

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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## Parish Priest

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21-27 April 2024

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

*In thanksgiving*

## SUNDAY 21 April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Mass:** 9.30am

*Ints of Sue O'Donovan*

**Mass:** 11.00am

*Pro Populo*

**Polish Mass:** 1.00pm

**Confessions:** 5.50pm – 6.20pm

**Mass:** 6.30pm

## MONDAY 22 April

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

*In Thanksgiving (Mwelma)*

## TUESDAY 23 April ST GEORGE

**Mass:** 8.00am

*Ints of George Grimes*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Thanksgiving*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## WEDNESDAY 24 April

**Mass:** 8.00am

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Fr Alex MacAllister's Intentions*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## THURSDAY 25 April ST MARK

**Mass:** 8.00am

*Fr Tibor's Ints*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Lilly McDonagh RIP*

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

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## FRIDAY 26 April

**Mass:** 8.00am

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Henry and Katherine Stephens RIP*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## SATURDAY 27 April

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

*Anne Marie Pennaneach*

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

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

*Eileen and Roger Syndercombe's Ints*

**THE WORD THIS SUNDAY:** This is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because of the Gospel narratives (from John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock. A general "theme" to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and rising): the first reading talks of his name, and the power of the name of Jesus to save: one of the results of the "power of this name" is that in him we are all God's children, and are promised an eternal reward. All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus talks of himself as the real shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life. This he said before his passion, but in Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024:** We welcome this year's First Communion children to Mass this morning (9.30am) for their final preparation Mass. In the midst of the Easter season, they come to receive the lighted candle, a reminder of the light they have received and the light they are called to be for others. The children's preparation is slowly coming to an end and they celebrate First Communion on Sunday 12 May at 9.30am. They gather this coming **Wednesday, 24 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.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY** is always celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday – **this 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** after all Masses this weekend 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. It costs something in the region of £45,000 per year per student and so your giving this weekend does go to support each of our students. There are diocesan leaflets available for you to pick up this weekend in readiness for next Sunday. You can, of course, make use of the contactless machines at the back of the church.

### THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:**

*Antony Stanley-Smith RIP*

**Lady Chapel:**

*For Vocations*

**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 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!

**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. But there is no Children's Liturgy this weekend as the FHC children are with us.

**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. Our allocation of tickets for the ordination has been made use of and invitations will be sent direct to those who requested them.

**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.

**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 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 Tom Stephens who was received into the Church and

celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday morning. This Easter Season, so far, has seen us welcome new members into our community and that is so good to see. There are one or two others who are journeying into the life of faith and we keep them in our prayers. Let us pray that God continues to draw others into faith and gives us the courage to lead others to Jesus through the witness we give.

**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. **Tuesday 30 April, 7.00pm** in the church.

**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. You might be able to take part in the silent witness but you might be able to participate in the day of prayer and fasting for life. Have a look at the notice in the porch of the church.

**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 this 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) **this 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 include 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](mailto:Jason.Charewicz@CliftonDiocese.com)

**MASS IN TAGALOG:** We are so blessed that our community here at St John's (and indeed Bath) has the presence of some many from the Philippines. Fr Bienn Carlo Manuntag is a recently ordained priest of the diocese of East Anglia working in Peterborough. Fr Bienn will be with us on **Tuesday 7 May** at 7.00pm to celebrate Mass in Tagalog. Pass the word around and draw people in. There's a chance to gather in the hall afterwards.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Irma Idalia Gólcher Rubi died recently and her funeral is to take place here at St John's on **Friday 3 May** at 10am. We keep Irma and her family in our prayers at this time.

**WORLD EARTH DAY:** April 22 is 'celebrated' as World Earth Day marking the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970 and mobilizing communities into action and change of thinking. Emmaus House in Whitchurch is hosting a celebration of creation day on 5 May. Details to follow.

**AN APPEAL FOR READERS:** We have a great crew of readers for the weekend Masses and for Mass during the week, but we could do with recruiting some new readers for Sundays. If you have a decent reading voice and might like to be part of the Ministry of the Word, then have a word with Fr Christopher or with Tom Dunne to get started.

**FINANCE NEWS:**  
Offertory: £846.54      Envelopes: £195  
Contactless Offertory: £360.50      Candles: £471.75  
Standing Orders: £1353      Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25  
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 4:8-12

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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

### PSALM

Psalm 117(118)

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

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in men;  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have answered  
and you are my saviour.

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

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

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end.

### SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-2

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

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;

and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been  
revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

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

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one

who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd;

I know my own and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock,

and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command

I have been given by my Father.'

