

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

☎ 01225 464471

✉ [stjohnsrcbath.org.uk](mailto:stjohnsrcbath.org.uk)

## Parish Priest

Canon Christopher Whitehead

✉ [christopher.whitehead@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:christopher.whitehead@cliftondiocese.com)

## Parish Administrator

Janet Flinn

✉ [bath.stjohntheevangelist@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bath.stjohntheevangelist@cliftondiocese.com)

## Parish Treasurer and Outreach Coordinator

Robert Von Hawrylak

✉ [robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com)



## THIRTIETH WEEK OF THE YEAR 5 - 11 NOVEMBER 2023

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

*Beverly Roberts RIP*

## SUNDAY 5 November XXXI SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**Mass:** 9.30am *Dec'd members of the Bath Catenian Circle*

**Mass:** 11.00am *Maria Concetta Scianna RIP*

**Polish Mass:** 1.00pm

**Confessions:** 5.50pm – 6.20pm

**Evening Mass:** 6.30pm *Dennis Curtis RIP*

## MONDAY 6 November

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am *Dec'd rels and friends of David and Sophie Moss*

## TUESDAY 7 November

**Mass:** 8.00am *Holy Souls*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am **Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am *Holy Souls*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

## WEDNESDAY 8 November

**Mass:** 8.00am *Dec'd members of the Gibbens Family*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am **Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am *Patricia Dent-Young RIP*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

## THURSDAY 9 November LATERAN BASILICA DED

**Mass:** 8.00am *William, Elsie and Sheila Whelan RIP*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am **Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am *Franco and Liana Farina RIP*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

## FRIDAY 10 November ST LEO THE GREAT

**Mass:** 8.00am *Dec'd Colgan, Taylor, and Barnes Family*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am **Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am *Holy Souls*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

## SATURDAY 11 November ST MARTIN OF TOURS

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am **Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am *Tomlinson, Chapman and Posthill families dec'd*

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

**Mass:** 5.45pm *David Hill RIP*

**THE SUNDAY WORD:** The more responsibility we have for the flock of God, the more is demanded of us. But for all God's people, there is the need for constant vigilance, to be on guard against hypocrisy and complacency, the two greatest threats to our living God's way and not our own, self-serving way. This is a prelude to the end: for the next three weeks we will think about the end of the world and the judgement that awaits. This Sunday's readings should begin to encourage us not to fear and dread that day, but to look forward to it, by putting our lives in order and living as the Lord showed us.

**BELL RESTORATION:** The restoration fundraising 'thermometer' keeps on rising and that is down to your wonderful generosity. This last week, has seen even more coming in. Just before the weekend the total finds itself at **£94,468.91** What another generous week it has been. (which includes £9,815.16 in tax reclaimed from donations). That is a fantastic position to be in after just a couple of months. Thank you to those who have so generously helped fund this project with your kindness and your giving. There have been wonderful initiatives to help raise the funds and it is so good to see families and individuals coming up with ways of increasing the fundraising. As you know the total cost (inc VAT) is £108k and the parish will pick up the VAT bill knowing that, as a listed place of worship, we can reclaim that VAT paid. Photos of the bells in their restoration stage can be found on our parish Facebook page. Work is well under way with the cleaning and the re-tuning and Fr Christopher and Michael Gibbens are hoping to pay a visit to the workshop this coming Friday to see progress. All is on schedule and the nine bells will be returned towards the end of November in readiness for re-installing into the belfry at the start of December. Work on the lighting of the belfry has been completed. Work to re-net the shuttered openings of the belfry in order to keep birds (and their feathers) out will happen over the next week. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

## THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:** *Staff and residents of Linwood House*

**Lady Chapel:** *Staff and residents of Linwood House*

**CHAPEL VOTIVE LIGHT INTENTIONS:** It is so good to see these candles being 'sponsored' each week for a particular intention. They appear in strict rotation which is why your intention may take a while to filter through. The Lady Chapel is so popular and there is a greater wait for the intentions to come through.

**WELCOME:** If you are new to the parish you are so welcome and it is good to have you here. If you are newly arrived, do say hello to Fr Christopher. It is good to have you as part of our parish community.

