

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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EASTER SUNDAY 31 March

Mass: 9.30am

Julia Barlow RIP

Mass: 11.00am

Pro Populo

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm



PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

24 – 31 March 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

Pro Populo

PALM SUNDAY 24 March

Mass: 9.30am

Gerard O'Donovan RIP

Mass: 11.00am

Veronica MacMillan RIP

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Evening Mass: 6.30pm *Ints of FrC*

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK 25 March

Confessions: 8.45am – 9.20am

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

In thanksgiving

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 26 March

Confessions: 9.00am – 9.50am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

Valanton Vales and Freelia

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Confessions: 5.00pm – 6.00pm **Rosary: 6.00pm**

SPY WEDNESDAY 27 March

Chrism Mass (*Clifton Cathedral*): 11.00am

Confessions: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Evening Prayer: 6.30pm

Mass: 7.00pm

Bishop Declan Lang Ints

HOLY THURSDAY 28 March

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 10.00am – 11.00am

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: 7.30pm

watching until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Walk of Hope (Ecumenical Prayer): 10.10am

Confessions: 10.15am – 11.00am

LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION: 3.00pm

Prayer around the Cross: 7.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY 30 March

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer: 9.30am

VIGIL OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION: 7.30pm

HOLY WEEK: This beautiful week in the Church's year allows us to journey with Jesus as he reveals the tender, unconditional love of God for us. Each day during this week calls us nearer to the generous love of the Father and the gift of salvation offered us in Jesus. The 'drama' of this week unfolds the narrative of forgiveness, mercy, freedom and peace. You are invited to walk alongside of Jesus, to stay close to him and allow yourself to be touched by merciful love. **Please make sure you explore this week's schedule.** There are many alterations and changes to this week. Keep your eye on the column opposite.

FR CHRISTOPHER: After what has felt like a very long two months, Fr Christopher has been given the chance to return to St John's and resume his ministry here as our parish priest. He will, most probably, say something at each Mass, but he has tremendous gratitude for the concern, the love and the prayer that has accompanied him across the last eight or nine weeks, prayers that have truly sustained him along the painful journey of this process. It is good to enter into Holy Week with a shepherd to lead us.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart: *Fr Bill McLoughlin's Ints*

Lady Chapel: *Michael Mahoney*

CHAPEL VOTIVE LIGHT INTENTIONS: The votive candles that burn in front of the Lady Chapel and the Sacred Heart Chapel allow the wonder of prayer to 'burn' for a whole week. These candles can be 'sponsored' each week and each one holds a particular intention. They appear in strict rotation which is why your intention may take a while to filter through. Please use the envelopes at the gates of each chapel and hand in your intention to the parish office.

AN OPEN CHURCH: During this week, the church will open at 7.30am each morning and will close around 6.30pm. **Just check the times this week, though.**

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.

LANGUAGE SHEETS: Those of you who might like to follow the Liturgy of the Word in either Italian, Spanish, French or Polish will be able to make use of the sheets

that can be found on the table at the back of the church. Please help yourself and take them with you as you leave.

ADORATION: Now that we step into Holy Week, the schedule of Adoration changes. This week Adoration in the Church takes place only on Tuesday so as to allow us to enter into the journey of Holy Week. We will pick up the rhythm of Adoration the Tuesday of Easter Week.

FRIDAY LUNCHES: 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. There will, though, be **no Friday lunch on Good Friday** – 29 March. Please do note that.

RECEPTION OF HOLY OILS: Mass on Wednesday of Holy Week will be celebrated in the evening at 7pm. During this Mass we will receive into the parish the oils blessed that morning at the Cathedral by the Bishop. These oils – Catechumens, the Sick, and Chrism – will be used during this year for the celebration of some of the Sacraments.

HOLY THURSDAY WATCHING: After the Mass of the Lord's Supper the church will remain open to allow you to spend time in stillness and prayer at the Altar of Repose (the Sacred Heart Chapel). It is as if we are with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane, in prayer with him. Do feel that you can come back later in the evening. The church remains open until just after midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS: There is chance to come together in prayer on Good Friday evening and enter into the silence, the sacred silence, that follows the death of the Saviour. We draw near to the Lord in his death and wait with him to rise. **7.00pm on Good Friday.**

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION is for your support for the upkeep of the Holy Places in the Holy Land and also to support the diminishing communities of Christians still there. Pope Francis urges us to support them with love and with generosity as best we can.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Sunday 7 April. The Divine Mercy Devotions will be celebrated here at St John's on the Sunday after Easter. Confessions from 2.15pm and then the Chaplet at 3pm before the Blessed Sacrament. Please make a note of the date and pass the word around. **The Novena** begins on Good Friday.

