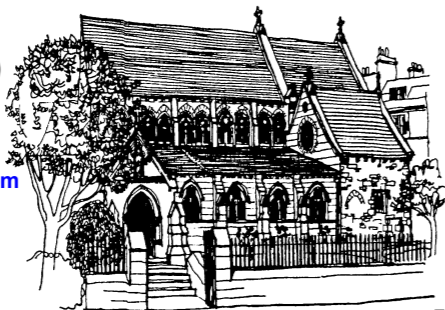


**ST MARY'S**  
**(Our Lady, Help of Christians)**  
**Julian Road, Bath, BA1 2SQ**

[www.stmarysbath.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbath.org.uk)  
Parish office: [bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com)  
[www.churchservices.tv/bath](http://www.churchservices.tv/bath)  
[facebook.com/stmaryscatholicchurchbath](https://facebook.com/stmaryscatholicchurchbath)

Parish Administrator: Charlotte Boyall  
<http://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/deanery-event-calendar/>  
Benvenuto - Bienvenu - Bienvenido - Benvindo - Fáilte - Willkommen - Witamy - Welcome



Parish Priest: Mgr Jeremy Rigden  
01225 311725

Deacons: Rev. Richard Hayward (Rtd) and Joseph Meigh

Safeguarding: Clifton Diocese co-ordinator  
Becky Cawsey 0117 9540993

Royal United Hospital  
ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net or RUH  
Chaplaincy direct line 01225 428331

“Our heart is restless until it rests in you.” St Augustine

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**Year C Proper of the Solemnity**

**Friday 24th December**  
**Vigil Masses of Christmas**  
4.00pm Mass Private intention  
7.00pm Mass Private intention  
10.00pm Mass People of the parish

**Saturday 25th December**  
**The Nativity of the Lord**  
9.00am Mass Private intention  
10.30am Mass Private intention

**Sunday 26th December**  
**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
9.00am Mass People of the parish  
10.30am Mass Private Intention  
5.00pm Mass Audrey Torpy RIP

**Monday 27th December**  
**St John, Apostle, Evangelist**  
No Mass

**Tuesday 28th December**  
**Feast of the Holy Innocents**  
No Mass

**Wednesday 29th December**  
**St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr**  
No Mass

**Thursday 30th December**  
**Sixth Day of the Octave of Christmas**  
No Mass

**Friday 31st December**  
**Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas**  
10.00am Mass Private intention

**Saturday 1st January**  
**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
10.00am Mass

If Fr Jeremy is not available, and a priest is required urgently, please call:  
St John's Fr Chris Whitehead 464471  
St Alphege's Fr Alex McAllister 424894  
Sts Peter and Paul Fr Bill 832096

\*\*\*Please be aware that we have CCTV cameras in the church, the car park and the parish centre.\*\*\*

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** The child Samuel, the first of the prophets, is born as a gift from God. His mother Hannah dedicates him to God for all of his life.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** The love God offers makes us children of God and helps us to love one another.

**Gospel:** At the age of twelve, Jesus travels to Jerusalem, a journey which pre-figures his later journey to the city where he would die and rise again.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. 8 million people are on the brink of famine due to drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict & COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, & fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. Donate via CAFOD [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**Bath Churches Christmas Carol Trail:**  
St Mary's is taking part so look at the display in the window of the parish centre. Guess the carol from the clues in the display, then scan the QR code to see if you are correct. It will take you to YouTube where you can watch & listen to our musicians sing the carol. Sing along with the subtitles. Thank you to Hugh, Kate, Kirsten & Madeleine, our musicians & IT specialists for the Bath Carol Trail entry, and to Charlotte for making the mysterious display.  
\*If QR codes are a step too far, go to YouTube <https://youtu.be/JtSW-kt5928> and sing along. Find the full list of churches taking part here: <https://caroltrailbath.wordpress.com/>  
#somethingfreetodowhenthechildrenneedawalk

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022**  
Application forms will be available in January. The course is for children in Y3-6 & we use the "I Belong" materials. Forms will be available at church on the website and through St Mary's Primary School. We need to know how many want to be prepared to receive the Sacrament so we can involve all the young people in our parish despite COVID restrictions.

