

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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4th SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR (B)

10th – 17th MARCH 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm *Tom Parker RIP*

SUNDAY 10th March Laetare Sunday

Mass: 9.30am *Antony Stanley Smith RIP*

Mass: 11.00am *Father Cyril Gordien and Jean-Michel Gordien*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm *Joseph and Franca Zani*

MONDAY 11th March

Morning Prayer: 9.00am Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Adelaide Di Maggio*

TUESDAY 12th March

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Mary Elizabeth Wolsey RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 13th March

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Antony Stanley Smith RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 14th March

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Requiem Mass: 10.00am *Evelyn Jubbie RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 15th March

Morning Prayer: 9.30am Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am *Christy Carter RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 16th March

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 *Lynette Keene*

SUNDAY 17th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass: 9.00am

Mass: 11.00am

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm

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.

LAETARE SUNDAY: Laetare Sunday is the popular name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Laetare means rejoice. Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened; the purple vestments of Lent are set aside and, as on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, rose ones are worn instead. Centuries ago, it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wildflowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: At the end of the 9.30am Mass this Sunday the priest will call all children to the front of the altar to receive a flower to give to their mothers.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this weekend for Easter Flowers. You can also donate using the Dona machine at the back of the church.

EASTER CARDS: Morwenna and Elowen Blatchford have made Easter Blessing and Spring cards and bookmarks to raise money for the church flowers at Easter. These are available for purchase at the back of the church.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER

"For the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ". Pope Francis requests prayers for the new martyrs of our day so that they might "imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive."

Introducing his prayer intention for the month of March, Pope Francis decides to share a story which he says, "is a reflection of the Church today" and one that is "the story of a little-known witness of faith". He recalls the story of a widowed man whom he met when he visited a refugee camp in Lesbos. The man, a Muslim, recounted the harrowing story of how his wife, who was Christian, was asked by terrorists to

throw a crucifix to the ground. "She didn't do it, and they killed her in front of me", the man told the Pope. Pope Francis notes that this man "held no grudges" and was instead "focused on his wife's example of love, a love for Christ that led her to accept, and to be faithful to the point of death".

The Holy Father emphasises that there will always be martyrs among us and that "this is a sign that we are on the right path" as the courage and witness of the martyrs, "is a blessing for everyone". The Pope continues, "I have been told that there are more martyrs today than at the beginning of Christianity." Thus, Pope Francis invites all the faithful to pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel, all over the world, so that they "might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive and be open to the grace of martyrdom".

BATH HALF MARATHON: Please make a note in your diary that there will be road closures next Sunday 17th March for the Bath Half Marathon. Masses will be at 9am (please note the change of time) 11am and 6.30pm. There will no music at the 9am and 11am Masses.

ANTONY STANLEY-SMITH RIP. We received the sad news of the passing of Antony this week. His funeral will be at St Johns on a date to be announced. We offer our prayers to Penelope and his family. May he rest in peace.

MASS TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK: Mass and Service times during Holy Week are as follows;
Palm Sunday. Mass at 5.45pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am and 6.30pm
Holy Thursday. Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm
Good Friday - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3pm
Holy Saturday - Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection - 7.30pm
Easter Sunday. Masses at 9.30am and 11am (There is no 6.30pm Mass)
Please see the booklet at the back of the church with the full schedule for Holy Week.

PARISH LENTEN SUPPER IN AID OF SPICMA: Come and join as a parish community for a Lenten Supper this coming Friday 15th March at 7.30pm in the parish hall. We will be raising funds for SPICMA who care for disadvantaged people in developing countries. Donations of food and beverages will be very welcome, please co-ordinate with Christine James on 07909 971 385 as to what you might be able to offer. We would also be grateful for the donation of prizes for the raffle, please deliver these to the parish office. There is no charge for the supper but so we know numbers to cater for booking is required by calling the parish office, by

email or add your name to the list at the back of the Church. Those new to the parish will be made especially welcome.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR EASTER: There will be a training session for all those who will be serving during the Triduum on Sunday 24th March at 4pm. It is important that those who would like to serve at this time attend the training which will last about an hour. We would also like to invite those who might be interested in serving at the altar at Easter, and throughout the year, to make themselves known to George in the Sacristy.