COMING TO CONFESSION THIS HOLY WEEK: Holy Week is always an opportunity to celebrate the merciful love of God through the Sacrament of Penance. It may be that it is some time since you were at Confession last: don't worry; just come before the Lord and let him love you. During this Holy Week there are those extra opportunities to celebrate God's love for you. Please don't leave it until the last moment.

CAFOD BOXES: Many of you have been using these boxes during Lent. These can now be returned (if you haven't done so already) during this Holy Week and, most especially, during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy

Thursday. the boxes can be popped into the offertory basket before Easter or brought to the parish office. **The collection on Holy Thursday** is our gift to the poor – both across the world and more locally.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT SUNDAY MASSES: Some books and other items will be on offer on a table at the back of the church at the Sunday Masses. Please take what you like for a small donation to parish funds.

EASTER CARDS: A big thank you to Morwenna and Elowen Blatchford who have been selling Easter Blessing, Spring cards and bookmarks after Mass for the last two weeks to raise money for the church flowers at Easter. The total amount raised is £42. There are a few cards left to purchase from Christine on Sunday morning.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday 26 March** at 7pm at St Alphege's in preparation for the Triduum.

SPICMA FUND RAISING EVENT: The fundraising event last Friday raised £502.48 for SPICMA. Thank you to all who donated so generously.

ANTONY STANLEY-SMITH RIP: The Requiem Mass for Antony will be at St John's on 16 April at 11.30am. You are welcome to join the family at Mass and also in the Parish Hall after the Mass for refreshments. We offer our prayers to Penelope and his family. May he rest in peace.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR HOLY WEEK: There will be a quick run-through for all those who will be serving during the Triduum on **Sunday 24 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.

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS: Our diocese, in partnership with 'Light of Truth', are offering an introduction to the fundamental aspect of catechesis: What it is, how to use the catechism and Scripture as foundations, and what methods to use. This training is for anyone interested in passing on the faith. For more information there is a poster at the back of the Church.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS! It has been so lovely to see so many students at the 6.30pm Mass on Sunday evenings. This Sunday will be the last gathering before the Easter break. We wish all the students a very Happy Easter and a restful break.

THURSDAY LUNCHES WITH GENESIS: Lunch is served from 12 noon to 1.30pm for some of Bath's homeless and vulnerable. We are now looking for volunteers to be part of the rota to cook lunches – main course or pudding. Please contact Janet in the parish office if you would like to help. Thank you.

CHRISM MASS 2024: The Chrism Mass will be held on Wednesday 27 March at 11am at Clifton Cathedral. St John's will be providing a coach to take parishioners to and from the Cathedral. If you would like to book a place on the coach, there are a few spaces left. Please contact Janet in the office - £7 return fare.

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. Please note that St John's does not hold children's liturgy in school holidays. It will recommence of 14th April.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024: The children will now take a break for Easter, returning on **Wednesday 17 April**. Let us keep them in our prayers: Josiah Actub, Martina Brucculeri, Michal Bladek, Oliva Edwards, Oscar Griffiths, Adam Masiewicz, Julia Masiewicz, Nathaniel Pierog, Emilie Poole, Rozalia Rutkowska, Quervin Andrew Silang, Darcie-Jane Townshend, Nina Uzel and Lydia Whitehead.

CLIMATE HUB SPRINGTIME ASSEMBLY: A collection of Green Organisations gathering to share information and ideas about positive action for a sustainable future. Friday 22 - Sunday 24 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.

BISHOP-ELECT CANON BOSCO MCDONALD: As Bishop Declan's resignation has been accepted and news that the Holy Father has appointed Canon Bosco as the tenth Bishop of Clifton, we keep Canon Bosco in our prayers in these weeks of preparation before ordination. He has arranged for the 8 May as his ordination as bishop. Let us pray for Bishop Declan and for Canon Bosco at this time.

FINANCE NEWS:

Last Sunday's collection: £576.00
Online and Contactless Giving: £392
Envelopes: £120 Standing Orders: £1353
Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25 Candles: £124.34
Thank you

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

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,

my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched
by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

PSALM

Psalms 21(22)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me.
they curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL OF THE PASSION

The passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

14:1-15:47

First thing in the morning, the chief priest together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'It is you who say it.' And the

chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again, 'Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!' But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply. At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them, 'O 'Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?' For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again. 'But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why? What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews'. And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'Aha! So you would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!' The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said 'He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.' Even those who were crucified with him taunted him. When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? This means 'My God, my God, why have

you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, 'Listen, he is calling on Elijah.' Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink saying, 'Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.' But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

ALL KNEEL AND PAUSE A MOMENT

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was a son of God.' There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the vigil of the sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead.

Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joset were watching and took note of where he was laid.

