

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

11th – 18th FEBRUARY 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm *Ambrosio* family

SUNDAY 11th February

Mass: 9.30am *James Jiggins*

Mass: 11.00am *Fr William McLoughlin*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm *Sr Brigid D'Arcy*

MONDAY 12th February

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *The Walter Family*

TUESDAY 13th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Rosa Low and Denis Lee RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am with the imposition of the ashes

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm with the imposition of the ashes

THURSDAY 15th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 16th February

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 17th 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 18th February 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass: 9.30am *Delma Goddard RIP*

Mass: 11.00am

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 14th February. There will be two Masses at 10am and 6.30pm with the rite of the imposition of the ashes.

“Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation!” (2 Cor 6:2). With these words, the Apostle Paul helps us enter into the spirit of the Lenten season. Lent is indeed the “favourable time” to return to what is essential, to divest ourselves of all that weighs us down, to be reconciled with God, and to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit hidden beneath the ashes of our frail humanity. Return to what is essential. It is the season of grace when we put into practice what the Lord asks of us.

The rite of the imposition of ashes serves as the beginning of this return journey. It exhorts us to do two things: *to return to the truth about ourselves* and *to return to God and to our brothers and sisters*.

INTERREGNUM: During this interregnum, when there is no resident parish priest Robert von Hawrylak is in the parish office most days and can be contacted, in case you need any assistance, on robert.von.hawrylak@cliftondiocese.com. We have visiting priests celebrating the four Sunday Masses. The new parish priest will be installed during April.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday in Lent at 12 noon and 6.30pm; starting on Friday 16th February.

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: *Michael Malford*

Lady Chapel: *The Goddard Family*

YOUTH MASS AND FREE EVENING

DINNER: We would like to welcome the students of Bath to St John's on Sunday evenings during term times at 6.30pm to celebrate mass followed by a free

evening dinner in the hall afterwards. This group has been growing from strength to strength and it is so lovely to be able to welcome our students across Bath each week providing a perfect opportunity for young adults to find, form and share their faith. All students are invited and if you would like further information please contact Janet in the office.

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.

THURSDAY LUNCHESES WITH GENESIS: The Thursday lunches with some of Bath's homeless and vulnerable continues to grow 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 (except for the first Sunday in the month) 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 Bładek, 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: £610.00 Envelopes: £65.00
Candles: £129.00
Standing Orders: £1353 Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25
Thank you

THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK is observed on February 11th each year. This date holds special significance as it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a day associated with healing and devotion to the Virgin Mary. This year's theme is "*It is not good that man should be alone*". The Holy Father's prayer intention for the month is an invitation to everyone to pray for the terminally ill and their families.

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 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.

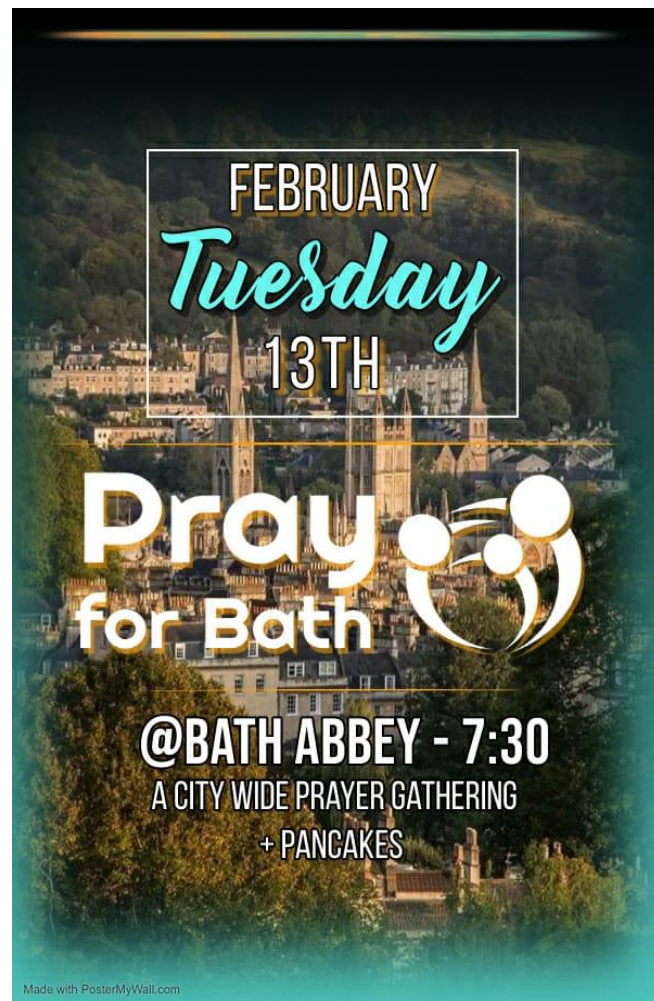
THE BIBLE JESUS KNEW: John Huntriss will be with us each week of Lent 2024 to help us understand the Bible Jesus himself would have known. **Weds 21 February:** An Introduction and Storytelling; **Weds 28 February:** History and Law; **Weds 6 March:** Wisdom and Psalms; **Weds 13 March:** Prophets and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

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>

CRIB OFFERINGS: The beautiful crib was taken down on Friday 2nd February. This year due to your very generous donations we will be able to 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 costs £120 per child, per year, and we are able to keep that connection going because of your generosity, your care and your kindness. This year we raised £1233.59. If you would like to find out more have a look at www.stmarystrust.org.

LENT: RETREAT Clifton Diocese & 'Light of Truth' online Lenten retreat: 'Transformed by Love' in six sessions, contemplating God's grace at work in the lives of 6 persons, through scripture & artworks. 7.30pm Tuesdays 20 & 27 Feb and 5, 12, 19 & 26 March. Sign up here Meeting Registration or use the diocesan website. Suggested donation £5 per person per session for any of the 'Light of Truth' courses. Info <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

LENT: PRAYER FOR BATH, Opportunities to pray together for the City and surrounding area: Shrove Tuesday 13th Feb 7.30pm Bath Abbey. Please take a paper copy at the back of the church.



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024: Details have been released for the 2024 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The dates are Friday 23rd August to Friday 30th August. Accommodation in a 3 or 4star hotel, full board, close to the Domain, including return coach transfer from Toulouse airport to Lourdes. Information is available from lourdes@cliftondiocese.com or calling Alexander House 0117 902 5590 (between 8:30 and 4:30 Monday to Friday).

HEALING MASS: Please join us for a Healing Mass with the anointing of the sick on 22nd February at 7pm. If you feel in need of some physical, mental, spiritual or emotional healing come along to the Mass.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to Caitlin Florence Mabel Clarkson who was baptised here on Sunday 4th February. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

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.

READING I

Lv 13:1–2, 44–46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

“The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,
whose sin is covered.

Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes not
guilt,
in whose spirit there is no guile.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I covered not.

I said, “I confess my faults to the Lord,”
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just;
exult, all you upright of heart.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

READING II

I Cor 10:31–11:1

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do, do everything for the glory
of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews
or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to
please everyone in every way, not seeking my
own benefit but that of the many, that they may
be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

ALLELUIA

**A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.**

GOSPEL

Mk 1:40–45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.”

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

