

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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## Parish Priest

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## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) 24 - 30 July 2022

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass: 5.45pm**

### SUNDAY 24 July **XVII SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

**Mass: 9.30am**

*Thom Christus RIP*

**Mass: 11.00am**

*Ints of Angelina*

**Polish Mass: 12.30pm**

**Mass: 6.30pm**

*Pro Populo*

### MONDAY 25 July **ST JAMES**

**Morning Prayer: 9.00am**

**Mass: 9.30am**

*Sue Fourie's Intentions*

### TUESDAY 26 July **ST JOACHIM AND ST ANN**

**Mass: 8.00am**

**Morning Prayer: 9.30am**

**Confessions: 9.40am**

**Mass: 10.00am**

*Marty Collins RIP*

**Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm**

**Evening Prayer: 5.30pm**

**Rosary: 6.00pm**

### WEDNESDAY 27 July

**Mass: 8.00am**

*Reginald and Madeleine Taylor RIP*

**Morning Prayer: 9.30am**

**Confessions: 9.40am**

**Mass: 10.00am**

*Marcelo Fraser RIP*

**Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm**

**Evening Prayer: 5.30pm**

**Rosary: 6.00pm**

### THURSDAY 28 July

**Mass: 8.00am**

**Morning Prayer: 9.30am**

**Confessions: 9.40am**

**Mass: 10.00am**

*For Reconciliation*

**Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm**

**Evening Prayer: 5.30pm**

**Rosary: 6.00pm**

### FRIDAY 29 July **SS MARTHA, MARY & LAZARUS**

**Mass: 8.00am**

**Morning Prayer: 9.30am**

**Confessions: 9.40am**

**Mass: 10.00am**

*Kathleen Fitzgerald RIP*

**Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm**

**Evening Prayer: 5.30pm**

**Rosary: 6.00pm**

### SATURDAY 30 July

**Morning Prayer: 9.00am**

**Mass: 9.30am**

*Maureen Hughes RIP*

**Confessions: 10.00am – 10.30am & 5.00pm – 5.30pm**

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass: 5.45pm**

**THIS SUNDAY:** When we see the child in the sweet shop nagging and moaning at mum or dad for something, we probably don't think of it as a model of our prayer lives! And yet, if we take the word of God seriously today, that is exactly what our faith teaches us to do! The message is persistence - **never giving up**, even if prayers do not seem to be answered. We shouldn't ask why they are not answered on the spot (God's probably got a reason), but should just continue beating on the door of heaven in faith and hope.

**AN OPEN CHURCH:** During this Week, the Church will open at 7.30am each morning and will close around 6.30pm.

**LANGUAGE SHEETS:** Those of you who might like to follow the Liturgy of the Word in either Italian, Spanish, French or Polish will be able to make use of the sheets that can be found on the table at the back of the Church. Please help yourself and take them with you as you leave.

**SUNDAY CONFESSIONS:** There will be a priest in one of the confessionals from about 5.50pm until 6.20pm ... but please don't turn up at the last minute - Mass begins at 6.30pm.

**ADORATION:** Adoration is most certainly a pulse in our parish community and a blessing for our city, too. With adoration each day (Tues-Fri), there are the added opportunities now on Thursday (7pm – 7.45am), on Friday (7pm – 8am) and Saturday (7pm – 8am Sunday). These three evening and vigil times allow us to watch before the Lord in those still and tranquil hours, longing for the dawn, longing for the Lord who comes. It is so good to encounter people who cross our threshold to be drawn into the tranquillity and peace that comes from being before the Lord. It is good to see so many taking up the challenge of the giving of an hour or so during the night. If you want to offer yourself for an hour's prayer – either in Church during the day or in the Chapel for one of the evenings - do 'sign up'. Catherine, AJ, Angelina or George would be happy to allocate you a time.

**WORSHIP AND PRAISE** during Adoration on a Wednesday from 12.30pm until 1.30pm. Do come along – prayer and music before the Lord.

**FRIDAY LUNCHES:** A hearty fresh soup, with fresh bread, fruit and cheese await you... all served and laid up for you, too. Come and enjoy the conversation and the company. There is no charge for the lunch, just an offering that helps pay for the next week's lunch. **Every Friday at 12.30pm.**

**CHILDREN'S ADORATION** each Friday at 4.30pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel. This simple hour before the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity to draw families together in stillness and in prayer. Do come along if you can.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023:** World Youth Day will next take place in Lisbon in 2023. The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation is organising an eight-day pilgrimage from **July 31 to August 8, 2023** for young adults [18-35] in our diocese.

The provisional plan is to spend six nights in Lisbon and two nights in Fatima. There will be formation sessions for the group before the pilgrimage to build community and support one another in our faith journey. If you are interested in learning more about the Clifton Diocese World Youth Day 2023 Pilgrimage, and will be at least 18 years old on 1 April 2023, please register your interest at [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) - Please spread the word to any young adults you know who may be interested in attending World Youth Day!

### THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:** Marilyn Strevens' Ints

**Lady Chapel:** Ints of Dawn

**A STAY IN HOSPITAL?** If you or a member of your family is going into the Royal United Hospital, please contact [ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net) or call the RUH Chaplaincy 01225 428331 on arrival. It can be such a useful thing to know so that the Chaplaincy team can call upon you.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** We keep in our prayers Kathleen Fitzgerald who died recently. Her funeral takes place here on **Thursday 4 August** at 10.00am. May she rest in peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Aaron Gallagher and Natasha Nzazi who were married here on Tuesday as well as Zophie Wakefield and Dalton Limbert-Player who were married here on Friday. Congratulations, also, to Samuel El-Maneet who was baptised and confirmed on Thursday. We keep them all in our prayers.

**A PARISH CENSUS 2022: Keep those census forms coming in!** The online facility allows you to fill in your details online and update as-and-when. If you are not connected... do not despair! On **3 & 4 September** there will be a team at all Masses to help you register if you don't have facilities at home. The system will also allow new arrivals and returners to be part of the process and also offer us a clear vehicle of contact and communication. We can use this opportunity to explore a harvest of skills and gifts that can be put to good use with a very clear *follow up* to ensure that what is offered is made good use of. The Parish Census team, drawn together, will begin to make things available for you. If you want to look here, then you can begin to 'sign up' [stjohnsrcbath.org.uk/parish-census/](http://stjohnsrcbath.org.uk/parish-census/).

### FINANCE NEWS:

Last Sunday's collection: £704.97

Online and Contactless Giving: £346

Standing Orders: £978

Gift Aid on S/O: £244 Candles: £165.93

Thank you

**A CYCLE SHED:** Work has begun to create a cycle shed alongside the garages in the upper car park. Providing a little shelter from the elements and those opportunity to lock cycles safely whilst at Mass, the shed will allow a safe place away from the West Door and out of the eye of chancers!

**THE CLUB** meets again on **Tuesday 2 August** at 2pm in the Parish Hall. It is always a great opportunity to come together with others for an afternoon filled with conversation, tea, cake... and even a quick game of bingo! Just call into the hall... it would be good to see you.

**LOWER CAR PARK:** Renewals are due by the middle of July and those of you who make use of the fob system will need to get in touch with Patrick via the parish office over the next couple of weeks. From **July 15**, the annual subscription for the car park will be £165. You can either pay by cheque or arrange for bank transfer. Those who may not wish to renew can return their fobs to the parish office.

**THE LIFE PROJECT (Bath)** is seeking to recruit an inspiring individual with experience and enthusiasm to lead our growing family services in the new post of Family Support Coordinator. The Life Project is an independent, local charity rooted in Christian principles and ethos. We have been working with adults with learning disabilities for over 10 years, striving to create communities, transform society and love life. Currently our family support mostly reaches mothers and other female family carers who can attend to the drop in on Tuesday's. We know that there is a wider need to support fathers and other male carers, parents who are working during the day, and those who find travel into Bath a challenge. We are looking for someone who can oversee our well-established Parent Support and identify and implement the priorities for our next phase of growth. For further details about this position and to find out how to apply please visit our website [lifeprojectbath.org.uk/work-with-us/](http://lifeprojectbath.org.uk/work-with-us/)

**DEMENTIA CAFÉ:** There are so many husbands, wives and members of families who are caring for loved ones living with dementia. On the first Wednesday of every month, there will be an opportunity for carers simply to come together for a cuppa and pastries between 11am and 12pm – an hour to catch your breath and have a gentle conversation with others. It may grow into a wonderful support group, who knows! If you'd like to come along, please do. You may know others who would benefit from that hour with others, sharing the load. We'll begin on **Wednesday 3 August** in the parish hall.

**WORKS ACROSS THE SUMMER MONTHS:** The work in transforming the ladies toilet is near completion. The tiler has done a superb job on floor and walls and this coming week we should find the fixtures and furniture being put into place. That should complete that project. The toilet that serves the *St Matthew and St Luke* meeting rooms underneath the presbytery will be replaced and that whole area refreshed and renewed. Work needs to start on two sections of the roof. Scaffolding will appear a week on Monday (25<sup>th</sup>) to allow access to the area of the roof above Station XIV. That area causes concern because the water is damaging the Station itself and you can see the erosion on the stone. Whilst the roofers have the scaffolding up there are one or two little areas where attention is needed, where tiles have slipped and where gutters need a little attention, also. There is scheduled work due to start on the renovation of the wooden boards in both the Lady Chapel and the Sacred Heart Chapel. Permission was granted by the Historic Churches

Committee two years ago for renovation and repair, and so some initial work will begin (and may cause a little disruption – but not too much nor for too long) whilst testing wood finish takes place. The kitchen in the basement part of the presbytery will be completed in the next week or so and then a little decoration to the hall way will take place. That opens up a beautiful small meeting area with good facilities. IT equipment will be installed so that it becomes a good function space for smaller meetings and gatherings. Some gardening and landscaping work needs to take place along the bank. Fr Christopher is hoping that we can have a lavender bank along the river just to give a little hedging on the other side of the fence by the river. There is some work needed on the Chapel at Perrymead during the summer and some garden and boundary work between what is the parish's and what belongs to the Eyre Chapel. The Perrymead Chapel was thoroughly cleaned out in the last two weeks and there will be chance to give it another sweep and clean before the end of August. The gutters need some clearing before we nudge into Autumn. It will be good to get all this done (especially if the weather is on our side) as well as keeping on top of the day to day stuff of keeping us going. Fr Christopher is working with Michael Gibbens and Robert to take forward the necessary works on the nine bells in the spire after 150 years. If we obtain permission from the Diocesan Trustees for renovation and restoration, then it may be that we see this project commence some time in the Autumn months. That will give us chance to see the bells up close as they are brought down and have them on show when they return before they are re-installed.

