thorny and choked with cares and anxieties? Or can the Word take root and flourish in our lives, producing a harvest of good works and witness? In the years to come we will be welcoming more priests from afar and our response must be to open our hearts to the Word so that together, priests and people we can continue the Great Commission of Our Lord, the Gospel of Good News.

**God bless everyone,
Fr Clive**

This week's Second Collection is for the Apostleship of the Sea (*Stella Maris*). Please give generously to support seafarers many of whom are Catholics.

Masses & Rosary:

	Holy Trinity	St Teresa's
Monday	9.15am Mass	
Tuesday	9.15am Mass (<i>St Carlo's Coffee Club</i>)	
Wednesday		9.15am Mass (<i>Adoration & Benediction</i>)
Thursday	9.15am Mass (<i>Adoration & Benediction</i>)	
Friday	9.15am End of Year School Mass	
Saturday	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday	11am Mass	9.15am Mass

Wednesday is the Memorial for *Alec Algar*, 2pm @ St Teresa's.

On Saturday, we have two baptisms: *Rian* at 10.30am and *George* at 12 pm, both @ Holy Trinity.

Aid to Venezuela: Please visit St Teresa's website (stteresaschurch-charlbury.com) for information on the **ACN's** ongoing appeal for aid in Venezuela following the earthquakes.

In July, let us pray with the Holy Father for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda of St Teresa's. 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 Venezuela, 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.