



The Parish of the Assumption
West Oxfordshire
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 18th October 2026 – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year A

Isa. 45:1, 4-6 · Ps. 96 · Thess. 1:1-5b · Matt. 22:15-21

Dear Friends,

This last week has been quite sobering and serious. Sir Ken McCallum, Head of our Intelligence Service MI5, gave his assessment of the current security situation in the world and the UK, and it did not make for easy listening. In a nutshell, Sir Ken stated that there were now two equal threats to our liberal democracy: Terrorism and State-founded sabotage, human and digital.

Sir Ken explained that the danger posed by “bad actors”, countries, regimes or proxies, was as dangerous as terrorists like jihadists or the extreme right-wing which seems to be on the rise across Europe. He identified Russia, Iran and China as hostile to the West with an ambition to undermine and replace our way of life. He also cast a look at AI which could be vital in prosecuting or combatting malicious actions. We face an uncertain future with the triumph of liberal democracy no longer a “given”.

Jesus is confronted by the choice between what seems a right choice (God) or a wrong one (Caesar), in the shape of the “Tribute penny”, the hated tax paid to the Roman occupiers. It is of course a trap designed to entangle him with the crowds or the Romans. He sidesteps it quite easily and neatly and makes the crucial point: we must give to Caesar (the current government/regime) what is rightfully theirs but also to God what is His. That may well involve a clash between two opposing and opposite demands and we must have the courage and faith to choose the right way. Not always easy! Down the ages Christian men and women have faced such dilemmas, from the dungeons of Rome two millennia ago to the villages of Northern Nigeria in our own day.

Mother Church is our guide, feeding us with the Body and Blood of her Son, and supporting us with the prayers of Mary and the saints. May we be never fooled into placing Caesar before God, the temporary for the eternal.

P.S. Soon we will be starting our first Communion classes. Any parent with children approaching or past 7 years old please contact me as soon as possible. Also any Confirmation candidates or adult Instruction. We need new servers! Please encourage your young people to step forward.

May I urge everyone to pray for the Holy Father Pope Leo as he recuperates from a cancer operation and also that he rests properly before he takes up his onerous duties again.

The renovation of Holy Trinity is coming to its conclusion soon and I want to record here my great thanks to all involved in a major phase in the life of this beautiful church. Johnny Hulme our pastoral council chairman, David Bowers and his predecessor Paul Branch running the Finance committee, so many have contributed financially, and with time and effort, to ensuring the House of God is kept to

the standard it deserves. The outdoor Lourdes grotto and the indoor Sacred Heart area are both attracting prayers and petitions, deepening the vital hidden life of the community. St Teresa's was completely overhauled during Covid and again it was the work of parishioners like Hugh Sherbrooke and Liz Canning that made it all possible. Now we are one parish we have begun to pool resources, money and skills to ensure both churches continue as places where the Living God is worshipped and known.

I cannot finish without thanking everyone for so many good wishes, prayers and love for my recent hospital procedure which is holding... so far! The Cardiologist said I must have tough heart muscle but I don't think it was a compliment!

**God bless everyone,
Fr Clive**

Second collection this week is for Missio.

Masses & Rosary:

	Holy Trinity	St Teresa's
Tuesday	9.15 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 Rosary for Peace	
Saturday	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday	11am Mass	9.15am Mass

From Johnny Hulme: My dear Mother Joanna Hulme celebrates her 100th Birthday on Tuesday November 10th, 9:15 morning Mass on the day will be a celebration of her life so far! I would love as many of you as possible to join us at Mass, we will have coffee and cake afterwards.

From Suze Mathews:

ACN XMAS CARD SALES AT ST TERESA'S AND HOLY TRINITY

I will be selling ACN Xmas cards and small gifts at both Holy Trinity and St Teresa's in November:

St Teresa's: After 0915 Mass Sundays 1, 8 and 22 November

Holy Trinity: After Mass Saturday 21 Nov and after 11am Mass Sunday 22

Buying your Christmas cards and small gifts from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a great way to support all those Christians world-wide who have lost their homes, their churches and in some instances their freedom to practice their faith.

The Parish's Wine Tasting evening raised £1,632 (£1360 + £272 raffle) for *Let the Children Live!*, Fr Peter's charity that is looking after street children in Colombia. Many thanks go to James and Juliet for hosting, Kathy for her entertainment, Johnny for his organisation, Daniel for being sommelier, and everyone who helped with yet another successful evening. The wines presented are as follows:

<i>Wine</i>	<i>Vintage</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>ABV</i>	<i>Bought from</i>
Esprit, Cremen de Loire	2018	France	£20	11.5%	Chippy Cellars
Francesc Ricart Brut Cava	NV	Spain	£14	11.5%	Chippy Cellars
Sensale Sibiliana, Bio	2025	Siciliane Terre	£13	12.5%	Chippy Cellars
Akurra, Victoria	2023	Australia	£11	12.5%	Chippy Cellars
Chiarretto Bardolino (Organic)	2025	Verona	£13.50	12%	Chippy Cellars
False Bay, Cinsault Mourvedre Rose		South Africa	£10	12.5%	Chippy Cellars
Showdown	2024	California	£14	13.5%	Chippy Cellars
Valle del Maipo	2024	Chile	£10; £8 w/ 20% off for 4	14%	Coop
Malbec, Argentinian Mendoza	2025	Argentina	£5.30	13%	Aldi
Gary Barlow Malbec	2025	Western Cape of South Africa	£8.25	12%	Morrisons

In October, let us pray with the Holy Father that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda and Anne Clifton 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. For the Middle-East, Ukraine.

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](tel:01212306240) or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.