ST MARY'S CHURCH
(Our Lady, Help of Christians)
Julian Road, Bath, BA1 2SQ
www.stmarysbath.org.uk
Livestream www.churchservices.tv/bath
facebook.com/stmaryscatholicchurchbath

Parish Priest: Fr James Finan 01225 311725
Deacon: Rev. Richard Hayward (Retired)

Weekly Diocesan newsletter: **https://cliftondiocese.com/** (bottom of the home page)
Clifton Diocese Linktree: Events & info **https://linktr.ee/cliftonevangelist**

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:
Barbara Summerfield, Olwyn Donnelly, Sharon Champneys
psr.bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com
Parish Administrator: Charlotte Boyall
Bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com 01225 314114
St Mary's St Vincent de Paul group
John Desmond **presidentB040313@svp.org.uk**
Gift Aid GA.bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com
Treasurers Helen Bletso, Janet Freeman & Barbara Summerfield
treasurer.bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com
What3Words Church glory.simply.worker
Parish Centre tracks.crass.tools

"Forgiveness is the source of a zeal that becomes mercy and calls to a humble and joyful holiness, like that of St. Josephine Bakhita." Pope Francis

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Year A Psalter 3

Sunday 11th October 2026
Prisoners Sunday
9.00am Mass People of the Parish
10.30am Mass Anthony Kearns RIP
2.45pm Syro-Malabar Mass
5.00pm Mass Bernard Sulzmann (RIP)

Monday 12th October
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Tuesday 13th October
Weekday in Ordinary Time
No Mass

Wednesday 14th October
Weekday in Ordinary Time
10.00am Mass Raymond Rodgers (anniv.)

Thursday 15th October
St Teresa of Jesus
No Mass

Friday 16th October
St John Henry Newman
10.00am Mass Benefactors

Saturday 17th October
Our Lady on Saturday
10.00am Mass People of the Parish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is usually available after Mass on Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10.30am, & by request.

Parish prayer link:
For prisoners, their families and the work of PACT
Diocesan prayer link:
Holy Family, Patchway, Bristol

HOSPITAL: If you/a loved one is going into the Royal United Hospital, contact the RUH Chaplaincy on arrival: 01225 428331 (ask for the Spiritual Care Centre) **ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net**

This week we remember:
Barbara Taylor, Bernard Sulzmann, Jane Parker, Barbara Beaton, Guiseppe Merrolla, Florence Noad, Charles Muller, Dermot McCarthy, Franciszek Borkowski, Elizabeth Ritchie and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen

If Fr James is not available, & a priest is required urgently, please call:
St Alphege's 07789185181 Fr Robert Corrigan
St John's 01225 464471 Fr Chris Whitehead

We have 24/7 CCTV cameras in the church, across the car park, around the outside of the buildings & in the Parish Centre.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

1st Reading The sovereign God can even use the pagan Cyrus for His own saving purposes.
2nd Reading Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians' generous response to his preaching of the gospel.
Gospel Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?

Coming to Mass at St Mary's:
*New or visiting? Our Mass Stewards are happy to chat after Mass & offer a parish info pack
*If you are unsure of the fire exits in the Church please ask a Mass Steward for clarification.
*No longer able to come to church & would like to receive Holy Communion at home? Ring Fr James 01225 311725/email the parish office.
*Our SVP can facilitate lifts for those with difficulty in getting to Church eg the elderly. 07553022059 presidentB040313@svp.org.uk

A Mass intention is the specific person or purpose for which a particular Catholic Mass is offered, such as a deceased loved one, someone who is ill, a thanksgiving, or a special need.
The practice dates back to the early Church, with prayers for the dead found in catacomb inscriptions. It was St. Monica who famously asked her son St. Augustine to "remember me at the altar of the Lord."
The Mass is considered the greatest prayer of the Church, making a Mass intention a profound spiritual gift. Mass intentions remain one of the most meaningful ways Catholics unite personal prayer with the Eucharistic sacrifice.
If you would like a Mass offered, please contact Fr James or Charlotte in the Parish Office. Please include: the name of the person for whom you would like Mass said; whether it is RIP, Anniversary or Sick/Unwell or a Private Intention/Thanksgiving &, if you can, include a donation (customary £10 or more if you so wish). If you have a particular date in mind, let us know sooner rather later & Fr James will do his best to accommodate your wishes. Fr James is always happy to say Mass as it is such an important part of his ministry & in the life of our parish.

