

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 16 - 22 June 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

Eileen & Roger's Intentions

SUNDAY 16 June XI SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Mass: 9.30am

Hilary Taylor's Intentions

Mass: 11.00am

Fr Des Millett RIP

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Mass: 6.30pm

Pro Populo

MONDAY 17 June

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am

Jonathan Downing's Intentions

TUESDAY 18 June

Mass: 8.00am

Emma Girling and Family

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

In Thanksgiving

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 19 June

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

William Randall's Intentions

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm *Praise & Worship: 12.30pm – 1.30pm*

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 20 June

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Joan King RIP & John King's Ints

Funeral Service: 11.00am *Barbara Osborne RIP*

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

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 21 June ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

Mass: 8.00am

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Joan King RIP & John King's Ints

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 22 June SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am

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

First Mass of Sunday

SUNDAY XII IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass: 5.45pm

Matthew and May Millett RIP

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY: How does a tree grow?

The scientists can give us their answers, but the miracle of life on our earth, in all its dazzling complexity and variety is exactly that - a miracle. God is responsible for the miracle of Nature and growth - how, we don't know, but we accept God's guiding hand as a fact of our faith. This mysterious growth in Nature is used as a parable today, for the life of the Church and the Kingdom of God. Just as a seed, planted and watered, turns by miraculous processes into something different and bigger and beautiful, so the seed of the Gospel will grow into something else, by some means we can never fully understand. And that is the grace of God, encouraging, prompting and helping all men and women of good will to swell the coming Kingdom of our God.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart:

Gabby and Harry Davies

Lady Chapel:

Javier De Cardenas

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.**

LANGUAGE SHEETS: Those of you who might like to follow the Liturgy of the Word in either Italian, Spanish, French, Chinese 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 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!

THURSDAY LUNCHES WITH GENESIS: Lunch is served from 12 noon to 1.30pm for some of Bath's homeless and vulnerable. The lunch is always looking for volunteers to be part of the rota to cook lunches – main course or pudding – just to ease the load on those who already volunteer. Please contact Janet in the parish office

if you would like to help. Thank you. If you have rice you might like to donate, drop some 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.

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.

THE CLUB - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The Club isn't meeting during this month of May but they meet next on **Tuesday 18 June** at 2.00pm in the parish hall. Professor Julian Hughes, a parishioner of St. Mary's, will give a talk entitled 'Dementia: the person and ethics' based on his book *Dementia and Ethics reconsidered*. He will discuss the idea of personhood and consider an approach to ethical issues that arise from those living with dementia. This should be a superb afternoon and you will be so welcome. There will be tea, cake, and a little glass of sherry to bring you cheer!

SCHOOL OF PRAYER: This coming month, building on the prayer of St Benedict and his communities, we welcome the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, and Sr Hyacinthe who will unfold for us what St Dominic teaches us about prayer in our relationship with the Lord. This Year of Prayer given to us by Pope Francis allows us to refresh our understanding of prayer and our ways of praying. The Dominican Sisters will be with us on **Tuesday 25 June** at 7.00pm in the Church. Do come and join them if you can. It has been a great series so far!

PARISH FORUM: We come together as a parish each year to listen to reflections on the activity and ministry of so many of our parish groups and, of course, be appraised of our parish income and expenditure for the previous year. This year we will gather as a parish family on **Wednesday 26 June** at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. There will be refreshments from 6.30pm. Do keep the date free if you can and come and join in the reflection upon parish life. There will be chance to glance at the running order of parish groups represented and also chance to meet the Pastoral Counsel Group, that has been in formation, at each Mass on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June.

MISSIO - RED BOX: The red box holders raised £1412.34 for the missions in 2023. Thank you so much. On **Wednesday 26 June** at 7.00pm Father Gary, the Diocesan Director for Missio, will celebrate Mass at St Mary's, Julian Road. This will be followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Everyone is most welcome.

GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE: Bishop Bosco invites you to join him at this year's Glastonbury Pilgrimage taking place on **Sunday 14 July**. The rosary procession begins in the Abbey Grounds at 2.15pm with Mass celebrated in the Abbey ruins at 3.30pm. It is always a good gathering of the diocesan community and a

wonderful witness to faith. There's an opportunity for Confession as well as for Healing Prayer and Adoration. There is a poster in the porch giving full details. Do join the Pilgrimage if you can. A 36-seater coach is being organised from St John's to take those who may wish to go along to Glastonbury to do so. It'll leave here at 12.30pm in order to arrive in time for the procession and then Mass, leaving around 5.30pm/6.00pm to return to St John's. If you want to add your name to the list, then please do so or contact Janet in the Parish Office. Cost is £12 return.

CATHOLIC MOTHERS BATH & WEST WILTSHIRE: There is a hope that a new group for mothers to meet once a month for Mass here at St John's might be started up with chance to gather afterwards in the hall to share tea, cake, faith and fellowship. Children are most welcome. The group will be a part of the wider 'Catholic Mothers' network. The plan is to meet for the first time on **Monday 15 July** after the 9.30am Mass. Contact Amy on 07872382979 to find out more.

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

AUTUMN FORMATION: This autumn will see us embarking upon some serious formation for liturgical ministers. Plenty of notice is given now so as to allow you to pop those dates in your diary. As we prepare to step into the Holy Year of 2025, this Year of Prayer allows us to enter into the spirit of ministry with prayer and reflection, seeking to offer ourselves to the Lord and place ourselves at the service of our community: **Welcomers:** Wednesday 11 September (7pm); **Readers:** Wednesday 25 September (7pm); **Servers:** Saturday 5 October (11am); **Musicians, Cantors and Singers:** Wednesday 9 October (7pm); **Adorers:** Saturday 12 October (11.30am); **Extraordinary Ministers of HC:** Wednesday 23 October (7pm).