**ADORATION:** Adoration continues each day (Tues-Fri: 10.30am until 5.30pm), as well as the added opportunities on **Wednesdays** (7.00pm – 7.45am), **Thursdays** (7.00pm – 7.45am), **Fridays** (7.00pm – 7.45am) and **Saturdays** (7.00pm – midnight). These are moments to savour and to cherish and they bring us into the peace of the presence of Christ. Adoration brings a stillness to our church... and it is so good to encounter people who cross our threshold being drawn into the tranquility and peace that comes from being before the Lord. The night hours

are proving a little difficult and so these may well be adjusted. If you would like to offer an hour then **do 'sign up'**. Catherine, Angelina, or George would be happy to help allocate you a time.

**THURSDAY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS:** Don't forget that each Thursday morning, the first hour of Adoration (10.30am – 11.30am) is always a Holy Hour praying for our priests and praying for vocations. Do come and spend a little time before the Lord, holding this intention in prayer.

**THURSDAY LUNCHESES WITH GENESIS:** The Thursday lunches with some of Bath's homeless and vulnerable goes from strength to strength and it is so lovely to be able to welcome guests across our threshold each week. If there are those who might like to lend a hand washing up (12.30pm – 1.30pm) from time to time, please let Robert know you are willing to give an hour and help. If there is also a chance that you might be able to help out with one or two things that are a weekly staple, then that help would be appreciated. The lunch needs the gift of **tinned tomatoes or custard, cling film and foil**. You can always drop these off in the parish office. That would be a kindness.

**FRIDAY LUNCHESES: Every Friday at 12.30pm.** You are most welcome to pop down to the hall for lunch each week. It is always a good opportunity to spend a little time with others enjoying the nourishment of a freshly made soup, some fresh bread and fruit.

**PARISH 'RETREAT' DAY,** using the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church to ponder our responsibility and care for the creation entrusted to our safekeeping. **Saturday 2 December** (11am – 2pm) – Care of Creation: A Scriptural vision for today. It will also give us opportunity to consider Pope Francis' *Laudate Deum*. This will be led by David McLoughlin and Fleur Dorrell.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Each Sunday** as part of the 9.30am Mass. Do feel you can send your children to listen to God's word in the Adoration Chapel. They will be sent out at the start of Mass and will return at the time of the Offertory so that they can celebrate the 'second part' of the Mass with us. If your children are old enough to go off with the group, please encourage them to go along; if they need accompanying, please feel free to go out with them.

**THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRIB:** In 1223 St Francis spent Christmas in Greccio and presented the village with a 'live' crib – villagers taking the role of the characters from the nativity narrative. We need to credit him as the 'author' of the nativity sets we use at home each year. Fr Christopher is hoping to have an exhibition of cribs after the Epiphany and will invite you to bring your own crib as part of the exhibition... but now is the time to think about getting yourselves a crib set if you don't have one at home. Let's celebrate this 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary by gracing our homes with this beautiful reminder of the Christmas narrative. There are some in the repository.

**VISITING CHOIR:** The Choir from Prior Park College are here on the Feast of Christ the King, **26 November** for the 11.00am Mass. It will be good to have our 'near neighbours' with us on that *Youth Sunday*.

**FIRST COMMUNION 2024:** 16 children have enrolled for First Communion preparation, and they begin their journey this month. They gather together **this Sunday** at 9.30am for the Mass of Enrolment. It is good to be able to welcome them as a group. They meet for their first session of preparation for First Confession on **Wednesday 15 November** at 4.30pm in the Church. Let us keep them in our prayers. Josiah Actub, Niamh Bourke, Martina Brucculeri, Michał Błądek, Olivia Edwards, Oscar Griffiths, Orlaith Marshall-Peters, Adam Masiewicz, Julia Masiewicz, Nathanie Pierog, Emilie Poole, Rozalia Rutkowska, Quervin Andrew Silang, Darcie-Jane Townshend, Nina Uzel, and Lydia Whitehead.

