

ST MARY'S
(Our Lady, Help of Christians)
Julian Road, Bath, BA1 2SF



www.stmarysbath.org.uk

Parish office: bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com

www.churchservices.tv/bath

facebook.com/stmaryscatholicchurchbath

Parish Administrator: Charlotte Boyall
Office: Parish Centre - email only

<http://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/deanery-event-calendar/>

Benvenuto - Bienvenu - Bienvenido - Benvindo - Fáilte - Willkommen - Witamy - Welcome



Parish Priest: Mgr Jeremy Rigden

01225 311725

Deacon: Rev. Richard Hayward (Rtd)

Safeguarding: Clifton Diocese
safeguarding Co-ordinator Becky Cawsey
0117 954 0993

Royal United Hospital

ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

RUH Chaplaincy direct line 01225 428331

"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us.

Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start." St Teresa of Calcutta

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Year B Proper of the Solemnity

Sunday 27th December

9.00am Mass Private intention

10.30am Mass Private intention

5.00pm Mass Private intention

Monday 28th December

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

No public service in church

Tuesday 29th December

St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

No public service in church

Wednesday 30th December

Sixth day in the Octave of Christmas

10.00am Mass Private intention

Thursday 31st December

Seventh day in the Octave of Christmas

No public service in church

Friday 1st January

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10.00am Mass Private intention

Saturday 2nd January

Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Bishops, Doctors of the Church

No public service in church

First Holy Communion 2021:

If you have a child in Year 3 who is ready to prepare for this sacrament, please register your interest by emailing the parish office.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession is available after every Wednesday and Friday Mass during Advent.

RUH CONTACT DETAILS:

If you or a loved one is going into the **Royal United Hospital**, please contact ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net or call the RUH Chaplaincy direct line 01225 428331 on arrival.

If Fr Jeremy is not available, and a priest is required urgently, please call:

St Alphege's Fr Malcolm 424894

St John's Fr Christopher 464471

Sts Peter and Paul Fr Bill 832096

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

1st Reading: This wonderful poem celebrates the splendour of Jerusalem, where the Wisdom of God, the Law, took root.

2nd Reading: The sevenfold blessing, with which Ephesians begins, sums up God's plan of salvation for humanity. The climax is the centre, 'to bring everything under Christ as head'.

Gospel: The Prologue of St John sums up the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation by the Word, continues with the incarnation, and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

Parish Prayers:

For our priest, deacon, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, amazing Sacristan, Mass Stewards, Readers, Flower Arrangers, Musicians, Counters, Altar Linen team, Welcomers, Coffee makers, Altar Servers, Children's Liturgy catechists, Cleaners, Garden group, Catechists for First Communion and Confirmation, Parish Administrator, Finance group, Property Development group, all the staff at St Mary's School and the members of the many Parish Groups who help make St Mary's a vibrant Parish. Many, many thanks to you all, even if your talents are being hidden under a bushel during the pandemic.

For all those with life threatening illnesses, including Michaela L.

Diocesan Prayer Link:

Sts Peter and Paul, Bath

MASS STEWARDS We need many more Mass stewards. We need at least two at every Mass or we are not allowed to open the church. Could you help? If you are aged 18-70, live in tier 2 & are not in a vulnerable group, please email the parish office.

This week we remember:

Elizabeth Lanning, Antonino Pirrello, Pierre Boutin, Peter Wight, Maureen O'Reilly, Pip Dewey and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Coming to Mass during a pandemic:

Everyone needs to book a seat before they come to Mass. Bookings can be made via <https://bookmassinadvent.eventbrite.co.uk> or the booking phone 07415000566 (for those who do not use the internet).

Live streaming of Masses from St Mary's:

*Sundays 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

*Wednesdays & Fridays 10.00am

Watch via www.churchservices.tv/bath or on the home page of the parish website. Thank you to all who have donated so we can afford to make this available to all. We hope that we might receive more donations to cover the monthly costs. Please contact Michael Gage if you want to Gift Aid your donation via msg.gage@gmail.com You can also donate via the **donate** button on the parish website or send a cheque made payable to "St Mary's Catholic Church Bath" to 4 Harley Street, Bath, BA1 2SF.

SAINTUARY LAMPS: The restored Sanctuary Lamps are now back in place, & the brass lamp at the Lady Chapel has also been rehung. As you know we have had no votive candles in the church since the beginning of the pandemic, but these 7 day candles are now available to purchase for your intentions. Envelopes are available at the back of the church in which you can specify the lamp you wish, & the intention. Minimum offering per candle £5.00 to cover its cost. Please place the envelope with the offering in the collection box near the exit in the Lady Chapel, or hand it into the sacristy. The intention will be published in the bulletin unless you wish it to remain private. Unfortunately with only three candles available each week it will not be possible to ask for specific dates, & intentions will be allocated on a first come basis for each lamp. If there are no intentions for a particular week then a sanctuary lamp is still required to be lit, but it will be the only one.

Week beginning Sunday 27th Dec

Sanctuary 1 Private Intention
Sanctuary 2 Andrew Sloan's Intentions
Lady Chapel Private Intention

St Mary's is in a tier 2 area so if you live in a tier 3 area, you are advised to stay at home and participate via live-stream.