**Diocesan Church Prayer Link:**  
Corpus Christi; Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph, Weston super Mare

**Coming to Mass during a pandemic:**  
**Booking:** Please book a seat before coming to Sunday Mass. Use either Eventbrite <https://bookmass-2jan-27feb.eventbrite.co.uk> (by 5.00pm on Saturdays) or the booking phone 07415000566 (for those who do not use the internet). If booking by phone, book by noon on Saturdays.  
\*Use the NHS COVID-19 app to scan the QR codes on entering the church or parish centre; or leave a name for each family member over 16 and a phone number on entering the church.  
\*No need to book for weekday Masses; scan the QR code on arrival and leave a name and phone number for Track & Trace purposes.  
\*Please use the hand sanitiser.  
\*Face coverings must be worn in church unless you are exempt. Children aged 0-11 do not need a mask. \*You can pick up a "Please leave a space" card on entering the church, to place on the seat immediately beside you.  
\*Stewards act as welcomers to the church. They help people sign in, go to communion and leave safely.  
\*Communion: move as directed by stewards.  
\*Holy Communion is under one kind  
\*The Sign of Peace remains suspended  
\*Please leave as directed by the stewards  
\*If you can help as a steward or a reader, talk to Fr Jeremy.

**SANCTUARY LAMPS:** 7-day candles are available to purchase for your intentions. Envelopes available at the entrance to the church in which you can specify the lamp & the intention. Minimum offering per candle £5.00 to cover its cost. Please give the envelope to Fr Jeremy or one of the stewards, who will put it in the sacristy. The intention will be published in the bulletin unless you wish it to remain private. There are 3 lamps to buy.  
**Week beginning Sunday 19th December**  
No intentions

**This week we remember:**  
Albert Connolly, Rosalia Bez, Noel O'Regan, Elizabeth Lanning, Antonino Pirrello, Rosalia Bez, Pierre Boutin and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.  
**May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.**



**Merry Christmas**  
**and a very warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors to St Mary's on this special day!**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT TO FR JEREMY**  
The collections at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are our gift to our priest. You can put your offering in one of the marked envelopes (found at the back of the church) & pop it in the collection today.

**NEW! Hospitality group** Would you like to be part of the team? Could you help welcome people to the Synod Listening Conversations from 19th January - 4th February? Could you serve refreshments? If so, contact the Parish Office. Thank you to our team for providing mulled wine, hot apple juice & mince pies after the concert by The Jerrome Recorders last week.

**NEW! Thursday morning Private Prayer:**  
We would like to open the church from 10-11am on Thursdays. Could you volunteer as part of a team of stewards, to open up the church, welcome people into the church and stay for the hour? So far we have had four offers of help, and need more people to create a larger team. Contact the parish office or talk to Fr Jeremy after Mass.

**Parish contact details slips**  
Since July 2020, nearly 1200 individuals have come to Mass at St Mary's. We would like to be able to contact as many people as possible about life in the parish and sharing our gifts both in the parish and the wider community. Please take a slip on your way into church. Fill it in & pop it in the collection box as you leave the church. Thanks to everyone who has already returned their slips.

**The Life Project:**  
Due to a number of factors, including illness, they are running short of volunteers to help with essential tasks, including:  
o Preparing refreshments & meals  
o Supporting clients during sessions  
o Administration  
You can talk through different opportunities and commitments and you could make a difference in the life of someone with a Learning Disability. Further opportunities available on their website [www.lifeprojectbath.org.uk](http://www.lifeprojectbath.org.uk) or contact Rev. Rich Blake-Lobb, Chief Executive, on 07444408736 or [r.blakelobb@lifeprojectbath.org.uk](mailto:r.blakelobb@lifeprojectbath.org.uk)

