

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

South Parade ♦ BATH ♦ BA2 4AF

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## Parish Priest

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## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

28 July – 3 August 2024

*First Mass of Sunday*

**Mass:** 5.45pm

*Fr Des Millett RIP*

## SUNDAY 28 July SUNDAY XVII OF THE YEAR

**Mass:** 9.30am

*Hilary Taylor RIP*

**Mass:** 11.00am

*Pro Populo*

**Polish Mass:** 1.00pm

**Confessions:** 5.50pm – 6.20pm

**Mass:** 6.30pm

*Reginald and Madeline Taylor RIP*

## MONDAY 29 July SS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

*Ints of the Mason Family*

## TUESDAY 30 July

**Mass:** 8.00am

*Fr Des Millett RIP*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Fr Harry Wainwright*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## WEDNESDAY 31 July ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA

**Mass:** 8.00am

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Fr Brian McEvoy RIP*

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

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## THURSDAY 1 August ST ALPHONSUS LIGOURI

**Mass:** 8.00am

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Veronica Randall and Family*

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

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## FRIDAY 2 August

**Mass:** 8.00am

*Ints of Patrick and Sherilynn Farrell*

**Morning Prayer:** 9.30am

**Confessions:** 9.40am

**Mass:** 10.00am

*Richard Smith RIP*

**Adoration:** 10.30am – 5.30pm

**Evening Prayer:** 5.30pm

**Rosary:** 6.00pm

## SATURDAY 3 August

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am

**Rosary:** 10.00am

**Mass:** 9.30am

*Matthew and May Millett RIP*

**Wedding:** 12.30pm *Andrew Ford and Ceri Davis*

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

*First Mass of Sunday*

## SUNDAY XVIII OF THE YEAR

**Mass:** 5.45pm

*Beatrice Healy RIP*

**THE WORD THIS SUNDAY:** For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and read Chapter 6 of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God), and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

## THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE INTENTIONS

**Sacred Heart:**

*For Vocations*

**Lady Chapel:**

*For those preparing for marriage*

**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 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:** We take a break for the month of August but return to the School of Prayer in September. We have spent time, thus far, looking at the prayer of the desert Fathers and Mothers, St Benedict and his communities, and St Dominic, prayer in the Orthodox Tradition and so we come (appropriately during the Season of Creation) to ponder the prayer of St Francis. **Fr Maximilian Martin** will be with us on Tuesday 24 September to help us ponder the prayer of St Francis and St Clare and allow their prayer to shape and form our own. **Tuesday 24 September** at 7.00pm in the Church. Do come and join them if you can. It has been a great series so far!

**THE ICON OF ST JUSTINA:** Gracing the Sacred Heart Chapel and placed along side of her relics, the icon of St Justina was blessed here in Church on Tuesday evening as part of the School of Prayer session on Orthodox prayer. It is a most beautiful icon and a most creative addition to our Church, drawing attention – of course – and giving a certain identity to the saint whose body has been entrusted to our parish. Her feast day (according to the Roman Martyrology) falls on the 30 November and so as well as celebrating the Feast of Andrew, we will hold her memory in prayer. Andrew Vickers has creatively crafted the beautiful stand for the icon to rest upon. Do go and pay a visit, light a candle and pray to St Justina for yourself and for those you love.

**CATHOLIC MOTHERS BATH & WEST WILTSHIRE:** What a beautiful beginning to see so many mothers with their young children gathering together in our hall following the morning Mass for tea and conversation as well as a moment of prayer and reflection. What a good thing to be able to host. The next coming together is on **Monday 12 August** after the 9.30am Mass. Do come along if you can. Children are most welcome. The group is part of the wider 'Catholic

Mothers' network. 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](mailto: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.

**THE CLUB** looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on the **Tuesday 20 August**.

**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 have been contacted in the last three weeks inviting them to renew their annual subscription or cancel and hand back the fob. Contact the parish office if you have a query.

**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 Saints 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 pray for grandparents and reflect upon the 'wisdom of our elders'. Pope Francis's message for the Fourth World Day of Prayer is available at the back of the Church.

**MONSIGNOR KELLY FUND:** A quiz night is arranged in the hall for this coming **Tuesday, 30 July**, in order to raise a little money for the projects sponsored and supported by the Monsignor Kelly Fund. A little drink to quench your thirst as you answer the questions put before you. Some lovely prizes and some little snacks to keep you going. Do come along and support the evening if you can. Please contact Richard (richardgri@gmail.com) or Flavia (fla.pepi91@gmail.com) just so that they can have an idea of numbers. Money raised on Tuesday goes to support Sr Fides from the LSU community who is building an Autism Unit at the Matumaini Children's Centre in Tanzania. **It would be good to see you in the parish hall on Tuesday evening.**

