

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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## Parish Priest

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) 28 – JANUARY – 4 FEBRUARY 2024

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

### SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Mass:** 9.30am

**Mass:** 11.00am

**Polish Mass:** 1.00pm

**Mass:** 6.30pm

### MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

### TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Valerie James RIP*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

### WEDNESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

### THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

### FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> February FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

### SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

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

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

## SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> February FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**Mass:** 9.30am

**Mass:** 11.00am

**Polish Mass:** 1.00pm

**Mass:** 6.30pm

## THE SUNDAY WORD:

The power of God's word is what the today's readings deliver. The Lord says to Moses, 'I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them...I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him.' 'Be quiet! Come out of him!', says Jesus in the synagogue, and with a shudder and a cry the evil spirit leaves the suffering man. And the congregation cries out: 'Here is a teaching that is new, and with authority'. 'O that today, you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts', says the Psalm. It's the same reality. This is the word through which everything is created and held together. This is the word of fire that Israel's prophets spoke. It's the Word of God who became human flesh and spoke human words. 'They hung on his words', say the Gospels. 'No one ever spoke like this man speaks'. And these words are with us to this today. The Holy Spirit keeps them alive in the Church. He inspired the apostles to pass on what they had received. Bishops, priests and deacons have to do the same, empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit in ordination. Everyone of us in our way, empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit in confirmation. And so the word of Christ dwells richly among us, and his sound goes out to all the earth.

## FR CHRISTOPHER'S LEAVING PARTY POSTPONED

We are disappointed that we need to postpone the leaving party planned for Monday 29 January due to the pressure of Fr Christopher's workload. This will be rescheduled at a later date and please accept our apologies for the late notice.

## THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:** *David and Suzanne Hills*

**Lady Chapel:** *The Sewell family*

**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 tranquillity 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. Adoration on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will take place in the Adoration Chapel.

**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 **instant coffee and some cooking oil**. 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.

**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.

**FIRST COMMUNION 2024:** The children who have embarked upon their journey of preparation towards First Communion this year celebrated the beautiful gift of God's merciful love in First Confession. They take a break now for the Christmas celebrations and return to begin their preparation for First Communion on **Wednesday 7 February**. They join us at Mass on **Sunday 4 February** (9.30am) for the presentation of the Word of God. 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: £767.58      Envelopes: £102.00  
Standing Orders: £1353      Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25  
*Thank you*

**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 will take place in the church and will begin at 7.00pm. This allows for the talks to be livestreamed.

**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. Every parish is receiving this letter, not just us here at St John's. 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](mailto:robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com)

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

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:** The 2024 directory for the diocese is out for sale - £6 a copy.

**THE BIBLE JESUS KNEW:** John Huntriss will be with us each week of Lent 2024 to help us understand the Bible Jesus himself would have known. **Weds 21 February:** An Introduction and Storytelling; **Weds 28 February:** History and Law; **Weds 6 March:** Wisdom and Psalms; **Weds 13 March:** Prophets and Apocalyptic writing; **Tues 19 March:** Why did Jesus die? There's a poster on the porch notice board.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** We keep in our prayers **Vincent Rowan** who died recently. His funeral takes place on 2 February at 2.30pm. May he rest in peace.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** The familiar sight of the crib is a real prayerful feature of the Christmas Season, hopefully remaining in place across the forty days of the (old) season. Do spend time in the Lady Chapel contemplating each of the figures who gather around the sight of the child lying in the manger. You will see the traditional basket to receive your **crib offerings**. Once again for another year we support eleven children in St Mary's School, in Andhra Pradesh near Eluru, Pedavgi. There are some 80 or so boarders at the school and we sponsor 11

of those children each year. As you know it cost £120 per child, per year, and we are able to keep that connection going because of your generosity, your care and your kindness. Whatever you place into that basket is sent across to St Mary's and is a real life-line to those children who, so often, have lost everything. Hold them in your prayer before the crib. Have a look at [www.stmarystrust.org](http://www.stmarystrust.org) to find out more.

**LISTENING WITH THE HEART:** As part of our diocesan commitment to growing as a Synodal Church, the department of Adult Education and Evangelisation are offering an opportunity for parishioners to develop the skills of small group facilitation in the context of Parish Pastoral Councils, RCIA, Prayer Groups, Lenten Groups, Confirmation Preparation, and any other parish groups. These short sessions will help us to develop an attitude of listening with the heart and sharing with generosity. It will provide participants with a model for rooting decision making in prayer and discernment and the tools necessary for effective facilitation. The first session is here at St John's on Saturday 16 March (9.30-11.30am). You'll need to register your interest: [eventbrite.co.uk/e/listening-with-the-heart-tickets-779973330227](https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/listening-with-the-heart-tickets-779973330227)

**NEW BATH PROLIFE GROUP:** The first Bath SPUC branch meeting took place on **Wednesday 17 January** at 7.00pm in the dining room of the presbytery. We plan to meet once a month and are looking forward to doing as much as possible to protect the sanctity of life. All are welcome, if you have any questions please contact Ilaria Mills on 07903465300.

**FAMILY ADORATION:** The last Saturday of the month is always opportunity to gather before the Blessed Sacrament with families – either physically with your family as parents and children, or bringing your family before the Lord in prayer. **Saturday 27 January** at 3.30pm in the church followed by refreshments.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Singers who sing at the I Iam Mass are joining forces with the Patmos Choir on **Sunday 28 January** at 11.00am. The music includes Mass for 5 voices by William Byrd. Also Introit, Offertory and Communion motets.

**BELIEVING IN A BETTER WORLD:** Mary Colwell comes back to St John's for a conversation about faith and how we can contribute to making a better world. CAFÉ BaNES are hosting this evening in our own hall on **Wednesday 31 January at 7.30pm**. It should be a good evening and a real opportunity to see faith put into action. All are welcome.

## 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 Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. 'Do not let me hear again' you said 'the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die'; and the Lord said to me, 'All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth, and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 94 (95):1-2, 6-9

*O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
Hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
With songs let us hail the Lord,

*O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come in ; let us bow and bend low;

Let us kneel before the God who made us:

For he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,

The flock that is led by his hand.

*O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

*O that today you would listen to his voice!*

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah.

As on that day at Massah in the desert

When your fathers put me to the test;

When they tried me, though they saw my work.'

*O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

### SECOND READING I Corinthians 7:32-3'5

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,

for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children,

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL I: Mark 1:21-28

They went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted. "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God." But Jesus said sharply, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. "Here is a teaching that is new" they said "and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him." And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