**EVENTS:**  
**Monday Lectio Divina Groups** St John's Church: We use Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) to lead our reading & sharing of the Gospel for the next Sunday. 3.00pm in St Luke's room (in the Chaplaincy Centre, down stairs to car park). Info: Patrick 07966 366731  
St Mary's: Meet fortnightly 7.30pm via Zoom to share a portion of scripture chosen by a group member. Info: Graham 07889 495419  
**Wed 29th Dec:** No Mass  
**Sat 1st Jan:** Mass 10.00am for New Year's Day  
**Thurs 6th Jan:** Mass at 6.30pm for the Feast of the Epiphany  
**Wed 12th Jan:** Synod Facilitation training session, online 7.00-8.30pm  
**Wed 19th Jan:** Synod Listening conversations begin at St Mary's, 7.30pm with an overview of the Synodal Process followed by listening conversations on "The Fundamental Question". Repeated on **Friday 21st Jan** at 11.00am at St Mary's. All are welcome. These sessions will continue on Wednesdays and Fridays until Friday 4th Feb.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
If you or a loved one is going into the **Royal United Hospital**, please contact [ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net) or call the RUH Chaplaincy 01225 428331 on arrival.  
**Booking phone:** Thank you to Vin who has operated the booking phone very efficiently since August 2020. If you would like to take on this responsibility from January 2022 onwards, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr Jeremy.


**Goodwill Children's Homes:** Supporting & educating children in South India. The Bath Card-making Group are now short of cards to remake (particularly Children's birthday cards). Please place used greetings cards in the box in the porch. Whole card please, and only your most beautiful Christmas cards.  
[www.goodwillhomes.org.uk](http://www.goodwillhomes.org.uk)

**NEW!** Our popular Children's Liturgy Of the Word group has restarted at 10.30am Sunday Mass. It takes place in the sacristy & is open to children up to pre-First Holy Communion stage. Its' themes run in parallel with the main Mass covering the penitential rite & the Gospel of the day. Parents are welcome to come too. Running late? Access the group via the Sacristy door on the outside of the church, next to the car park.

**We pray for:** Our congregation, our priest, deacons, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Mass Stewards, Altar Servers, Flower Arrangers, Musicians, Treasurer, Finance team and money counters, Altar Linen team, Hospitality team, Parish Safeguarding Reps, Children's Liturgy group, Cleaners, Garden group, Catechists, Parish Administrator, Property Development group, St Vincent de Paul group, IT consultant, teachers and staff at St Mary's School and the members of the many Parish Groups who help make St Mary's a vibrant Parish.

**PARISH OFFICE: Email only.**  
Postal items: 4 Harley Street, Bath, BA1 2SF  
**To register as a parishioner,** complete the census form on the website <https://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/parish-life> & send/email it to the parish office.  
\*There are paper copies of the parish census form at the back of the church as you arrive.  
**Email Charlotte** to receive the Sunday bulletin by email, or join the parishioner email list: [Bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com)

**SYNOD 2021-2023:** Pope Francis invites us all to participate in a world-wide Synod where all are listened to & their thoughts sent to Rome. So that we can respond to this invitation with confidence, Clifton Diocese is offering an online preparation session on Wed 12th Jan for those helping to create Synod Listening Conversations in each parish. If you would like to take part in this online Teams session, please register on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-synod-facilitation-training-session-12-january-tickets-220642426437). You can also email [synod@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:synod@cliftondiocese.com)  
**Synod Facilitation Training Session:**  
Wed 12 Jan 7-8.30pm: Online Teams session <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-synod-facilitation-training-session-12-january-tickets-220642426437>  
Fr Jeremy will be asking parishioners to help create opportunities for Synod Listening Conversations for all ages between 19th Jan-4th Feb. We also want people to come and talk and listen! If you would like to be part of this, look at the resources available on the Diocesan webpage [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)



**Parish pandemic photo project:**  
Tony McAteer took photographs of parishioners wearing masks as a record of the pandemic at St Mary's. Have a look at the results on our parish website <https://www.stmarysbath.org.uk/news-events>  
Many thanks to Tony as photographer, Deirdre for her encouragement of the project and as organiser of all the administration involved; and Graham, who put the photos onto the parish website.

**Live streaming:** We receive many messages of praise for our live streaming service from those unable to come to Mass or Funerals of loved ones. There is an ongoing cost of nearly £2,500 each year for support from ChurchServices, & other costs such as broadcasting licence fees. Could you help? Contact Michael Gage if you can Gift Aid your donation  
[GA.bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:GA.bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com) Use the **donate** button on the parish website or send a cheque payable to **St Mary's Catholic Church Bath** to 4 Harley Street, Bath BA1 2SF.