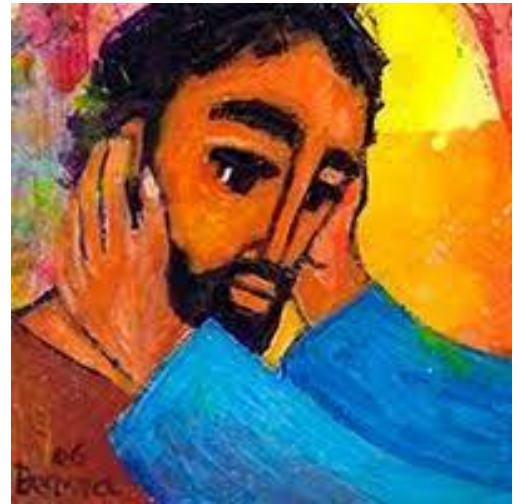


SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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LATEST NEWS

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

(Readings are available at the end of this bulletin)

Isaiah 35: 4-7. The prophet quoted here spoke to a weary and wary people, returning from two generations of exile to a homeland now occupied by other strangers. The prophet is sent to speak good news to a people in exile who are broken and filled with fear. The prophet tells them that their bad times are coming to an end. God is coming to heal their physical maladies and to heal their land.

James 2: 1-6. This reading is a practical lesson in manners at church, drawn not from conventional sources but from our faith. Social discrimination is strongly and bluntly condemned. The poorly dressed should not be treated any differently from those with the trappings of wealth. In fact, God would have true disciples develop a special affection or preferential option for the poor, the downcast, the suffering, and all who are treated as unimportant in our world. True disciples will go out of their way to welcome and include those whom our society is wont to exclude

Mark 7: 31-37. This narrative of a healing miracle invites us to consider how Jesus would have us hear and speak. Are our hearts open to the Lord's call? The Gospel is the fulfillment of the first reading which speaks about God healing the deaf and the mute. In this story, Jesus is showing his concern and hospitality for someone who is most likely excluded from the community. He offers healing, acceptance, and wholeness to a man with two disabilities. Notice that Jesus physically touches the man. The deaf and mute man is, in a way, symbolic of the Gentile people. Until that time, they are unable to hear

God's message and unable to speak it. But in this Gospel, Jesus changes all that. Unlike their Jewish counterparts, the Gentiles are able to hear the message and proclaim it to others. They prove themselves to be disciples by becoming open hearers and doers of the Word.

CONGRATULATIONS to Canon Millett who celebrated a belated Golden anniversary to the priesthood this past week at St Mary's Chippenham. Fr Des was ordained on 14th April 1971. Ad multos annos!

5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (B)

5pm Eucharistic Adoration

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat.)

10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Mon 6th Sept - Weekday in OT

Tue 7th Sept - Weekday in OT

Wed 8th Sept - Feast of the Nativity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11.30am Eucharistic Adoration

12noon Mass

Thur 9th Sept - St Peter Claver

Fri 10th Sept - Weekday in OT

Sat 11th Sept - Weekday in OT

12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (B)

5pm Eucharistic Adoration

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat.)

10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)



FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of 8th September, nine months after 8th December celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, St Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel." The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph. Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said. The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL Our prayers and thoughts go out to staff and children as they begin a new school year, especially to those beginning school for the first time and to staff taking up new appointments within the school. We look forward to being able to begin our school masses again when we are safely able to do so.

CALLING YOUNG ADULTS (18-35 years) A group has just started for young adults in Chippenham. If you would like to meet other young people, talk and learn more about our faith, and to support (and hopefully inspire) each other, then please consider joining us. Our next meeting is 5th September 2021 after the 18:30 Mass in Chippenham (start time likely 19:15). The hope for this group is to encourage each other in our faith journey, become friends and have fun. If you're interested, please come along or drop me a text on 07759 093329. Thanks, Catherine.

