

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28 April – 4 May 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

Eileen and Roger Syndercombe's Ints

SUNDAY 28 April FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass: 9.30am

Jean Allais RIP

Mass: 11.00am

Pro Populo

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Mass: 6.30pm

Ints of Corisia

MONDAY 29 April ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am

Ints of Catherine Chambakata

TUESDAY 30 April

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Pat and David Dent-Young RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 1 May ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

Mass: 8.00am

Linda Ward

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Charles Gardner RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 2 May ST ATHANASIUS

Mass: 8.00am

The Couper Family

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

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

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 3 May ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Funeral Mass: 10.00am

Irma Idalia Gólcher Rubi RIP

Adoration: 11.30am – 5.30pm (NB the slightly later start)

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 4 May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am

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

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Kathleen Harris RIP

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY: Last week it was sheep: this week, the vine. Jesus offers us another (agricultural) image to explain the mystery of his offering of himself, and our belonging to him, our being part of him, which comes about through the sacrament of Baptism. This is, as was stated earlier, the period of Mystagogy, when the newly baptised are helped to see what life in Jesus Christ really means. Today this comes out strongly for all of us, with two of the three readings emphasising the moral aspects of life in Christ: it is not simply enough to “belong” to him: our belonging must be shown by the works we do, by the fruits we bear - while remembering of course that we cannot bear fruit except in him.



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. A cup of tea at 6.30pm in the hall if you come early.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024: 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, 1 May**. Let us keep them in our prayers: Josiah Actub, Martina Brucculeri, Michal Bladec, 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.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart:

Bishop-elect Bosco MacDonald

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. If you have coffee or rice you might like to donate, drop these into the parish office.

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

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 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.

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.

BATH PRO-LIFE GROUP: The Group meets in the presbytery this coming Wednesday, **Wednesday 1 May**, at 7pm.

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

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.

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.

MAY DEVOTIONS: May is the month of Mary and a gentle way of drawing close to her in prayer throughout the month. On **Sunday 26 May** at 3.30pm in the Church there will be May Devotions and a procession to the Garden behind the Church for the crowing of the statue of Our Lady next to the river. Do make a note of the date and come along if you can.

ST JUSTINA: As you know, St John's is custodian of the relics of St Justina, one of the virgin martyrs from the catacombs. The reliquary containing her relics is to be found in the Sacred Heart Chapel. An icon of St Justina has been commissioned and is near completion. It should be with us for the session as part of our *Schools of Prayer* on **Tuesday 23 July** when the artist and icon painter, Tamara Penwell, will be speaking to us about praying with icons. Her husband, Fr Richard, is the Orthodox Priest who cares for the community here in Bath. As part of that evening, he will bless the icon of St Justina for us. It will then be placed alongside of the reliquary in the Sacred Heart Chapel so as to contribute to her veneration. Pictures can be found on our Facebook page. If you are taking part in the Bear Flat Artists Trail in a couple of weeks you'll be able to take a sneak peak at the icon which will be on exhibition.

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER is celebrated this coming Thursday, a day to ask the Lord through the intercession of St Joseph to bless the work of our hands, to bless all those who work and to pray, maybe, for those without work at this moment. **Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.**

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY: Thank you for your generosity through last weekend's retiring collection for the Clergy Training Fund. You raised £879.25 in spite of the contactless machines being down. Thank you.

CONTACTLESS MACHINES: Sadly, the two contactless machines at the back of church were down last weekend which affect offertory giving and, of course, contributions to the clergy training fund. They are both up and running this weekend and so are 'open' for use. Thank you for your patience.

ASCENSION THURSDAY: This Season of Easter is slipping by and we are nearly at the forty day mark. The feast of the Ascension is celebrated on **Thursday 9 May** and there will be three Masses that day – 8am, 10am and 6.30pm. The Ascension is a Holyday of Obligation so do make a note of the times of Masses that day.

CORPUS CHRISTI: This great feast which draws our attention to the gift of the Eucharist is celebrated this year on **Sunday 2 June**. FrC is hoping that we can mark that celebration with Evening Prayer and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament... just watch this space for details but please make a note of the date now.

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP; This is a new opportunity at St Mary's, Julian Road. Those who wish can support various people in need of knitting/crochet/ sewing items - Ukraine various items, hats, glove, scarfs, jumpers, blanket squares; RUH hearts for palliative care, items for Babies born sleeping, blankets for NICU. Come and join us and meet others and socialize. The last Thursday of each month from 10am – 12pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Just email Pat and Joy if you will be coming or popping in so they have an idea of numbers. patjoy.kelly@gmail.com

HELP IN SUDAN – CAFOD APPEAL: The war in Sudan has forced millions of people to flee their homes, creating one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. The situation is quickly getting worse, and people caught up in the middle of the conflict are now facing yet another crisis – hunger. People are running out of food, water and medicine and many families continue to risk their lives fleeing their homes to escape the fighting. You can look at the CAFOD home page and donate or through our own contactless machines when they are up and running. With so much happening in the Middle East and in Ukraine, we can forget some of the other troubled areas so desperately in need. **CAFOD.org.uk**

FINANCE NEWS:
Offertory: £956.53 Envelopes: £160
Contactless Offertory: £360.50
Standing Orders: £1353 Gift Aid on S/O: £338.25
Thank you

NEXT SUNDAY: Communications Sunday and a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Service.

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 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21(22)

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

SECOND READING

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,

whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away –
he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father
that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

I am the True Vine

John 15:1