Feast of the Holy Family

As we come to the end of 2020, we know that it is a year that most of us will never forget. It has been a year like no other. Family life has been turned upside down in so many ways. For some families the time together has been a rich and rewarding experience. For others, especially those without outside space or space for working at home, it has been exceptionally challenging. For some families, it has meant not being able to see one another for weeks and months at a time. It has brought joys and sorrows for many, especially for those families where elderly relatives in care homes have been inaccessible or family members in hospital unable to have visitors. Whether it has been a positive or a painful experience for us, we are not alone. Mary, Joseph and Jesus experience similar trials in their family life. In their joy, the parents of Jesus as a baby, bring him to the Temple as the Law required. What they did not expect to hear was the painful prophecy of Simeon. In life there are always times of joy and sorrow. Trusting that the Lord is there, present within it all can challenge us but as we enter into 2021, let us take that trust and believe that whatever life may throw at us we are in the loving embrace of the Lord who will never abandon us.

As we draw the 'Year of Communion' to a close, this completes the three-year cycle of Gospel reflections. We hope that they have enriched and nourished your prayerful contemplation of the Sunday readings.

Sarah Adams, Director for the Department for Adult Education & Evangelisation



Act now & ask your MP to oppose introducing **assisted suicide**. The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. Right To Life UK have set up & easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide> There is more information here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/write-to-your-mp-to-prevent-the-legalisation-of-assisted-suicide/>

St Mary's School Christingle:

Many thanks to those who donated towards the items needed to make the christingles for the school service. £145 was collected, and donated along with items bought for parish events that would be useful when decorating fruit..

CHRISTMAS

Bath Carol Trail 5th-31st Dec:

St Mary's Parish is proud to be part in a Carol Trail around many of the churches of Bath. Download/print the map, start from our parish centre, and guess the carol from the nativity display. Check the QR code and hear it sung! Listen again and sing along with the subtitles! Aimed at children aged 1-102. Many thanks to Kirsten, Hugh & Nick for their musical/ vocal/ technological/ artistic talents. www.bathcaroltrail.wordpress.com



The God Who Speaks: "At the Manger: Family Celebrations for the Eight Days of Christmas" Bishop Peter Brignall invites us to use this short family service for each day of the Octave, beginning on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day with a blessing of the crib. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/advent-christmastide/>

CAFOD Advent Prayer: A Journey To The Manger every Sunday from 29 Nov-6 Jan, 6pm-6:30pm. No need for a computer camera or microphone or worrying about what to say. Just register then click the link on Sundays through Advent & on Epiphany, (Jan 6th). Starts at 6.00pm and run for less than half an hour. <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

Mental health: If the dark days and cold weather is getting you down, and the added excitements of COVID, Brexit and tier and travel restrictions are not helping, please consider contacting:
•Age UK <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/loneliness/>
•Young Somerset <https://www.youngsomerset.org.uk/Pages/Cateory/covid-19-support>
•NHS advice lines <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>
•The Samaritans <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/if-youre-having-difficult-time/signs-you-may-be-struggling-cope/>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Please share these numbers so someone in need can find them.
WomansAid National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247
The mix Advice for the under 25yrs. 0808 808 4994
Advice for Male Victims of Domestic Violence 0808 8801 0327
Childline Deals with a vast variety of children concerns including Domestic Violence 0800 1111
<https://www.csas.uk.net/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/Guidance-Supporting-people-who-may-be-experiencing-domestic-violence.pdf>

PARISH OFFICE: closed for the holidays

Postal items: 4 Harley Street, Bath, BA1 2SF, Bulletin items must arrive by noon on Weds: bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com
Email Charlotte to receive the Sunday bulletin by email on Fridays or the Mon-Thurs emails of updates & ideas of how to cope in a pandemic. These are archived on the parish website "News, Events & Pandemic Resources". Charlotte remains working from home, so do not visit or ring her at the Parish Centre. If you have her home phone number, please keep it to yourself & please do not use it for church issues. Email her at bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com or ring Fr Jeremy 01225 311725.

FINANCE: The pandemic has severely disrupted our means of receiving money. We are fortunate to have a foundation of regular givers. Even so, we have lost almost 30% of our monthly income (mostly collection plate donations). This is income essential to sustain the parish & its outreach responsibilities. We know many are facing greater financial hardship. However, if you are able to make a regular or occasional contribution, we would be grateful. Thanks to all who support St Mary's financially with a regular donation via their bank account or envelope giving. Please visit St Mary's website & give via the **DONATE** button. Any size of donation is welcome, no matter how small. Only the donations secretary sees confidential info. If you are a taxpayer, consider using Gift Aid to boost your donation's value by 25% at no cost to you. : <https://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/parish-life>

St Mary's Car Park - parishioner permits

Permits for 2021 are available. Any parishioner can buy a permit, allowing 4 hours of parking per week. Email the parish office for an application form, then either:
*Complete the application form; send it plus a cheque for £60.00 payable to St Mary's Catholic Church Bath & a stamped addressed envelope to Parish Office, c/o 4 Harley Street, Bath, BA1 2SF
•Complete the application form; email it to the parish office, & transfer £61.00 to the church bank account (Sort 521003 Account: 66286670 Name: Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Mary, Bath) The extra £1 covers the cost of the stamp & envelope to send your permit.

2020-21 Parish Census: We took a census in 2016, so it is time to ask for everyone's details again. Find the form by clicking on "I am new to the parish. Help!" on <https://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/parish-life> Fill it in online and send it back to bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com or print it off, fill it in & send it back to: Parish Administrator, 4 Harley Street, Bath BA1 2SF. We would welcome everyone to fill in a form, even if you have done so in the past. Of the 370+ people who have come to Mass since July, we have contact details for only 80.