

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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Parish Administrator

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Parish Treasurer and Outreach Coordinator

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

4th – 11th FEBRUARY 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

SUNDAY 4th February

Mass: 9.30am *George Frank Gibbens RIP*

Mass: 11.00am

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm

MONDAY 5th February

Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Ints of Randall Family*

TUESDAY 6th February

Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 7th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Ravinder Chadha*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 8th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Helen Gradinger*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 9th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Pauline Wilkinson RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 10th February

Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin

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 *Ambrosio Family*

SUNDAY 11th February SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass: 9.30am *James Jiggins*

Mass: 11.00am *William McLoughlin*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm *Sr Brigid D'Arcy*

PARISH UPDATE

Following the departure of Fr Christopher, we are now without a resident parish priest. Bishop Declan is working on filling the vacancy here at St Johns, as well as in other parishes in the Diocese. We have been advised that it is likely that this period of interregnum will last for several weeks.

We are continuing to run the church ensuring that Masses are covered where possible, but there may be some alteration to the Mass schedule depending on the availability of priests. Unfortunately, we are not able to cover the 8am weekday Mass at present.

During this time Robert von Hawrylak will be based in the parish office most days and can be contacted by email robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com.

Our parish administrator Janet Flinn will also be in the parish office as usual each day Tuesday to Friday 9am – 2.00pm.

We are grateful for your understanding and support during this period.

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.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: Christopher Gamlath

Lady Chapel: Reg and Madeline Taylor RIP

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 2nd 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 14th February. There will be two Masses at 10am and 6.30pm.

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 is also a chance that you might be able to help with one or two things that are a weekly staple, then that help would be appreciated. The lunch needs the gift of serviettes and washing up liquid. You can always drop these off in the parish office. We are now looking for volunteers to go on the rota to cook lunches – main course or pudding. Please contact Janet if you would like to help. Thank you.

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 will join us at Mass on **Sunday 11th February** (9.30am) for the presentation of the Word of God. The children will begin their preparation for First Communion on Wednesday 14th February. 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: £866.19 Envelopes: £57.00
Candles £603.70
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 'prayers' 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 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.

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: congratulations to Albie Beau Jefferson-McPhillips who was baptised on Sunday 28th January. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

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: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/listening-with-the-heart-tickets-808837323207>

200 CLUB: Congratulations to the winners of the January drawer. 1st prize £100 Maria Jenkins, 2nd prize £50 Bart Tappe, 3rd prize £25 Mathilda Bok, 4th prize £25 Marilyn Strevens, 5th prize £25 Janet Flinn.

HILARY CORNWELL: We are very sad to announce that Hilary Cornwell, widow of Fr Peter Cornwell, died on Thursday 1st February. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. May she rest in peace.

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.

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

