

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C) 31 July – 6 August 2022

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

Raimonda Lai

SUNDAY 31 July XVIII SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass: 9.30am

Mass: 11.00am

Pro Populo

Polish Mass: 12.30pm

Mass: 6.30pm

Salvatore Frusteri,

Bernardo and Maria, Francesca Bartolotta RIP

MONDAY 1 August ST ALPHONSUS MARY LIGUORI

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

Veronica Randall's Ints

TUESDAY 2 August

Mass: 8.00am

Intentions of Peter Singleton

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Elizabeth McConnell RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 3 August

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Beatrice Healey RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 4 August

Mass: 8.00am

Joan Dingley RIP

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Funeral Mass: 10.00am

Kathleen Fitzgerald RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 5 August OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Ints of SB

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

First Friday Prayer for Vocations – 11.30 – 12.30

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 6 August THE TRANSFIGURATION

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

Shirley Singleton RIP

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

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

THIS SUNDAY: Today we contemplate a great truth about our life: you can't take it with you. The old phrase 'There are no pockets in a shroud' is what we confront today, in the preaching of both Ecclesiastes and the Lord Jesus. What Jesus makes us think about, however, is not just this truth, but the consequences of it: if we are not to build up treasure here on earth, what are we to do? The answer is simple: by our way of living we 'make ourselves rich in the sight of God'!

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, 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 LUNCHESES: 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 - 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: *Ints of Dawn*

Lady Chapel: *Joan Dingley RIP*

FIRST FRIDAY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: This coming First Friday gives us that monthly opportunity to come before the Lord in prayer for our priests and for Vocations. This coming Friday - **11.30 – 12.30** - there is an hour before the Blessed Sacrament with that simple intention. Simple resources for that hour will be available.

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 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 (Blondie). Her funeral takes place here on **Thursday 4 August** at 10.00am. May she rest in peace.

CONGRATULATIONS Luke Ashwin who was baptised here on Monday and to Dia Triche Mei Fajardo Croitor baptised here on Friday. We assure them and their families of our continued 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/.

FINANCE NEWS:

Last Sunday's collection: £818.02

Online and Contactless Giving: £359

Standing Orders: £978

Gift Aid on S/O: £244 Candles: £196.88

Thank you

A CYCLE SHED: Work is nearly complete on creating 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** (this coming Tuesday) 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 **now due** 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. As we begin the month of August fobs may be deactivated if this new year's subs are left unpaid.

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.

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.

RELICS 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/. 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 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 an 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).

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).

GATHERING FOR MINISTRY: As soon as the autumn gets underway, Father Christopher would like to start gathering our liturgical ministers together from September for a time of reflection and formation. Those who coordinate particular ministries in the parish will be in touch to gather and invite those who exercise a particular liturgical ministry in the parish. Our welcomers gather on **Wednesday 21 September** at 7pm in the Church with our Extraordinary Ministers of Communion being invited to come together on **Wednesday 19 October**, and our Readers on **Wednesday 7 December**. Whilst those dates seem an age away, it is always worth jotting them in the diary now. The coordinators will be in touch.

AN INVITATION TO ALL SINGERS: St John's has the luxury of fielding two choirs for the I am Mass, both of which sing at Mass on certain Sundays. 1) The Schola sings Mass every two weeks 2) The Patmos Choir also sings Mass and sings on other occasions as well, such as the Carol Service, Holy Week meditations and Vespers. The Schola is comprised of fewer singers who are expected to have good sight reading skills as they sing more frequently. The Patmos Choir rehearses on Monday evenings at 7pm. This choir normally rehearses on average

5 times before singing at a Service and is suited to singers who need additional rehearsal time. Members of both choirs are very friendly and always look forward to welcoming new members of all voices, in particular Sopranos and Basses. All that is required is bags of enthusiasm and firm commitment. All interested singers for either or both choirs are invited to a meeting which will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 4 September at 3pm followed by tea and light refreshments. For further details please email either: rupert.s.bevan@gmail.com or etbates@lineone.net

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 has gone up to allow access to the area of the roof above Station XIV. Work is well underway. 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. Lavender has been bought so that we can begin to create 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. Part of the boundary wall at Perrymead suffered collapse this last week – a combination of neighbour's trees and the dry spell recently. Hopefully, the insurers will help out with this big repair. The gutters around the place will 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 (application submitted), 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.

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 Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

Psalm Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

**O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

Gospel Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'