AN HOUR'S HELP: Each weekend Mass has its own music sheet and a little team lending a hand folding them ready before the weekend would make a huge difference. The band of folders meets in the Presbytery each Friday at 1.30pm with the promise of a cup of tea. Come along if you can.

DIOCESAN DAY: This year's diocesan day will centre around the theme of hope and each community in the diocese is invited to gather around our Bishop to explore the theme in anticipation of the Jubilee Year of 2025. There is a poster on the porch notice board giving full details. All are most welcome to be part of the day. **6 July** at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol.

CAFOD/SVP AND THE GENERAL ELECTION: The SVP and CAFOD are working together in the run up to the General Election this July. As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among some of the important issues politicians are asked to act on. St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for

Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information. Do keep the intention of the General Election as part of your prayer over these next weeks.

THE NEW LECTIONARY: As part of the continuing process of revising our liturgical texts, the Bishops are publishing a new lectionary which will be produced in time for Advent 2024. This will alter the readings at Mass as we begin to acclimatise ourselves with a new translation, similar to what we have been using but with noticeable changes to some of the language. More to come!

FOR YOUR PRAYERS: There have been a couple of deaths announced in these last weeks. David Moran died so suddenly before last weekend. Geoffrey Stappard has died and his funeral takes place here on **Friday 28 June** at 10.00am. Barbara Osborne died recently and her funeral service takes place here on **Thursday 20 June** at 11.00am. We keep them in our prayers, remembering, also, their families and those close to them. May they rest in peace.

FR CHRISTOPHER celebrates thirty years of ordination on **Monday 1 July** and will celebrate Mass at 7.00pm on that evening. You are warmly invited to join FrC in this celebration and also to come along to refreshments in the hall afterwards. Please keep the date free in your diaries.

THE SOLEMNITY OF SS PETER AND PAUL is transferred this year because it falls on the Saturday (29 June) and will be celebrated on **Sunday 30 June**.

A JOURNEY TO FAITH, TO BAPTISM AND TO COMMUNION: It has been such a fruitful couple of months with a gentle flow of people who either are looking for baptism or to enter into full communion with the Church. It is good to see people coming to the Sacraments as well as journeying with the children towards First Confession. If you are thinking about becoming a Catholic or seeking to be baptised, please have a word with FrC over the next couple of weeks. It would be good to set up a group to journey towards the Sacraments and unfold the story of faith.

BATHCAN HUSTINGS: BathCAN have arranged for candidates standing for office at the coming General Election will gather in Bath Abbey on Monday 24 June at 7.00pm. Doors will open at 6.30pm. This is an important opportunity for Candidates to gather with the Christian Community across the city and it is important for the Candidates to see the strength of the Christian Community in Bath. Please do go along and take part in the Hustings. Let those seeking office hear the concern for the poor, the weak, the marginalised. Let them hear of concerns that matter; let them hear the cry of the earth and the concerns of the people they seek to serve.

PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE: On **Saturday 22 June**, so close to the Feast of St John the Baptist, we are encouraged to use this day to pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. This is the last monthly day of prayer and fasting for life before the General Election, an election which could well result in an even

more pro-abortion government than we have currently had. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. Please Invite others to join the day on Facebook, facebook.com/events/1037436687798327/

CAKE SALE: The Bath Life Group are hosting a cake sale this Sunday morning in order to raise funds. There are also some fresh, free-range eggs for sale. Both Masses on Sunday morning... so snap up a little treat for yourself for your Sunday coffee or afternoon tea.

PLANT SALE: Nina Dobson is hosting a plant sale next weekend after the two Sunday Masses **next** weekend in the hope of raising a little money for CAFOD. The table will be outside (23 June) by the West Doors.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR were here at three of the four Sunday Masses asking for your help in supporting their Summer Fayre by buying raffle tickets. If you missed the chance to help them out, there are twenty books remaining - £10 per book and there is someone selling them after Masses this weekend. You can either use cash or the contactless machines.

THIS MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART: Take time during this month of June to ponder the immensity of God's love for each of us. He seeks to reveal to you the secrets of the Father's love and compassion. Pope Francis reminds us that 'more difficult than loving God is allowing ourselves to be loved by him'. The Lord is always watching us with mercy, [always] awaits us with mercy. Let us be not afraid to approach him! He has a merciful heart! If we show our inner wounds, our sins, he always forgives us. He is pure mercy! Let us never forget this: He is pure mercy! **Let us go to Jesus!**

BATH ABBEY: On **Saturday 29 June** the Youth Choir of Brunswick, Germany, is visiting Bath as part of their annual Concert Tour. They will join the Abbey Girls and Lay Clerks to celebrate Evensong together at 5 pm by way of marking the Twinning of Braunschweig and Bath across the last 53 years. After Evensong, the Choir of Brunswick Cathedral will perform an admission-free concert with a diverse and interesting program under the title "Arise, Become Light!" Poster in porch – all welcome so do go along if you can.

FAMILY ADORATION: Saturday 29 June at 3.30pm. All are welcome. **MASS OF HEALING PRAYER:** Thursday 27 June at 7.00pm.

FINANCE NEWS:
Offertory: £701.11 Envelopes: £211.70
Contactless Offertory: £523 Candles: £625.76
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, Chinese, and Polish – as well as Mass cards to guide you through the Liturgy.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 17:22-24
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest
in the shade of its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that I,
the Lord, am the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,
who withers green trees
and makes the withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 91(92)
It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-10
A reading from the second letter to St Paul to the Corinthians

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