**NOVEMBER AND THE HOLY SOULS:** The year is racing on and we journey into the month of the Holy Souls. The November envelopes are available for you to make use of in this month of November. If you would like Mass intentions for those who have died, please contact Fr Christopher, most especially if there are particular anniversary dates you would like. Mass for those who have died during the last twelve months will be celebrated on **Wednesday 16 November** at 7pm. Fr Christopher invites families of those who have died to join us on that evening. Do come and accompany them if you can.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** This year, we keep the memory of those who fought and lost their lives in the two great wars of the twentieth century and those who fought in the many other conflicts, too. On Sunday, **12 November** (next Sunday) we keep that two minutes silence for the fallen of war and we remember those still caught up in conflict and warfare today. **The Act of Remembrance will begin at 10.50am** this Remembrance Sunday so as to allow us to join with all those who fall silent in remembrance and prayer. Our Garden of Remembrance is alongside the *Pieta*. You will also be able to support the Royal British Legion *Poppay Appeal*; there should be a box of poppies at the back of the church.

#### **FINANCE NEWS:**

Offertory: £766.31      Envelopes: £148.10  
Contactless Offertory: £504.51      Candles: £162  
Standing Orders: £1353      Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25  
*Thank you*

**SUNDAY STUDENT SUPPERS:** A huge thank you to those who have responded with offers of help on a Sunday evening, hosting the growing student community that meets after the evening Mass in the Hall. There has been a great response to cater and to serve up. If you would like to lend a hand, please do have a word with FrC when you can. It is such a heart-warming encounter with fifty or sixty students staying for something to eat and the nourishment, also, of good company. All that is needed is the twenty minutes before they descend to the hall to make sure everything is ready for serving.

**PARISH LITURGY GROUP:** The meeting of liturgical coordinators in the Parish meets on **Thursday 9 November** at 4pm in the presbytery.

**THE CLUB** meets next on **Tuesday 21 November**. The November gathering will feature a guided tour of the Masonic Lodge (where St John's community gathered before our present Church). You will need to let Eileen

know you are coming along to that trip on **Tuesday 21 November** at 2.00pm. 01225 465240

**A GENESIS APPEAL:** As the winter approaches, Genesis are appealing for a little help with some of their clients and trying to respond, as best they can, to the needs of those who live on our streets. They are looking for new sleeping bags and new pillows. They are also looking for men's T shirts, socks, gloves and boxers. They have supplies for women and just need men's bits and pieces at the moment. You can hand things into the parish office and all your gifts will be picked up at the Thursday lunches. However you can help, it would be so appreciated. Christmas will allow us to help them in different ways.

**LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY:** Across 2024 there is an opportunity to grow in our understanding of prayer and flourish in our ways of praying. Beginning in January and stretching out across the entire year, each month will draw us into nearness to the Lord through opening us up to the prayer of some of the great 'pray-ers' of our faith. They will share with us their wisdom and their experience of their prayerful friendship with Christ and offer us ways of praying and insights into a deepened relationship with the Father. St Therese of Lisieux says: For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. Do make a note of the dates in your diary. **Tuesday 23 January:** Lord teach us to pray – how we pray (Fr Tom Dubois); **Tuesday 20 February:** The prayer of Jesus (Fr Dermot Power); **Tuesday 30 April:** The prayer of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Fr John Udris); **Tuesday 28 May:** The prayer of St Benedict (Fr Mark Hargreaves OSB); **Tuesday 25 June:** The prayer of St Dominic (Sr Hyacinthe and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph); **Tuesday 23 July:** Windows on the Divine – praying with icons (Tamara Penwell); **Tuesday 24 September:** The prayer of St Francis and St Clare (Friar Maximilian Martin, OFM Conv); **Tuesday 29 October:** The prayer of Carmel (Fr Michael McAndrew); **Tuesday 26 November:** The prayer of St Ignatius (Fr James Hanvey SJ). A great way to journey towards the Holy Year of 2025. Each talk may well take place in the church and will begin at 7.00pm.

**RE-DISCOVERING PARTS OF THE COUNCIL:** By way of a remote preparation for the Holy Year of 2025, Pope Francis has encouraged us to re-engage with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. Gavin D'Costa, emeritus Professor of Catholic Theology at Bristol University and currently lecturing at the Angelicum University in Rome, will be with us for two sessions as we nudge towards the end of this year. On **Wednesday 22 November**, Gavin will begin by exploring themes from Lumen Gentium. His second session (**Wednesday 13 December**) will explore the Council's outreach of dialogue to those of other faiths as seen in Nostra Aetate. The talks will take place in the hall and begin at 7pm with refreshments available from 6.30pm. Do make a space in your diary.

