

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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EASTER SUNDAY AND THE EASTER OCTAVE 31 March – 6 April 2024

EASTER SUNDAY 31 March

Mass: 9.30am *Julia Barlow RIP*

Mass: 11.00am *Pro Populo*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm *In thanksgiving*

EASTER MONDAY 1 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Willyboy and Rosemary Torrens and family*

EASTER TUESDAY 2 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Intentions of Jack*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

EASTER WEDNESDAY 3 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Samuel Morse Brown's Ints*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

EASTER THURSDAY 4 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *Gabriel Morse Brown's Ints*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

EASTER FRIDAY 5 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am *CMBF*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm **Rosary:** 6.00pm

EASTER SATURDAY 6 April

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Dr Desmond Leahy RIP*

Wedding: 1.00pm *Christie Torrens and Naomi White*

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm *Pro Populo*

EASTER AND ITS OCTAVE: When the Word is proclaimed, it is real and active – the Lord is present, and what is described is, in a sense, happening now. On certain days this is made more obvious by the selection of

scripture that refers to a particular time or day. Such a selection occurs this morning, when we go with Mary Magdalene to visit the tomb, only to make – with her – a momentous discovery: the tomb is empty, he is risen! But Easter is such a spectacular celebration overflowing with joy that it cannot be contained in one simple day. The Church gives us an Octave, eight days, to celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection. Each day is an *Easter* day and we celebrate each day of the Octave as a real moment of encounter with the Risen Christ. Happy Easter!

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart:

In thanksgiving

Lady Chapel:

Gintas Usas RIP

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: 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.

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. Come and meet other parishioners. It'll be good to welcome you!

CAFOD BOXES: Many of you have been using these boxes during Lent. These can now be returned (if you haven't done so already) and brought into the parish office so that we can send our Lenten giving off to CAFOD straight after Easter.

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.

NICHOLAS ANTHONY DOYLE RIP: We keep Nicholas and his family in our prayers. His funeral takes place here at St John's on **Friday 19 April** at 12noon. May he rest in peace.

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.

THURSDAY LUNCHESES 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.

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 on 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.

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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024: Details have been released for the 2024 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The dates are Friday 23 August to Friday 30 August. Accommodation in a 3- or 4-star hotel, full board, close to the Domain, including return coach transfer from Toulouse airport to Lourdes. For further information please go online to lourdes@cliftondiocese.com

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. We meet again at the end of April – **Saturday 27 April** at 3.00pm.

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.

POTS AND PANS: Those of you who spend time cooking and baking for our Thursday guests may need to think about collecting the pots and pans you use to bring in the lunch. You will find them on the shelves in the area by the church toilet. Do go and have a look for them and retrieve them.

WEEKDAY MASSES: It may be that we can see the 8am Mass (Tuesday – Friday) make a return as part of our journey through the season of Easter. From the third week of Easter there will be the two weekday masses – 8am and 10am. If you were used to that lovely still early Mass, do consider picking up that rhythm once more. Keep an eye on the newsletter.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: The bishop (Bishop Bosco) will be celebrating his first diocesan celebration of Marriage in the Cathedral on **Saturday 25 May** (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to celebrate the joys and challenges of family life. In addition, the Mass will celebrate those couples celebrating a significant anniversary during 2024. If you are or you know of a couple celebrating special anniversaries during 2024 please do let the Adult Education Office know. Send in names to adult.education@cliftondiocese.com with the address so that a personal invitation can be sent to them from the bishop, including the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, and it is always good to see so many of the diocesan family gathered with our bishop.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday through to Thursday for an Easter break. FrC will still be around and the office open once again on Easter Friday.

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. Let us celebrate the overflowing mercy of God and his immeasurable love for each one of us.

THE CLOCK: At the moment the clock doesn't move and remains still at 12 o'clock. As part of the bell restoration project the clock was deactivated to allow the bells to be removed and, of course, re-installed. The lovely man who looks after the clock will be here on **Monday 6 May** to get the clock all working again and chiming the quarter hours and the passing of the hours, too.

