

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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THIRTY FOURTH WEEK OF THE YEAR 26 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2023

First Mass of Sunday

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

SUNDAY 26 November XXXIV SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass: 9.30am *Fong, Ing, Chye and Ngho Family dec'd*

Mass: 11.00am *Anne (Nancy) Cullen RIP*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Evening Mass: 6.30pm *Pro Populo*

MONDAY 27 November

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Dec'd rels and friends of the Harrold Family*

TUESDAY 28 November

Mass: 8.00am *Chan Lam*

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Anne Tomlinson RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 29 November

Mass: 8.00am *Doreen Cairns*

Requiem Mass: 10.00am

James Lynch

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 30 November ST ANDREW

Mass: 8.00am *Carter Family Dec'd*

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Ints of Fr Christopher*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 1 December ST ALEXANDER BRIANT

Mass: 8.00am *Dec'd membs of the Rynkowski Family*

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Leung Chin Lun*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 2 December

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Mgr James Kelly RIP*

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

Mass: 5.45pm *Julia Brotherton RIP*

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

THE SUNDAY WORD: “Shepherd-King o'er mountain steep, homeward guide thy wand'ring sheep.” This hymn which we will sing today captures the readings perfectly: our King is not a cruel tyrant or despot, but a shepherd who loves his flock, who would (and did) give his life for them. Love for the flock means that he will have to judge them, separating the sheep from those who do not belong to him. Coming to the end of the Church's year leads us to look to our final ending, the homecoming the hymn speaks of. The judgement of the end of time we do not view as a trial or a terror, but as a coming home: look back to the Isaiah reading on the 28th Sunday to see what a homecoming party is offered. All we do is put our lives in order, living just and holy lives, longing for the Day of the Lord to come.

BELL RESTORATION: The restoration fund closes this weekend after coming to a beautiful position of having exceeded the target that was set for us by the complete project. So many have shown such generosity over the last couple of months and donations have flowed in to the point where we find ourselves having raised **£94,984.37** 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. All is on schedule and the nine bells will be returned during this coming **Wednesday** in readiness for re-installing into the belfry next week, from **4 December**. That work will take around ten working days (although the lifting work will only take one day) 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. All are so welcome and it will give you chance – in the informal setting of a Thursday evening – to get up-close to the bells and see them for yourself before they ‘disappear’ and are out of sight. Do come along if you can; it would be good to see you here.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: *Jane Allan*

Lady Chapel: *Aj Gate*

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: The children who have embarked upon their journey of preparation towards First Communion next year meet for their third session of preparation for First Confession on **Wednesday 29 November** at 4.30pm in the Church. Let us keep them in our prayers. Josiah Actub, Martina Brucculeri, Michał Błądek, Olivia Edwards, Oscar Griffiths, Adam Masiewicz, Julia Masiewicz, Nathanie Pierog, Emilie Poole, Rozalia Rutkowska, Quervin Andrew Silang, Darcie-Jane Townshend, Nina Uzel, and Lydia Whitehead.

FINANCE NEWS:

Offertory: £831.11 Envelopes: £126.70
Contactless Offertory: £625.90 Candles: ££258
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.

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. Gavin explored with us the call to holiness and the invitation to grace our world through the lives we lead. 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS: James Lynch's funeral takes place here on **Wednesday 29 November** at 10.00am. May he rest in peace. Renee Ordonez's funeral takes place here on **Wednesday 6 December** at 10.00am with her body being received into Church on Tuesday 5 December at 4.30pm. May she rest in peace. May O'Regan's (Abina) funeral will take place here in St John's on Thursday 7 December at 10.00am before committal at Haycombe. May she rest in peace.

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**.

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

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@cliftondiocese.com

MASS OF HEALING PRAYER for the month of November is postponed. Just make sure you make a note of that in your diaries.

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.

CAFOD ADVENT PRAYER CARDS: This beautiful resource to accompany you through the four weeks of Advent is freely available at the back of the Church. Don't forget to pick up yours.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (SPUC) is holding a Campaign Meeting for supporters in Bath to spread the pro-life message and help the fight to stop abortion in the UK. The meeting is on **Wednesday 27 September**, at 7pm in the parish hall. Do come along if you can. For further information please contact SPUC Development Officer, Katherine Hampton, on 01892 542616 or katherinehampton@spuc.org.uk

DONATING BY STANDING ORDER: Those of you who donate to the church via a Standing Order will be receiving a letter from the Finance Office of the Diocese over the next week or so. This is advising that instead of donations being payable to a Diocesan account, as they currently are, they will - in future - need amending so as to be payable into the parish bank account. The letter will explain the actions which will be required. All those who have set up Standing Orders in 2023 will **not** be affected as they are already paid into the parish account. If you have any queries, please email our Parish Treasurer via robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com

A LITTLE ROOFING WORK: Work is complete on a significant repair to the roof above the porch which was allowing water to drip into the church (beside Station VII) as well as soak into the porch walls. The scaffolding has been taken down as you can see but has been erected by the entrance to the Adoration Chapel because there is an issue with the flat roof above the sacristy. If you park there, please just be careful that you don't park near to the ladders when the roofers are at work.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Frighteningly, Christmas is only four weeks away and will be upon us no sooner than we have started lighting the Advent wreath. As in previous years, a little postcard detailing all the Christmas weekend Masses will be available for you to pick up but also extras for you to take away and pass onto others. This can be a real outreach to those who may need a little encouragement to come to Church to celebrate Christmas. Look out for the cards. They will be in all the hotels; place into the hands of others.

NOVEMBER 200 CLUB DRAW: Congratulations to our November winners from the draw taken in the hall on Friday: **First Prize:** Ann Dolan (#6); **Second Prize:** Mathilda Bok (#138); **Third Prize:** Pat Freeston (#133); **Fourth Prize:** Janet Gray (#131); **Fifth Prize:** Mauro Farina (#001)

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL DIARY: The 2024 edition is available for you to buy at £6.50 – a real treasure.

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

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

PSALM

Psalms 22(23):1-3a,5-6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the

first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'