Do you enjoy weeding, planting, hedge trimming even litter picking? Can you help keep St Mary's grounds as beautiful as possible? The Gardening Group meet on the first Wed of every month at 2pm. If that time doesn't work for you, could you spare an hour or so a month to keep one small part tidy? It can be any day or time that suits you. Call Ian for a chat 07828720517

POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

After Remembrance Day last year, the Open Church group took up the suggestion of making and creating a Poppy display for our church in 2026. We opened up the challenge to our parishioners and many got involved: the knitted and crocheted poppies started coming in. The initial ambition was to create 1000 which we exceeded. We have nearly 3000 poppies. Three of us went to St. Mary's School and taught some of the children to knit and they helped with some of the displays.
On Sat 31st Oct, with the help of some parishioners we are going to make a fantastic display of as many Poppies as we can, both inside and outside the church.
We plan to open our church on a number of days during November from 10.00am-12.00pm and 2.00-4.00pm so people can see the display whilst remembering all those who have fought for our country during the wars and those who have lost their lives:
Wk 1: Mon 2nd, Wed 4th* and Thurs 5th
Wk 2: Wed 11th, Sat 14th
Wk 3: Tues 17th*, Fri 20th*
Wk 4: Mon 23rd
*Two people will act as stewards whenever the church is open. If you could be a steward 2.00-4.00pm on Wed 4th, Tues 17th or Fri 20th, please contact Pat & Joy **patjoy.kelly@gmail.com**
*If you and a friend could be stewards on any of the above dates between 12.00-2.00pm, then we could open the church to those on their lunch breaks. Please contact Pat and Joy (who need a medal for their dedication to this project).

SYNOD Synodal information sessions
An opportunity to find out more about the next stage of implementing the final document which came from the Synod in Rome. During this short online session, we will share what is being asked of our parishes over the coming months in the run up to a Diocesan Assembly in June 2027. Please come with all your questions and help shape the way forward. There is a choice of three online *Teams* information sessions which may help you decide if you wish to be involved. **Register here:**
Thurs 15th Oct 7-8pm
https://synodal1510.eventbrite.co.uk
Tues 20th Oct, 2-3pm
https://synodal2010.eventbrite.co.uk
Tues 27th Oct 3-4pm
https://synodal2710.eventbrite.co.uk
You will receive the *Teams* link to the meeting within the Eventbrite ticket. Any questions? Contact the Synodal team **synod@cliftondiocese.com**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wed 14th Oct The Word of the Lord St John's Church, South Parade 7.00pm (refreshments from 6.30pm). John Huntriss continues series of talks for all interested in understanding the Scriptures a little more. Please bring a Bible.

Starts Wed 14th Oct Bath Inter Faith group: new series of Scriptural Reasoning sessions, jointly with the University of Bath & Bath Mosque. 6.00pm University of Bath Chaplaincy. Theme "The Fall, Mercy & Human Responsibility". Details & booking via Eventbrite: **https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scriptural-reasoning-tickets-2000984157480?aff=oddtdtcreator**

Thurs 15th Oct CU Webinar for Young Catholics "The Desert and the Polis: Loneliness as Spiritual Crisis & Political Failure". 6.00pm with Fr John Church OP & Prof Anna Rowlands. Email info@catholicunion.org.uk to register. A conversation that takes loneliness seriously as both a spiritual condition & a structural one.

Fri 16th Oct Watch the National Emergency Briefing film at:
Weston All Saints Centre 2pm, 6pm AND St Gregory's Catholic College 7.30pm
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/westonbathtogether/2386877

Sat 17th Oct 'From seed to plant' the Theological Life Journey with Sr Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP, St John's, Bath. **A day for all catechists** & those interested in becoming catechists. Bishop Bosco will celebrate Mass. Refreshments from 9.30am, 10.00am-4pm. Please bring a packed lunch.
Register here **www.fromseedtoplant.eventbrite.co.uk**

Sun 18th Oct World Mission Sunday. Donations to Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission,go directly to missionaries and local churches in mission dioceses.

Sun 18th Oct 2.30pm Prayers for World Peace, in the chapel of St Michael's Within (see poster on Parish Centre). The Doves Choir will be singing light refreshments to close. Rev'd Andrew Avramenko will be leading the event

Sun 18th Oct 3.30pm Bath Abbey: Ethiopian Orthodox Evensong, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Ethiopian Royal Family becoming resident in Bath.

Thurs 22nd Oct Talk: The Power of the Rosary, at Clifton Cathedral, by Fr Lawrence Lew, OP, Promoter General for the Holy Rosary of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). 7.00pm (refreshments 6.15pm) in the Apostle Room

Sat 24th Oct A day exploring **Magnifica Humanitas** at St Brendan's College, Brislington, offers all the opportunity to go deeper into the encyclical. Speakers: Bishop Bosco, Dr Austen Ivereigh & Professor Carmody Grey (tbc) 10am-4pm (refreshments from 9.30am) please bring a packed lunch. Register here: **https://magnificahumanitas.eventbrite.co.uk**

Tues 3rd Nov PRAY FOR BATH Bath Abbey 7.30pm Join believers from across Bath as we come together to pray for our city & the surrounding area. We will be praying for all aspects of life in our city: from our universities & local council, to welfare, outreach, & welcoming new church leaders.