**ST MATTHEW – A DEANERY SERIES OF TALKS:** Fr Alex from St Alphege's is hosting a series of talks across the Autumn of this year to introduce us to St Matthew, starting as we prepare for the liturgical reading of the Gospel from Advent. Each speaker will focus on a particular part of Matthew's Gospel to aid our reading, our study and our prayer. The talks take place at St Alphege's (from 16 September) and begin at 7pm each time. Take note of the dates from the poster in the porch. There will be a details prompt in the newsletter from September.

**WE BID FAREWELL** to Fr Fernando who now takes up a month's placement at the Nunciature in Wimbledon. Fr Fernando works gaining a month's experience with the Nuncio to Great Britain as part of his work with the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See. It has been good to have him with us these last five weeks and we pray for him and his mission. As he goes we will say hello to Fr Anderson, a priest from Brazil who is also training for the Diplomatic Service. He arrives in September for a month's stay with us.

**RELIQS OF ST BERNADETTE IN CLIFTON:** The relics of St Bernadette come on a pilgrimage tour through the dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland. On Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, they visit our Cathedral in Clifton. The Relics will visit Clifton Cathedral from 2.00pm on Saturday to 11.00am on Sunday. You can read about the visit to our cathedral in Clifton on the diocesan website - [cliftondiocese.com/bernadette/](http://cliftondiocese.com/bernadette/) . St Mary's Parish is arranging a coach to take parishioners to the

Cathedral on **Saturday 10 September** (times tbc). If you are interested in booking a seat, please email Charlotte Boyall at [bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com) or call the Parish Office 01225 314114 so that the level of interest can be gauged. This is a great opportunity – a pilgrimage of faith and of prayer. If you are interested in going along, please mark off the dates in your diary. **The programme for the weekend can be found on the notice board in the porch.**

**DIOCESAN TRUSTEES:** The Diocese is currently looking for individuals to join the Board of the Trustees to enhance the skills of the Board in specific areas as a result of current vacancies. Suitable applicants should have in depth knowledge and experience of either corporate law, property law, or a HR environment. In order to support the full activities of the Board, experience in charity or corporate governance would also be beneficial. The commitment is to one 3 hour meeting per month on a Wednesday from 9.30 am in Bristol along with other on at least one sub-committee, and preparation for meetings. It is usual for a Trustee to give somewhere in the region of 6 hours per month plus travelling time. If you would like to be considered for a position, please send your details to the Bishop's Private Secretary, St Ambrose, North Rd, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PW by 5 August.

**SEASON OF CREATION:** Whilst September may seem a little way off at the moment, it is worth making note of the start of the Season of Creation on the **1 September**. Pope Francis draws us into that prayerful reflection around a care for our common home and a care for creation. As a parish community we mark the beginning of the Season of Creation at Masses the weekend of **3 & 4 September**. We will also celebrate the Harvest on **15 & 16 October** at all Masses that weekend. The CAFOD Harvest Fast collection will be postponed a week simply because Fr Pratap is with us the previous weekend (9 & 10 October).

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:** Last year Pope Francis chose to initiate a Church-wide celebration of a Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. On the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus, we pray for all grandparents. This year the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on **Sunday 24 July** (this Sunday), with the theme; 'In old age they will still bear fruit'. (Psalm 92:15).

**BATH 24-7 PRAYER ROOM:** Bath experienced an amazing 10 days of prayer in early June and as a result we are happy to announce that the Bath 24-7 Prayer Room (located behind the Abbey to the right by Kingston Buildings) is reopening for the city of Bath on **25 July to 5 September**. Wherever you are in "life's journey" this beautiful little space is simply a place to be still and reflect. You can walk in during daytime hours and spend a little time in God's presence or sign up for a specific time of prayer in the calendar (either on your own or with a group).

**HALL TOILETS:** With everything crossed, by the end of this week, both toilets in the hall will be completed!!!

## THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

*There are language sheets for the readings available at the back of the church – French, Italian, Spanish and Polish – as well as Mass cards to guide you through the Liturgy.*

### First reading

Genesis 18:20-32

#### A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' the Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No,' he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

### Psalm

Psalm 137(138):1-3,6-8

#### On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of affliction  
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,  
your hand will do all things for me.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands.

### Second Reading

Colossians 2:12-14

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

### Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

“‘Father, may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test.’”

He also said to them: 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'