

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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## Parish Priest

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Divine Mercy Sunday ♦ Octave Day of Easter

7- 13 April 2024

### SUNDAY 7 April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass: 9.30am

*Pro Populo*

Mass: 11.00am

*Nigel Pearson RIP*

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm

*Guspina Viscuglia RIP*

### MONDAY 8 April THE ANNUNCIATION

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am *Mwelwa Gift Chali's Intentions*

### TUESDAY 9 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

*Janette Finn RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

### WEDNESDAY 10 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

*Christopher and Gillian Blathwayt RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

### THURSDAY 11 April ST STANISLAUS

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

*Tom Parker RIP*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm *(Prayer for Priests – 10.30am)*

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

### FRIDAY 12 April

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

*Tom & Emma (wedding Ints)*

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

### SATURDAY 13 April

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

*Nigel Pearson RIP*

Confessions: 10am – 10.30am & 5pm – 5.30pm

*First Mass of Sunday*

Mass: 5.45pm

*Ody Igweani RIP*

**THE OCTAVE DAY OF EASTER:** Often people forget that Easter is not just a day, but a season - the

longest in the Church's year, in fact! We are given fifty glorious days of Spring and Summer to prolong our baptismal joy, fifty glorious days of basking in the light of the risen Saviour. It seems a shame that after the efforts we put into Lent we don't celebrate Eastertide with the same enthusiasm. The readings of this Season have their origins in the instruction given to converts in the early Church: in Lent, the readings were the basis of catechesis on the forthcoming baptism; in Easter the readings are "Mystagogy" - a type of teaching where the newly baptised (neophytes – new borns) learn through taking part in the celebration of the sacraments and hearing the word. On the Sundays we hear who Jesus is, and on weekdays hear about Baptism and the Eucharist. This "Mystagogy" is not just to nourish the neophytes, but to help all of us deepen our life in the risen Lord Jesus. This Sunday we are with the disciples in the Upper Room, where eight days after the Resurrection Jesus comes among them - as he comes among us.

### THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:**

*Bishop-Elect Bosco MacDonald*

**Lady Chapel:**

*Nigel Pearson RIP*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Sunday 7 April.** The Divine Mercy Devotions will be celebrated here at St John's **this Sunday afternoon**. 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.

**BATH PROLIFE GROUP:** The Group is hosting a Cake Sale after the 9.30am Mass this weekend to help support the group. Do pop by their table at the west end of the Church and pick up something delicious for tea or mid-morning coffee. They would love to see you.

**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!

**ANTONY STANLEY-SMITH RIP:** The Requiem Mass for Antony will be at St John's on **Tuesday 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. There are a limited number of tickets for the ordination allocated for parishioners in St John's. If you would like to participate in the ordination, please let FrC know.

**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](mailto:lourdes@cliftondiocese.com)

**FAMILY ADORATION:** The last Saturday of the month is always an 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 3.30pm.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

**THE BELLS RESTORATION:** One part of the project that is underway is to produce two parchments listing the donors – those named and also those who gave anonymously. These should be ready in the next week or so and a draft offered so that names are correct, and omissions and typos corrected. Donors will be asked just to cross-check before a final edition is produced, framed and placed just by the west doors, at the entrance to the spire.

**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. Fr Christopher thanks you for the most generous Easter Offering and joins with Fr Michael and Fr Tibor in thanking you for your many cards and gifts.

**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, Joel Isaac, 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. Tom Stephens will be received into the Church on Sunday 14 April at 11am. Abbie will be baptized and Dane and Joel received and confirmed this Sunday evening at 6.30pm Mass.

**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.

**MASS OF HEALING PRAYER will start up again** during the month of May. It takes place on the last Thursday of the month and so we will gather on **Thursday 30 May** at 7.00pm. There is an encounter with the healing love of the Lord revealed in the gift of the Eucharist; there's chance for some time before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, an opportunity for the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation and also the availability of being supported in prayer through the ministry of others. Do come along if you can.

**SCHOOL OF PRAYER:** After the scriptural journey of the Lenten Season we continue at the School of Prayer as part of our journey through 2024 and towards the Jubilee of the Holy Year 2025. This month we explore the prayer of the *desert Fathers and Mothers* and Fr John Udris, a priest of the diocese of Northampton, will help us unfold the prayer of these great men and women. Do come along if you can. This is a great way of deepening our own way of praying and deepening our relation with the Lord through exploring the prayer of others. We'll meet again in the Church. **Tuesday 30 April, 7.00pm** in the church.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY** is always celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday. It is particularly a day when we pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. God does call but it is not always easy to discern his call. Let us pray that those whom God is calling will have the generosity to respond in love and faith. The retiring collection is always to support those in formation. We have three seminarians at present and your generosity and kindness supports them through their six-year formation. There are diocesan leaflets available for you to pick up in readiness for that Sunday.

**MARCH 200 CLUB WINNERS:** Congratulations to our March Draw winners. **£100:** Francis Moran; **£50:** K. Spinks; **£25:** P. A Cavaciuti; **£25:** A Kalinowska; **£25:** Patrick McGuire. Cheques are in the post or will be handed out at this weekend's Mass.

**ROSEMARY COMMUNITY – FAITH AND LIGHT:** The Community meets next on **Saturday 13 April** in the hall.

**PARISH LITURGY GROUP MEETING: Thursday 18 April** at 7.00pm in the presbytery. Those liturgical 'responsibles', please make a note of the date and time.

## 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 4:32-35

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

### PSALM

Psalms 117(118)

#### 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.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,  
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

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

### SECOND READING

John 5:1-6

#### A reading from the second letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and

his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

### GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

You, Lord,  
are  
my God