CLIFTON DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Part-time – 21 hours per week (Wednesday to Friday) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton is committed to safeguarding and this vacancy provides an opportunity for a skilled and experienced professional to join the Safeguarding team. The Safeguarding Officer role supports the ongoing development of safeguarding across the Diocese, the management of cases, and working with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, responses to safeguarding issues that arise. The successful applicant will need to have a comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding legislation, policy procedure and best practice guidance and come from a background of either Social Work, Health, Probation or Policing, with specific experience in safeguarding. For further information/informal discussion about this role please contact Becky Cawsey, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Clifton Diocese on 0117 954 0993. Closing date for receipt of applications: 17 September 2021

SPONSOR A 'MEMORIAL' HYMN BOOK We are looking forward to singing from our hymn books again soon. Our hymnals, however, have seen better days and are rather dirty and many of the spines are broken. Also, the present hymn books do not reflect the changes made to the translation of the Mass made in 2010. We are hoping to purchase the updated version of 'Laudate' our present hymn book. We are inviting parishioners to 'sponsor' a hymn book at the cost of £6.25 per copy. These may be given in memory of a departed loved one(s) and RIP memorial plates will be placed in each copy dedicated to that person. We then invite you each week to say a little prayer for the person in whose memory the hymn book you are using was given. Tom Miller will be coordinating the collection for us, and order sheets are now available in Church. We are hoping to purchase 100 copies and some music editions too. A big thank you to all those who have sponsored a hymnal to date.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

CLIFTON DIOCESE

CLIFTON DIOCESE ADMIN Schools & Colleges Department Administrator Term-time – 25 hours per week. The Schools & Colleges Department are recruiting for a vacancy to join the team as the Department Administrator. Based in Alexander House, Pennywell Road, Bristol, the role supports the department with various administrative activities and hours of work are 9.30 am to 2.30 pm Monday to Friday. The successful applicant will need to have office administration experience and be well organised. For the job description, personal specification and application form please visit www.cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us Closing Date is midday on Friday, 10th September 2021.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER The Diocese of Clifton is committed to safeguarding and this vacancy (part-time – 21 hours per week, Wednesday to Friday) provides an opportunity for a skilled and experienced professional to join the Safeguarding team. The Safeguarding Officer role supports the ongoing development of safeguarding across the Diocese, the management of cases, and working with the Safeguarding Co-ordinator, responses to safeguarding issues that arise. The successful applicant will need to have a comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding legislation, policy procedure and best practice guidance and come from a background of either Social Work, Health, Probation or Policing, with specific experience in safeguarding. For further information/informal discussion about this role please contact Becky Cawsey, Safeguarding Coordinator, Clifton Diocese on 0117 954 0993. Closing date for receipt of applications: 17th September 2021

SUMMARY OF THE HOLY FATHER'S GENERAL AUDIENCE Wednesday 1st September 2021. Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we have seen how the Apostle insists on the newness of life in Christ, which sets Christians free from a religiosity based solely on the scrupulous observance of precepts. Paul reminds the Galatians of the saving grace they received through faith in the Gospel message of Christ's death and resurrection, and their experience of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Paul likewise points to his personal experience of the grace and freedom brought by faith in the crucified Jesus: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live..., I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). In addressing the Galatians, the Apostle also speaks to us; he invites each of us to rejoice in the righteousness we have received through faith in Christ and to bear convincing witness to God's merciful love in the way we live our daily lives.

CONTACTLESS GIVING / ON-LINE GIVING REMINDER The use of cash has been in decline for many years and, since the pandemic began and the use of cash was discouraged, many of us no longer carry cash. We rely instead on contactless payment in shops, on public transport and many other places. Because of this, we have set up a contactless card reader for donations at St Patrick's Church. This is located to the left of the entrance to the church. The new card machine has the ability to add Gift Aid to your donation (if you are an eligible taxpayer and wish to do so). The first time you use the machine and wish to add Gift Aid, you will need to input your details but thereafter, once your payment card is registered, the card reader will recognise it the next time you make a payment. You are also able to give on-line via our parish website with the new 'Dona' button. Please do make use of it as it also puts less pressure on our weekly cash counters.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION We are seeing a gradual rise in enquiries for infant baptism in the parish and would like to form a small parish baptism preparation team. This will involve giving a presentation to parents ahead of the baptism and offering support as they introduce their child to the Mass. All course materials and DVD's etc will be provided. This ministry might suit younger parishioners with children of their own. Please see Fr Michael if you are interested in helping.