6-8 Nov Vocation Weekend Taste the goodness of the Lord who loves you. Experience monastic life at the Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard, Brownshill **https://www.bernardine.org/brownshill-programme/2026/**

Sat 7th Nov Au revoir and Thank You Fr Jeremy! Fr Jeremy's leaving Mass with Bishop Bosco 12.00pm, at St Mary's followed by an afternoon tea celebration in the Parish Centre. Everyone is invited.

Sat 14th Nov Altar Server training session, St Mary's Church. Starts with Mass at 10.00am, finishing at 11.15am. Open to all current altar servers & those aged 7-17 ready & willing to learn, listen & pray. RSVP to the Parish Office.

Fri 20th Nov Induction Mass for Fr James, led by Fr Richard Elson VF, Dean of our Pastoral Area. Laid out in Canon Law, it is the formal introduction of the Parish Priest where he confirms his commitment to the parish & is symbolically handed the keys to the church, also professing his faith, the faith of the Church. He promises to continue to uphold the Catholic faith, preach the Kingdom of God & help guide both physically & spiritually the people of the parish. 7.00pm in St Mary's Church with refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards.

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1st Sept 2022 & 31st Aug 2023, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from Sept 2027 onwards. Complete an application form available from the school admissions team of BathNES Council. If your child has been baptised & you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Apply by 15th Jan 2027.

PARISH OFFICE Inside the Parish Centre
Parish Administrator: Charlotte Boyall 01225 314114 Post: 4 Harley Street, Bath, BA1 2SF
Bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com
Opening hours this week: Mon & Tues email only. Open Wed-Fri 9.00am-12.30pm.
Bulletin: Send info Sat-Wed for Sunday's bulletin. Email/call Charlotte to receive it by email &/or join the parishioner email list.
Parish Centre: Available for hire from £8.00ph Email/call Charlotte for availability, costs etc.
Parish census It's time for everyone to complete a census form. Please complete & return them to the Parish Office or the box at the back of church.

REGULAR EVENTS
Sundays Children's Liturgy at 10.30am Mass in the Sacristy, for children up to First Holy Communion stage. Running late? Go around to the Sacristy door.
Coffee after 10.30am Mass Come to the Parish Centre, meet new parishioners

3rd Sundays of the month Mass for LGBT+
St Nicholas of Tolentino Church, Bristol, BS5. 18th Oct
inclusionforall@cliftondiocese.com

Fortnightly Mondays Lectio Divina Group
We use Divine Reading to lead our reading & sharing of Sunday's Gospel 7.30pm via Zoom. Next: tbc Info: Graham 07889 495419

1st & 3rd Tuesdays Ecumenical Christian Meditation Group 7.00–8.15pm Parish Centre.
Info: Deirdre 01225 872110 Next: 20th October

1st Wednesdays Parish Gardening Group
Next: 4th Nov 2.00pm at church. New people always welcome: we have a lot of grounds & there is always more to do than a small group can manage. Enthusiasm more important than green fingers. Info: Ian Ellis 07828 720517

1st Wednesdays The Parish SVP provides tea & chat for everyone after 10.00am Mass in the Parish Centre until noon. Next: 4th Nov in the church with the poppies

St Mary's Open Church mornings Next: 29th Oct
Last Thursdays of the month 10.00am–noon. We invite YOU to join us St Mary's Church for: *Private Prayer *Men's & Ladies Groups *A Knit & Natter Group or the craft you enjoy. Those who wish can support people in need of knitting/ crochet/ sewing items. If possible RSVP to Pat & Joy **patjoy.kelly@gmail.com**

FINANCE Standing order & Gift aid donation forms are in the church porch. Complete & send it to the Parish Office or talk to Barbara Summerfield Gift Aid secretary.
Collection 4th October

Collection	£363.25
Contactless giving (DONA)	£602.00
Livestreaming	£0
Standing orders	£1296.00
Tax recovery (gift aid)	£311.20
	Total £2674.25

Weekly cost of running the Parish £2570.00
PACT (Prisoners Advice and Care Trust) There are envelopes at the back of the church for donations, or use the QR code on the posters.
Pact is the national Catholic prison charity. They support prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. Rooted in Catholic social teaching, they believe in the dignity of every person and in the possibility of a fresh start.
www.prisonadvice.org.uk