

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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THIRTY THIRD WEEK OF THE YEAR 19 - 25 NOVEMBER 2023

First Mass of Sunday

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

SUNDAY 19 November XXXIII SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass: 9.30am *Dennis Curtis RIP*

Mass: 11.00am *Desmond Roberts RIP*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Evening Mass: 6.30pm *Pro Populo*

MONDAY 20 November

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

Mass: 9.30am *Monique and Denis Jenkins RIP*

TUESDAY 21 November

PRESENTATION OF THE BVM

Mass: 8.00am *Dec'd family and friends of the Keane Family*

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

Requiem Mass: 10.00am *Patricia Dent Young RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

WEDNESDAY 22 November ST CECILIA

Mass: 8.00am *Holy Souls*

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

Mass: 10.00am *Dec'd members of the Bryan and Kenney Families*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

THURSDAY 23 November

Mass: 8.00am *Dec'd mems of the Sampson and Hoole Families*

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

Mass: 10.00am *In thanksgiving*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

FRIDAY 24 November

ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC AND COMPANIONS

Mass: 8.00am *Dec'd family and friends of Tom Rynkowski*

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

Mass: 10.00am *Dec'd rels and friends of Ann Dolan*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

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

SATURDAY 25 November

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

Mass: 9.30am *Dec'd mems of Grimes and Watkins families*

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

Mass: 5.45pm *Dec'd members of the Gardner family*

THE SUNDAY WORD: We must be very careful that the real point of today's first reading is not washed away in genuine concerns over what one can and cannot say about the responsibilities of wives. This is not, in fact, a recipe for 'the perfect wife', but an illustration, from one age, of the virtue of fully employing the talents God gives us. **Some things are timeless**, such as holding out a hand to the poor, while other talents shift and change. The point is that all of us are gifted in varying ways and degrees: none of us should begrudge anyone else their talents, for fear that we overlook our own. We work wisely and well, looking forward to the master's return, when we can hand over to him not just what he gave us, but also the fruits that our labours have gained.

BELL RESTORATION: The restoration fundraising has kept moving in the upward direction and now is the time for those last minute donation before we stop fundraising for the restoration project after next weekend. The end of the Church's year seems such a fitting moment. Just before the weekend the total finds itself at **£ 94,826.81**. What another generous week it has been (which includes £9,868.91 in tax reclaimed from donations). 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. The bells will be on display for a week before they ascend into the belfry and that will give us time to gather for a blessing of the bells. A tenth bell is being commissioned to commemorate the 160th Anniversary of the Church and the restoration project. It is a much smaller bell that will sit on the sanctuary and used for Mass. There will be a social gathering on Thursday 30 November at 7.00pm in Church.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: *David Hill*

Lady Chapel: *Rudyl Nadine*

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*. (Copies available at the back of Church). This will be led by David McLoughlin and Fleur Dorrell. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee available.

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. **This year**, in harmony with Pope Francis, there will be the **blessing of the bambino** on the Third Sunday of Advent – *Bambinelli Sunday/Gaudete Sunday* – so just bring in the baby Jesus from the Crib from home and they will be blessed after the homily at all Masses.

VISITING CHOIR: The Choir from Prior Park College is 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 second session of preparation for First Confession on **Wednesday 22 November** at 4.30pm in the Church. Let us keep them in our prayers. Josiah Actub, Niamh Bourke, Martina Brucculeri, Michał Bładek, 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.

FINANCE NEWS:

Offertory: £760.10 Envelopes: £297
Contactless Offertory: £323.00 Candles: £287.50
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**. Our visit to the Masonic Hall next Tuesday 21 November will take place at 2.00pm. Please meet at the side entrance to Marks and Spencer at 2.00.p.m. We have a few spare places the cost is £6. So if you would like to join the visit, please contact Eileen on 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. **THIS 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 to Lucy Rebecca Skipper and Sophie Butterworth who were 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. Also, James Lynch died, sadly, last Friday evening. His funeral takes place here on **Wednesday 29 November** at 10.00am. May he rest in peace. Renee Ordonez, sadly died just before last weekend. Her funeral takes place here on **Wednesday 6 December** at 10.00am. May she 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 **THIS 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. **Wednesday 22 November.**

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 **Thursday 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.

MASS AT HAYCOMBE (Hilltop Chapel) will be celebrated on **Saturday 25 November** at 10.00am. If you have loved ones buried at Haycombe or their ashes interred, then do feel welcome to go along to that Mass during this month of the Holy Souls.

POPPY APPEAL: Thank you for your support for the British Legion through the sale of poppies over the last two weeks. You helped raise £194.53 which is being sent off.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT begins on **Sunday 3 December**. Now is the time to get hold of your Advent wreath candles and Advent calendars from the repository.

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 Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

PSALM Psalm 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. 'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." 'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." "Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."