

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

☎ 01225 464471

✉ stjohnsrcbath.org.uk

Parish Priest

Canon Christopher Whitehead

✉ christopher.whitehead@cliftondiocese.com



Parish Administrator

Janet Flinn

✉ bath.stjohntheevangelist@cliftondiocese.com

SOLEMNITY OF SS PETER AND PAUL

30 June – 6 July 2024

First Mass of Sunday

Mass: 5.45pm

SUNDAY 30 June SS PETER AND PAUL

Mass: 9.30am

Hilary Taylor's Intentions

Mass: 11.00am

Pro Populo

Polish Mass: 1.00pm

Confessions: 5.50pm – 6.20pm

Mass: 6.30pm

Ints of Callum Stephenson

MONDAY 1 July ST OLIVER PLUNKETT

Mass: 7.00pm

TUESDAY 2 July

Mass: 8.00am

Fr Des Millett RIP

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

In thanksgiving (Ang J)

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

WEDNESDAY 3 July ST THOMAS

Mass: 8.00am

Ints of Christopher Walker

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Carlo Group Ints

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

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

THURSDAY 4 July

Mass: 8.00am

CMBF

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Ints of Cassandra and Mary

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

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

FRIDAY 5 July

Mass: 8.00am

Fr Des McNaboe's Ints

Morning Prayer: 9.30am

Confessions: 9.40am

Mass: 10.00am

Matthew & May Millett RIP

Adoration: 10.30am – 5.30pm

Wedding Mass: 1.00pm

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm

Rosary: 6.00pm

SATURDAY 6 July

Morning Prayer: 9.00am

Rosary: 10.00am

Mass: 9.30am

Ints of James Jiggins

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

First Mass of Sunday

SUNDAY XIV OF THE YEAR

Mass: 5.45pm

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY: Peter and Paul are the two great heroes of the Apostolic Age - Peter for leading the first Christian communities and binding them in unity, a role that springs from his profession of faith in Caesarea Philippi, and Paul for travel-ling throughout the Roman Empire as the Apostle to the Gentiles, ensuring that the Gospel could be heard by all. They both ended up in Rome, the heart of the Empire, where they crowned their lives of witness by shedding their blood for Christ. As the ancient hymn for this feast day ("Decora Lux aeternitatis") says: "Rejoice, O Rome, this day; thy walls they once did sign with princely blood, who now their glory share with thee. What city's vesture glows with crimson deep as thine? What beauty else has earth that may compare with thee?" In celebrating the death of these apostles and martyrs, we celebrate the triumph of life and death offered fully to God.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

Sacred Heart:

For Vocations

Lady Chapel:

Frank Croston RIP

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 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!

THURSDAY LUNCHESES 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 some instant coffee or 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.

SCHOOL OF PRAYER: This coming week, building on the prayer of the desert Fathers and Mothers, St Benedict and his communities, and St Dominic, we welcome Tamara Penwell who will help us explore prayer in the Orthodox Tradition. Tamara is a member of the Orthodox community here in Bath and the most talented of icon painters. She will also unfold for us the use of icons in Orthodox prayer. This *Year of Prayer* - given to us by Pope Francis - allows us to refresh our understanding of prayer and our ways of praying. Tamara will be with us on **Tuesday 23 July** at 7.00pm in the Church. Do come and join them if you can. It has been a great series so far!

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. 28 seats have been taken already.

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: David Moran's funeral is arranged for **Tuesday 9 July** at 11am. We keep him in our prayers, remembering, also, his family and those close to him. May he 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.

PETER'S PENCE: The retiring collection after all Masses this weekend is *Peter's Pence*. This fund, taken across the Church, is given to the Holy Father to allow him to reach out to the parts of the Church in need. It shows a wonderful solidarity and unity with Pope Francis and the Church across the world. This fund allows Pope Francis to reach out in charity and care to those parts of the Church that struggle and are in need. It is Peter reaching out to others in support on our behalf.

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.

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.

LOWER CAR PARKING: It is coming to that time of year when annual subscriptions for parking in the lower car park are due for renewal. Existing permit holders will be contacted in the next week or so inviting them to renew their annual subscription or cancel and hand back the fob. Patrick and Janet will be in touch.

CONGRATULATIONS to Arabella Rosa Pierre-White who was baptised here last Saturday afternoon. We keep Arabella and her family in our prayers.

THIS SUNDAY Helena Taylor will be received into full communion with the Church and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 6.30pm Mass. Keep Helena in your prayers.

PARISH FINANCES 2023: The financial report for the year 2023 is available for those of you who want to pick up a copy. You will see the accounts of income and expenditure, what comes in and what goes out. There are copies at the back of the church if you want to take one home with you.

WEDDING: This Friday at 1.00pm, Sherwin Fernando & Senali Seneviratni will be celebrating their wedding here in St John's. Adoration will take place in the Adoration Chapel from 12noon until about 2.30pm.

PARISH SOCIAL GROUP meet in the presbytery on **Tuesday 16 July** at 4.00pm.

FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY – that's this Friday and Saturday, drawing us into devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

THE ICON OF ST JUSTINA: There has been conversation taking place across the last couple of years about a reparation that needs to take place for the disturbing of the relics of St Justina some time ago. During Fr Christopher's time with us, the relics have found a home in the Sacred Heart Chapel and in order to draw both attention and devotion, an icon of St Justina has been commissioned to be placed alongside of the reliquary. Tamara Penwell who has painted the icon will be here on 23 July as part of the *Schools of Prayer* and the icon will be blessed and positioned on that same evening. If you took part in the Bear Flat Art Trail, then you might have seen the icon nearly finished. It will be a beautiful addition to the church and a good way of building a devotion to a saint entrusted to our care. Do come along on that evening if you can.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fr Richard Elson who takes up a new appointment as parish priest of St John's in Trowbridge, St Bernadette's in Westbury, and St Thomas More in Bradford-upon-Avon. He will be our near neighbour in this pastoral area and deanery. It'll be good to have him 'next door'.

LOWER CAR PARK: Those of you who may use the lower car park will know that there is much work to be done on resurfacing and relining the whole area. Three quotations have been received and a diocesan approval has to be sort before we can begin. It may be that works begins across two weeks of September which will mean the whole car park will be closed off for that time. It will mean that there may be one weekend where there is no parking down below for Mass. As much warning will be given when we have a start date. Once the slope down to the lower end of the car park has been sorted, fresh tarmac will be laid, the whole car park will be relined, remarked and the spaces all numbered. Keep an eye on the newsletter for details as and when they come in.

FOURTH WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS and the Elderly is taking place on **Sunday 28 July**. This is marked so close to the feast of SS Joachim and Ann (26 July), the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis has themed this year "Do not cast me off in my old age" (Ps 71:9). It'll be an opportunity to prayer for grandparents and reflect upon the 'wisdom of our elders'.

ADOREMUS: It is some time away yet, but there is a national Eucharistic Congress taking place at Oscott College, Birmingham, on **Saturday 14 September**. Whilst there are representatives from each diocese taking part, each parish is nevertheless invited to host a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Watch this space.

FINANCE NEWS:

Offertory: £855.50 Envelopes: £112
Contactless Offertory: £560 Candles: £407.13
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 Acts 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

PSALM Psalm 33(34):2-9

The angel of the Lord rescues those who revere him.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

