

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

14 – 20 April 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

Ody Igweani RIP

SUNDAY 14 April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass: 9.30am

Pro Populo

Mass: 11.00am

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Mass: 6.30pm

Fr Michael English's Intentions

MONDAY 15 April

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

In thanksgiving

TUESDAY 16 April

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Requiem Mass: 11.30am

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm *begins in Adoration Chapel*

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Confessions: 9.40am

Antony Stanley-Smith RIP

begins in Adoration Chapel

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 17 April

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Fr Malcolm Ferrier RIP

Confessions: 9.40am

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 18 April

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Mass: 10.00am

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

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Intentions of John King

Confessions: 9.40am

Pat Dent-Young RIP

(Prayer for Priests – 10.30am)

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 19 April

ST ALPHEGE

Mass: 8.00am

Confessions: 9.40am

Requiem Mass: 12noon

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm *in Adoration Chapel from 11.00am*

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Briggs and King Families' Ints

Nicholas Doyle RIP

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 20 April

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Mass: 9.30am

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

For Vocations

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

In thanksgiving

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY: We continue to think about the Resurrection this week, from three different perspectives: the Gospel gives us another story of Jesus appearing to his disciples - this time the beautiful story of the meeting in Jerusalem, when Jesus proves he is alive and no ghost by eating some grilled fish: he reminds the disciples that all he suffered and rise so the "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" could be preached to the whole world. The first reading shows us Saint Peter's doing just that, as he addresses the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost: he takes them through recent events (fifty days earlier), highlighting the important point, that he and the disciples can witness to the raising of Jesus from the dead, and calling them to "repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out." The second reading brings this into our lives: the resurrection is not just a historical event, which we remember. By baptism (which we renewed at Easter) we become part of Jesus in his dying and his rising, as he 'becomes the sacrifice that takes our sins away'. So all that Saint John tells us about the commandments and avoiding sin is our way of living the Resurrection.

A WARM WELCOME to *Sine Nomine* who will be singing for us during the Saturday evening Mass this weekend. It is good to have them with us to enhance our prayer. Do make them welcome.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart:

For Vocations

Lady Chapel:

Bishop-elect Bosco MacDonald

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. **Please note the one or two days this week where Adoration begins in the Chapel below the Sacristy.**

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. 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 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.

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 have taken a break for Easter, and return this coming **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 this weekend as names must be returned by Monday to the Cathedral.**

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 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: From this Third Week of Easter there will be the two weekday masses – 8am and 10am, Tuesday – Friday. If you were used to that lovely, still, early Mass, do consider picking up that rhythm once more. A beautiful, still way to begin the day now that the mornings are much lighter.

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.

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.

THE EASTER SACRAMENTS: Congratulations to Abbie Tozer who was baptized here last Sunday during the evening Mass and also to Dane Tomlinson and Joel Isaac who were received into Full Communion with the Church and then, with Abbie, celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. We keep them in our prayers as they continue their journey of faith. It is good to have them as part of our community. Tom Stephens will be received into the Church this Sunday, 14 April, at 11am. It is good to see people desiring that sense of belonging to our community of faith. Let us pray that God continues to draw others into faith.

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 – **next 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 in a world filled with so many 'voices' and so many calls in one direction or another. 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 this weekend in readiness for next 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.

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.

PRO-LIFE SILENT WITNESS: Help mark the anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act by joining in this year's Pro-Life Silent Witness in Bath on **Saturday 27 April** from 11am to 1pm. The Witness takes place at the junction of the London Road and Bathwick Street. There are some small handouts at the back of the church giving details. Contact Gail Mills for more information: 07851 311910.

THE CLUB meets next on **Tuesday 16 April** at 2.00pm. This month the Club will meet in the presbytery for a cup of tea, cake and good chat with friends. Do come along if you can; it would be good to see you.

CATHSOC CAKE SALE: Each year the Catholic Students that make St John's their 'home' host a cake sale by way of raising some funds. This year the cake sale on the **21 April** (that's next Sunday) will seek to raise money for Fr Pratap in India (one of the projects sponsored through the Monsignor Kelly Fund) and his work, particularly, with educating children. Do support the students if you can. They always do a good job and supporting Fr Pratap is a wonderful opportunity to reach out, too. They will be here at all Sunday Mass (9.30am, 11am and 6.30pm) **next weekend**.

MONSIGNOR KELLY FUND NEWS: In India, Father Pratap send his appreciation for your donations that have helped him to pay for school fees, school uniforms and books for poor students. He has also kitted out 75 pupils with hand-sewing machines and training. In the new batch of trainees he will be including college drop-out girls as well as widows. Toilet construction at Telugu school is planned this month as well as the provision of benches and desks for the school. This year the La Sainte Union Sisters will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee since their first missionary Sisters came to Tanzania. To mark this celebration, the Sisters have chosen to build an Autism Unit at the Matumaini Centre. Sister Fides Kimario sends her thanks for your generous donations and says the Bath congregation is always in the Sisters' minds and prayers. Thank you for your continued thoughtfulness and generosity.

LIVING THE COMMON GOOD: Discerning Challenges and Responses will take place **18 May** from 10.00am to 4.00pm at St Brendan's Sixth Form College (Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5RQ). It will be a day of formation and community, bringing people together in prayer to discern the practical ways to live the common good in our parishes, pastoral areas, and diocese. We are blessed to have Jenny Sinclair guiding us through our discernment process. You will need to book a place and this can be done by using details on the poster in the porch area. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us! Please bring a packed lunch. If you have any questions or would like more details on the day, please send an email to Jason.Charewicz@CliftonDiocese.com

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 3:13-15,17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 4:2,4,7,9

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me,
have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours
to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

SECOND READING

1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

