

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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THIRTY SECOND WEEK OF THE YEAR

12- 18 NOVEMBER 2023

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

David Hill RIP

SUNDAY 12 November XXXII SUNDAY OF THE YEAR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Mass: 9.30am

Mass: 11.00am *For the fallen*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Evening Mass: 6.30pm *Wayne Taylor RIP*

MONDAY 13 November

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Joseph Yang RIP*

Blathwayte Ints

TUESDAY 14 November

BEATIFIED MARTYRS OF CLIFTON

Mass: 8.00am *Holy Souls*

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

Mass: 10.00am *Dec'd of Brickner Family*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

WEDNESDAY 15 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

Mass: 7.00pm *For those who have died this last year*

THURSDAY 16 November

ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON

Mass: 8.00am *Dec'd rels and friends of Dobson family*

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

Mass: 10.00am *Michael Mahoney RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

FRIDAY 17 November

ST HUGH OF LINCOLN

Mass: 8.00am *Pilar Charraga RIP*

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

Mass: 10.00am *Peter Owen RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

SATURDAY 18 November

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

Mass: 9.30am *Ints of Catherine Chambakata*

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

Mass: 5.45pm *Dec'd members of the Harris Family*

THE SUNDAY WORD: "Watch early for wisdom":

wise words, and ones that the foolish bridesmaids of the Gospel should have taken to heart. This is the ultimate in 'putting off till tomorrow...', since the reading is about the end of time, when the Son of Man will come again. Then there will be no tomorrow. If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing today. Quite often we contemplate the end of time with anxiety and fear: this is not what God wants. Look at the Psalm, where we hear of desperate longing, a thirst for the Lord, that cannot wait. We should not just wait for the Lord with patient endurance, but with impatient longing: what could we desire more than the coming of the Lord, the rising of the dead and an eternity of joy and glory?

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. This Sunday, **12 November** 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 *Poppy Appeal*; there should be a box of poppies at the back of the church.

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 **£94,820.96**. What another generous week it has been. (which includes **£9,868.91** 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. Fr Christopher and Michael Gibbens paid a visit to the workshop on Friday to see progress. All is on schedule and the nine bells will be returned the week beginning 27 November in readiness for re-installing into the belfry from 4 December. That work will take around ten working days because of all the fittings that need to be attached once they find their way home. The clock should be ringing again in time for Christmas and the bells chiming with Christmas joy. Work to re-net the shuttered openings of the belfry in order to keep birds (and their feathers) out will happen at the end of this week. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: *Justin Snowdon*

Lady Chapel: *For Lini*

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 800th 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 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: Mass for those who have died during the last twelve months will be celebrated on **Wednesday 15 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.

FINANCE NEWS:

Offertory: £778.13 Envelopes: £149.55
Contactless Offertory: £570.00 Candles: £676.20
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.

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. The Lodge is situated in Orchard Street (behind M&S). the visit will cost £6.

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 Rosalind Barnett who was baptized here in St John's last weekend. We keep her and her family 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.

Also, James Lynch died, sadly, on Friday evening. May he rest in peace.

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

STARTING SCHOOL? If you have a child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2024 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of the Bath and North East Somerset Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the **closing date of 15 January 2024**.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR: The Sisters (who come here annually to make an appeal for their residential home in Bristol) are hoping to be here next weekend at the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses by way of trying to sell raffle tickets for their Christmas Fayre on 25 November. If you can help the Sisters out by buying a book or two, that would support them with kindness and generosity. They will leave raffle tickets for the Sunday evening Mass, too.

CAFOD are looking for your support with their emergency Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. You can donate online (cafod.org) or by scanning the QR code on the poster in the porch.

MISSION CALENDARS are available at the back of the church. Do collect one as you leave.

RED WEDNESDAY is a day of prayer supported by Aid to the Church in Need holding those who are persecuted for their faith. The façade of St John's will be lit in red for the evening.

FINANCE SUPPORT OFFICER: The diocesan finance office is looking to recruit a new member of the Finance Office team to help with the running of the department. Part-time, 12 hours a week. You can contact Simon Hussey by email for details: simon.hussey@clifftondiocese.com

MASS OF HEALING PRAYER for the month of November will take place on Friday 30 November at 7pm. Do come along if you can. An opportunity to encounter the healing love of the Lord in the Eucharist, in Confession and in the enfolding support of those who hold you in prayer.

FAMILY ADORATION: The last Saturday of the month at 3.30pm. Time before the Blessed Sacrament with families in the parish. **Saturday 25 November.**

VISITATION: The Pope's representative in Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía comes to visit St John's and celebrate Mass on **Sunday 3 December** at 6.30pm, spending time with our students.

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 Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety
will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking
for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

PSALM Psalm 62(63):2-8

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died

in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