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. The fourth session will be on Wednesday 13th March: Prophets and Apocalyptic writing, starting at 6.30pm (refreshments from 6.00pm in the parish hall). Please note new timings.

REQUIEM MASS: The Requiem Mass for Evelyn Jubbie will take place here at St Johns on 14th March at 10am followed by a burial at Haycombe. May she rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday in Lent at 12 noon and 6.30pm. The Stations of the Cross is a remembrance of Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. The stations grew out of imitations of the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem, which is a traditional processional route symbolising the path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. Praying the Stations helps the faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

VEILING OF CROSSES, IMAGES AND STATUES: This coming Saturday the veiling of crosses and images will be done. This custom, for the final weeks of Lent, is a very ancient one, and one which reminds us that the great time of preparation for Easter is coming to a climax, so we need to concentrate our minds and our devotions on the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: Renee Ordonez

Lady Chapel: Renee Ordonez

THIS WEEK AT ST JOHNS:

CALLING ALL STUDENTS! It is lovely to see so many students at the 6.30pm Mass on Sunday evenings. This has become a real community within our church. If you are a student and new to the church, we would love to meet you. After the Mass we serve supper in the parish hall and all students are welcome (if you are unsure where the parish hall is located ask one of the stewards at the back of the church). This is a good place to meet others, form friendships and share your faith. There is no charge for the meal. We also have a WhatsApp group which new members can join to receive news and updates on the church and all the activities. We look forward to seeing you!

BIBLE WORSHIP: You are invited to join a small Gospel reading group at St. John's held in the St. Luke's room on Mondays at 1.30pm. For more information, please call Graham on 07889495419.

ART GROUP: St John's Art Group – Tuesday 11-1pm £3 a session (inc refreshments). If you would like more information, please contact Maggie Jervis: mscjervis@gmail.com. Phone: 07578 886 286

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 LUNCHES WITH GENESIS: Lunch is served from 12 noon to 1.30pm for some of Bath's homeless and vulnerable.

FRIDAY LUNCHES: Every Friday at 12.30pm.

CHRISM MASS 2024: The Chrism Mass will be held on Wednesday 27th March 2024, 11am at Clifton Cathedral. Bishop Declan will be the main Celebrant and will bless the three oils — the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick and holy chrism. St Johns will be providing a coach to take parishioners to and from the cathedral. If you would like a seat, please sign the form at the back of the Church.

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. 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.

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 HOLY COMMUNION 2024: The children will meet on February 28th to continue with their preparation for First Communion. This week's theme is Teach us to Pray. Let us keep them in our prayers.

FINANCE NEWS:

Offertory: £614.71 Envelopes: £72.00
Standing Orders: £1353 Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25
Thank you

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 5, 12, 19 & 26 March. Meeting Registration or use the diocesan website. Suggested donation £5 per person per session for any of the courses. Info <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

CLIMATE HUB SPRINGTIME ASSEMBLY: a collection of Green Organisations gathering to share information and ideas about positive action for a sustainable future. [Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th March 2024 at the Bath Assembly Rooms. A full programme of free events can be found on the poster at the back of the Church.

NEW BATH PROLIFE GROUP: The next Bath SPUC branch meeting will take place on 20 March at 7pm (room to be confirmed). 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; 07903465300.

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN: The collection by a visiting group from the Diocese of Brooklyn last Wednesday raised £145.33 for Church funds.

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday

First reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 136(137):1-6

*O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!*

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.
For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'
O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,

let my right hand wither!
O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Second reading Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Jn8:12

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world

not to condemn the world,

but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:

that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed;

but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,

so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is
done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

