

Autumn Newsletter 2018

Welcome to our latest Liturgy Office newsletter; we hope that you are finding them of interest.

As we journey through Ordinary Time and into the Autumn Season, our thoughts turn to celebrating such events as Harvest, All Saints' Day and Remembrance Sunday, and we include some ideas and suggestions below.

Harvest

Many parishes will be celebrating Harvest, either a Harvest Festival itself, or a simple 'Harvest Mass'. Either way it is a time to give thanks to God for the abundance of the fruits of the earth (and the sea) which we are able to enjoy, while at the same time remembering those who are not so fortunate and live lives of poverty, want and hunger. Praying for those in need is vitally important but we can also help by donating gifts from our abundance. You will find lots of ideas and suggestions for celebrating Harvest on the CAFOD website.

Sacristans and Servers

The proposed date for our 'Sacristans and Servers' formation has now been pushed into 2019 to coincide with our diocesan Year of Prayer. It will be held on Saturday 30 March at Prior Park College, Bath, with Paul Moynihan, Master of Ceremonies for Cardinal Vincent Nichols at Westminster Cathedral. Paul is also Secretary of the Diocese of Southwark's Liturgy, a member of the National Liturgy Office's Liturgy Committee, Westminster Cathedral's Master of Ceremonies and Archbishop Nichols' Master of Ceremonies, so he comes with excellent credentials!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

As mentioned before, all those interested in, or already seasoned practitioners of, the Liturgy of the Word for Children are invited to a formation day to be held at the cathedral, led by Fr Christopher Whitehead, on Saturday 13 October from 10am to 1pm. This formation welcomes all those who work to enable the children in our parishes to hear and reflect upon the word of God through Children's Liturgy. We will spend time with CLOW leaders and catechists helping one another to understand how and why we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word with children. See poster [here](#)

Hallowe'en and the Night of Light

What do you think of when you hear the word 'Hallowe'en'? Probably children, 'trick or treat' and games involving witches' hats and ghostly images. The Night of Light is an international initiative to reclaim 'All Hallows Eve' (31 October) for the Church – transforming it from a night of darkness into a night of light. For more information see [here](#)

All Saints and All Souls

On 1 November we will, as we do every year, celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints – a Holy Day of Obligation. During the year the Church celebrates one by one the feasts of the saints but on 1 November she joins them all in one festival - all the saints: canonised or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven and known only to God. It is worth trying to think of different ways in which to enhance this celebration. Have you thought of singing the Litany of Saints instead of an entrance hymn? There are a number of beautiful litanies available, such as that by the late Mike Stanley which will be found on the CD 'Grace'.

The Feast of All Souls', officially known as 'the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed', follows that of All Saints when we remember and pray for all of those who are in Purgatory. There are a number of ways that this day can be marked. If there is a cemetery in your parish, perhaps your parish might consider a liturgy with the blessing of graves, walking in procession to the cemetery if it is not too far. Some parishes have a Book of the Dead displayed, where people can write the names of deceased loved ones, who are then remembered at Mass and other liturgies throughout November, while others might hold a novena of prayer for the Holy Souls – from 2 November until 10 November.

11 November - Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is a special day of prayer for all victims of war and should have a special emphasis this year, being the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Wearing a red poppy is the most immediately recognisable mark of Remembrance Day but there are, too, other ways in which we might mark the day in our parishes. There could be an Act of Remembrance during Mass, though the timing of Mass might make deciding 'when' difficult; it may be appropriate to have a visual display using a Union Flag or an arrangement of poppies or, if there is a War Memorial nearby, an Act of Remembrance might take place there. See [here](#) and [here](#) for some ideas.

Advent

It is not too soon to start preparing for Advent. For Readers, the Diocese of Salford produces readers' notes for each Sunday of the year which are available on their website (see <https://www.salfordliturgy.org.uk/>). The Liturgy Office has collated the Advent Readers' guides into a little booklet available for download [here](#). Advent might be a good time to encourage readers to make a prayerful reading of the scriptures part of their own, prayerful, rhythm of the day, particularly as we move into our Diocesan Year of Prayer.

If you explore the resources on this page under 'Further resources', then 'rites and blessings' you will find ideas for an Advent Carole Liturgy and an Advent 'O' Antiphon Liturgy – those 7 days from 17-23 December when the Church expresses her profound longing for the Saviour who is to come. When it comes to Carol Services, has your parish considered singing outside of church – either immediately outside or perhaps in the town/village centre – to give witness to our beliefs about Christmas.

There is also a suggestion for celebrating Bambinelli Sunday (3rd Sunday in Advent), a Christingle Liturgy for children and Las Posadas – nine days (remembering Mary's nine months of pregnancy) commemorating the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. You will also find an order for the blessing of an Advent Wreath and some suggested hymns and readings for the half hour before Midnight Mass. There are lots of ideas for reclaiming Advent as a season in its own right, rather than just the warm-up for Christmas!

Liturgy Course

Throughout next year, our Diocesan Year of Prayer, the Liturgy Office will be hosting a course entitled 'Understanding and Praying the Liturgy' for all those involved/interested in preparing liturgy or exercising any liturgical ministry – or even just curious! Introduced by Bishop Declan, it will take place at the cathedral on one Wednesday evening each month. Further information will be published and posters will be sent to parishes across the Autumn, but the dates are set at 30 January, 27 February, 20 March, 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November and 4 December, all in 2019, with Bishop Declan to lead

us in prayer at the start of the course. Places will be limited to 50, so do watch out for details and book early to avoid disappointment. This will be a great way to journey through our Diocesan Year of Prayer.

2019 Liturgical Diary

As this is being written, the Liturgical Diary has been completed and is on its way to the printers, so it should be arriving in parishes later this month (October). If you haven't bought one before, do consider getting one this year. It's a real bargain at just £6.50 per copy and contains, along with all the information about Liturgical texts for each day, a short piece about each of the saints whose lives are celebrated during the year and a host of catechetical material along with blessings and prayers for various occasions. As was said in our last newsletter, this has been produced in-house for the first time this year so, please, be patient and if you notice any errors. The Liturgy Office is always glad to be advised of corrections needed – in time for next year.

Diocesan Year of Prayer

In Advent this year we will move into our Diocesan *Year of Prayer*. There will be a day held at St Brendan's Sixth Form College, with Bishop Declan, on 10 November to launch this *Year* so do get the date in your diary and watch out for further information from the Department of Adult Education and Evangelisation.

GDPR

Finally, we would like to create a database of those who are interested in being Liturgy contacts or simply receiving details of what's coming up. If you would like your name to be included please do let us know by emailing liturgy@cliftondiocese.com and, if you are happy to be a liturgy contact, please also give details of your parish or community. Any information provided will be processed in accordance with the Diocese's Privacy Notice which is available at <https://cliftondiocese.com/privacy-notice>