**ST JOHN'S 'LIVE SIMPLY' & CAFOD:** Pope Francis, through Laudato Si, and encouraged by CAFOD through their 'Live Simply' campaign are always inviting us to consider being more sustainable in our lifestyle choices – everything we choose does matter. It is great to see that St John's does contribute to the conversations formed by the bi-monthly ecumenical group called CAFÉ BANES (Christian Action for the Environment). It draws the Christian Communities in Bath together so as to form a stronger voice and a greater force for action. Keep an eye out at the back of Church CAFÉ BANES booklet which gives simple tips and useful guides to living in a more sustainable way. July is a great month to keep those lifestyle changes on the radar. In this 'no plastic' month there's chance to do a little something to help out. Have a look at the Facebook posts. Do have a look and see ideas how to reduce your plastic use. If you would like to find out more about CAFOD Live Simply and become involved in our St John's community network for change, have a word with Nina Dobson.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** Don't forget you can submit your details for parish registration through the parish website. If you are new to the parish or have yet to 'sign up' just have a look at the home page and click the registration button. It is simple and straightforward and allows for a more digital and paper-free census. If you have no access to online facilities, just have a word with the parish office and someone will help you out with this.

**CONFIRMATION 2024:** Bishop Bosco will confirm our young people at St Mary's Church, Julian Road, Bath on Friday 6th December. The preparation course for the Sacrament of Confirmation is suitable for those in Year 9-13 (from Sept 2024). It is open to anyone living in the Bath parishes of St Mary's, St John's, St Alphege's & St Peter & St Paul's; St Joseph's, Peasedown St John, & all churches associated with St Benedict's, Stratton-on-the-Fosse. Six weeks at St Mary's Church, Tuesdays 7.00-8.15pm, starting 15th October. The application form (available on the St Mary's website) contains all the information about the course plus help with preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You can email Charlotte at St Mary's to register your interest and find out the details: bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com .

**INTERNATIONAL MASS:** Ever conscious of how diverse, culturally, we are as a parish community, there's opportunity in the year to celebrate that wonderful diversity. Our International Mass each year enables to draw the broad parish family together and reflect the many languages and cultures of so many in our

community. **Mass at 6.30pm on Sunday 29 September** will reflect that make-up through our readings and through the prayers at Mass. There's also a chance to gather in the hall, socially, and experience the delicious tastes from the countries of our parish family. If you want to offer a dish for that shared supper, get in touch with Margaret Phelan in good time and let her know when you can and what you can offer for the meal: margaret.a.phelan@gmail.com

**ADOREMUS – EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS:** Our bishops (nationally) are inviting diocesan communities to come together in September to gather around the Eucharist. Oscott College is hosting the national Eucharistic Congress on **Saturday 14 September** and some 40 representatives from each diocese are attending. Each parish has been invited to take part in this day of Congress by gathering for a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. From after the 9.30am Mass until 5.00pm on that day, there will be adoration in Church with organised and scheduled times of formal prayer.

**IN CELEBRATION OF ST LUKE:** It is some way off at the moment, but we celebrate Luke, the patron of doctors and medics, on October 18. Fr Christopher is celebrating Mass on **Tuesday 15 October** and is inviting the doctors, nurses and healthcare professional to come and celebrate their patron at 7.00pm on that day. Pass the word around and keep the date free.

**MASS AT PERRYMEAD:** There will be Mass celebrated in the little chapel at Perrymead at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 6 August**. All are welcome. If it is a good summer's day, then bring a flask of tea and some sandwiches for afterwards.

**FIRST FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY:** This coming Friday and Saturday, we keep these first Friday and Saturday devotions – the Litany of the Sacred Heart as Adoration begins and the Litany of Our Lady after the morning Mass at 9.30am.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alexandra and Stephen who were married here Saturday (27 July) and also to Maggie Lyons and her family as they celebrated Maggie's baptism. We keep them all in our prayers.

**200 CLUB JULY DRAW:** Congratulations to our lucky winners: **First Prize (£100):** Tom Dunne; **Second Prize (£50):** Janet Flinn; **Third Prize (£25):** Anne Hill; **Fourth Prize (£25)** Lesley Hart; **Fifth Prize (£25)** Maurao Farina. Cheques are on their way to you.

**DIACONAL FORMATION:** With a new and competent director at the helm of formation, the diaconal programme will move to a new venue from September. It has been such a blessing to journey with these men in formation across the near five years they have made St John's their formation home. We keep them in their prayers and ask God to draw them closer to him in service.

**FINANCE NEWS:**  
Offertory: £833.27      Envelopes: £125  
Contactless Offertory: £474.50      Candles: £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, Chinese, and Polish – as well as Mass cards to guide you through the Liturgy.

**FIRST READING** 2 Kings 4:42-44

**A reading from the second book of the Kings**

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear.' 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

**PSALM** Psalm 144(145):10-11,15-18

**You open wide your hand, O Lord,  
and grant our desires.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

**SECOND READING** Ephesians 4:1-6

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;  
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 6:1-15

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

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

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**PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS – POPE BENEDICT XVI**  
Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasuries of sound religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed in all the years of life which you give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland, where you await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!