**CONGRATULATIONS** Raphaela Kaye and Rosalind Tomlinson who was baptized here in St John's last weekend. We keep them and their families in our prayers.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Patricia Dent-Young's funeral has been arranged for **Tuesday 21 November** at 10am followed by burial in Perrymead. We keep Pat in our prayers as well as praying for her family, too, at this time.

**DON'T FORGET THE HOLY SPIRIT - Friday 24 November** – 'Don't Forget the Holy Spirit' evening at St Mary's Church, Julian Road, Bath with Fr Matt Anscombe. 7.00-9.00pm. Mass, testimony, teaching, discussion and prayer based on Fr Matt's experiences with the Holy Spirit, detailed in his book 'Don't Forget the Holy Spirit'. He shares personal testimony and considers the difference the Holy Spirit makes in our lives of faith. Info: [www.dftholyspirit.com](http://www.dftholyspirit.com)

**SYNOD EXPERIENCE DAY** Saturday 11 November at St Mary's Church, Julian Road, Bath. Join in with this life-affirming day. The day will enable you to hear from a key participant at the global synod, what has been revealed by it. The day will be led by Austen Ivereigh, biographer and friend of Pope Francis, freshly returned from the Synod in Rome. Check out his website [www.austeni.org/](http://www.austeni.org/) Email [stephen-paradox@outlook.com](mailto:stephen-paradox@outlook.com) to book yourself a space. Limited parking available. Please bring a packed lunch.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO REDUCE ENERGY BILLS?** Or to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions? Or to possibly eliminate fossil fuels and thus make a tiny contribution to reducing climate change? *Greener Homes* are open Saturday 4 November and Sunday 5 November. [greenopenhomesbanes.org/](http://greenopenhomesbanes.org/) Call in and find out more. On **Monday 6 November**, one home – 16 Pulteney Gardens, BA2 4HG - is open for talk and prayer at 11am and again at 3.00pm, and 5.00pm with refreshments. You can call Ozzie on 07535202460.

**FROM THE HOLY FATHER:** Holiness is a gift from God which we have received with Baptism: if we let it grow, it can completely change our life (cf. *Apostolic Exhortation - Gaudete et Exsultate*, 15). Saints are not unreachable or distant heroes, but people like us, our friends, whose starting point is the same gift we have received: Baptism. Indeed, if we think about it, we have certainly met some of them, some everyday saints: some righteous person, someone who lives the Christian life seriously, with simplicity... they are those I like to call "the saints next door", who live normally among us. Holiness is a gift offered to everyone for a happy life. And after all, when we receive a gift, what is our first reaction? It is precisely that we are happy, because it means that someone loves us; and the gift of holiness makes us happy because God loves us. But every gift, however, must be accepted, and it carries with it the responsibility of a response, a "thank you". But how can we say this "thank you"? It is an invitation to commit oneself so that it is not squandered. All the baptized have received the same calling to hold on to and complete in our lives the holiness we have received (cf. Lumen gentium, 40). This is how we come to the second point –holiness is also a journey, a journey to be made together, helping each other, united with those excellent companions who are the Saints.

## 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** Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10

### A reading from the prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

**PSALM** Psalm 130(131)

### Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul.

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and forever.

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 23:1-12

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

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

### PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

O God, Creator of the universe, who extends your paternal concern over every creature and guides the events of history to goals of salvation, we acknowledge your Fatherly love when you break the resistance of mankind and, in a world torn by strife and discord, you make us ready for reconciliation. Renew for us the wonders of your MERCY; send forth your Spirit that He may work in the intimacy of our hearts, that enemies may begin to dialogue, that adversaries may shake hands and peoples may encounter one another in harmony. May all commit themselves to the sincere search for true peace which will extinguish all arguments, for charity which overcomes hatred, for pardon which disarms revenge.

Pope John Paul II