THANK YOU: Holy Week and Easter do not just happen. So much hard work goes into making these

beautiful days as beautiful as they are. Hard work goes on (so often behind the scenes) to ensure that, as a community, we can prayerfully enter into this most holiest of weeks and journey with the Lord. Music has been rehearsed and given to us, organists have played and cantors and choirs have sung; we have wonderful servers who put themselves out across this week to support our priests; welcomers and those who ensure our church is clean and tidy. Readers have really pulled out stops and extraordinary ministers have put themselves at the service of the parish family. Sacristans have ensured everything is ready and those who look after the church laundry have worked tirelessly, too. Christine and Sylwia have made sure the church is looking radiant and glorious after the starkness of Lent, and booklets have been prepared, stapled and folded for the services across the week. Refreshments have been graciously and generously served. Candlestands and brass have all been polished meticulously and everything glistens, shines and beams Easter joy. Things have been repaired in time and tombs erected to attract and focus our minds. For all that hard work – not just this Holy Week but across the weeks of the year – thank you. That’s what makes us tick as a parish and that’s what draws people in – a community working together for the glory of God and the building up of a community of faith. For all that has been done across this last week, though, to make Holy Week the prayerful week that it has been, a huge thank you. A thank you, also, to our retired priests who so willingly lend a hand throughout the year. It is good to have those extra hands to help with hearing of confessions and it is always a joy to have our retired priests join us for Mass and for prayer. We keep them in our prayers as we thank God for their beautiful and selfless ministry.

THE EASTER SACRAMENTS: There are a number of people who have been on a real journey of faith across the last six or so months and this Easter brings their journey of preparation to an end and their journey of faith to a new beginning. Across this Easter season we will experience the celebration of baptism, confirmation and reception into full communion with the Church. Keep in your prayers those who are on that journey in these final days of preparation: Dane Tomlinson, Joe Isaac, Jonathan Cooper, Abbie Tozer, and Thomas Stephens. As we have renewed our faith, our baptismal faith this Easter, let us keep all those journeying to the Sacraments this Easter season in our prayers.

RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE: April 28 - May 3 - A week of guided prayer for Bath students and supporters. Perfect for busy people. There are details on the notice board. Do have a look at take up the opportunity if you can.

POPE FRANCIS AT EASTER: The women thought they would find a body to anoint; instead they found an empty tomb. They went to mourn the dead; instead they heard a proclamation of life. For this reason, the Gospel tells us, the women “were seized with trembling and amazement” (Mk 16:8); they were filled with trembling, fear and amazement. Amazement. A fear mingled with joy that took their hearts by surprise when they saw the great stone before the tomb rolled away and inside a young man in a white robe. Wonder

at hearing the words: “Do not be afraid! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen” (v. 6). And a message: “He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him” (v. 7). May we too accept this message, the message of Easter. Let us go to Galilee, where the Risen Lord has gone ahead of us. Yet what does it mean “to go to Galilee”?

To go to Galilee means, first, **to begin anew**. For the disciples it meant going back to the place where the Lord first sought them out and called them to follow him. The place of their first encounter and the place of their first love. From that moment on, leaving their nets behind, they followed Jesus, listening to his preaching and witnessing the miracles he performed. Yet, though they were always with him, they did not fully understand him. Frequently they misunderstood his words and in the face of the cross they abandoned him and fled. Even so, the Risen Lord once more appears as the one who goes ahead of them to Galilee. He precedes them. He stands before them and constantly calls them to follow him. He says to them: “Let us start over from where we began. Let us begin anew. I want you to be with me again, in spite of everything”. In this Galilee, we learn to be amazed by the Lord’s infinite love, which opens new trails along the path of our defeats. This is how the Lord is: he creates new paths on the road of our defeats. This is how he is; and he invites us to Galilee to do this.

Going to Galilee also means **setting out on new paths**. It means walking away from the tomb. The women were looking for Jesus in the tomb; they went to recall what they had experienced with him, which was now gone forever. They went to indulge in their grief. There is a kind of faith that can become the memory of something once beautiful, now simply to be recalled. Many people – including us – experience such a “faith of memories”, as if Jesus were someone from the past, an old friend from their youth who is now far distant, an event that took place long ago, when they attended catechism as a child. A faith made up of habits, things from the past, lovely childhood memories, but no longer a faith that moves me, or challenges me. Going to Galilee, on the other hand, means realizing that faith, if it is to be alive, must get back on the road. It must daily renew the first steps of the journey, the amazement of the first encounter. And it must continue to trust, not thinking it already knows everything, but embracing the humility of those who let themselves be surprised by God’s ways. We are usually afraid of God’s surprises; we are always worried that God will surprise us. And today the Lord invites us to let ourselves be surprised. Let us go to Galilee, then, to discover that God cannot be filed away among our childhood memories, but is alive and filled with surprises. Risen from the dead, Jesus never ceases to amaze us.

Easter Sunday 2021

FINANCE NEWS:

Last Sunday’s collection: £1210.26
Online and Contactless Giving: £346
Envelopes: £92 Standing Orders: £1353
Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25 Candles: £240.78
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

Acts 10:34,37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 117(118)

**This day was made by the Lord:
we rejoice and are glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

*Kristos
Anesti*

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL

Mark 16:1-7

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, 'There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you."'