SERVING AT MASS As we move towards restoring our serving teams at Mass, we welcome any who might like to take up this ministry - men, women and children, all are welcome. Please have a word with Fr Michael, Frank Harvey or Christine Haggerty.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE 2nd OCTOBER - Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 2 October (12 noon) and is inviting all married couples to join him. He sends a personal invitation to those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2021 or those who will marry this year. If

there are any marriages in our parish this year or any couple celebrating significant anniversaries ie 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th or 70th anniversaries during 2021. The names of these couples – engaged and anniversaries – need to be sent to this email: (adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) so that personal invitations can be sent to them.

PIANIST/ORGANIST NEEDED As we return gradually to a sung liturgy, we are in need of someone to lead our song, accompanying the Mass setting, Psalm and Hymns at Sunday Mass. Please see Fr Michael for more details. As with many parishes today this may need to become a salaried post. We will also begin to regather our group of Cantors to lead worship. If you sing and would like to help, please do come forward. Other musical instrumentalists are also very welcome. We need your talents!

FIND OUT ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH Are you interested to know more about the Catholic Faith? Do you wish to be baptized? Do you want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church? Do you know anyone who would like to know how to become a Catholic? If so, Journey in Faith or RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) might be just the thing. During these sessions we explore different aspects of the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We listen to God's word in Scripture, and we pray together. For more information, please contact Fr Michael with a view to starting a journey in the autumn.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT It is a very hopeful sign of the new "springtime of holiness" for the Church that, in ever more places, people are participating in regular adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Early in his pontificate, St John Paul II established adoration chapels in the major patriarchal basilicas in Rome, realising that the holy Eucharist is the source and summit of life in the Church. Pope Francis has also continued to encourage us in Eucharistic Adoration. When there is faith, devotion and reverence for the Eucharist, the faithful grow in charity and holiness, and the community is blessed with a variety of vocations that serve the Church and all souls with joy and simplicity. The Eucharist is the source of life for the Church. We now have the wonderful opportunity to come before the Lord in quietness and in peace twice a week, Wednesday at 11.30am and Saturday at 5pm before Mass. Come and rest with the Lord a while in his healing presence in the Eucharist.

STAYING SAFE As we have several clinically extremely vulnerable people in our Church family, we ask that you continue to sanitise your hands on entering the Church, wear a mask, socially distance and observe our one-way system. Communion will be given in one kind only. Thank you.

RUH If you or a loved one is going into the Royal United Hospital, please let the RUH Chaplaincy know on 01225 428331 or email ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Peter Power: Ann Saba: Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, Karen Lucas, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, Margaret Brown, Lindsay Price. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

The Holy Father's September Prayer Intention: An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Bernadette, Whitchurch. St Dunstan, Keynsham.

The People of Afghanistan

Christians in Corsham Prayer Link: St Patrick's Catholic Church.

September – Month of Our Lady of Sorrows



For Catholics, September is the month of Our Lady of Sorrows, immediately following August's devotion to the Immaculate Heart, and preceding October's devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary. September is an ideal time to strengthen our connection to Our Lady. Devotion to the sorrows of the Virgin Mary dates from the twelfth century, when it made its appearance in monastic circles under the influence of St Anselm and St Bernard. The Seven Sorrows devotion involves praying seven Hail Mary's a day, each one while meditating on one of Our Lady's seven sorrows, which are:

- The prophecy of Simeon.
 - The flight into Egypt.
 - The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple.
 - The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross.
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.
 - The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross and preparation for burial.
 - The burial of Jesus.

And the Seven Sorrows Rosary involves dwelling upon each of the seven sorrows as you would one of the mysteries of the rosary, with seven Hail Marys instead of a decade. Begin each sorrow with an Our Father.

Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

Our mother of sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore him in your arms, mourning and weeping. We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your hope, which trusted that God would do great things in you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his passion.

Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs.

Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen!

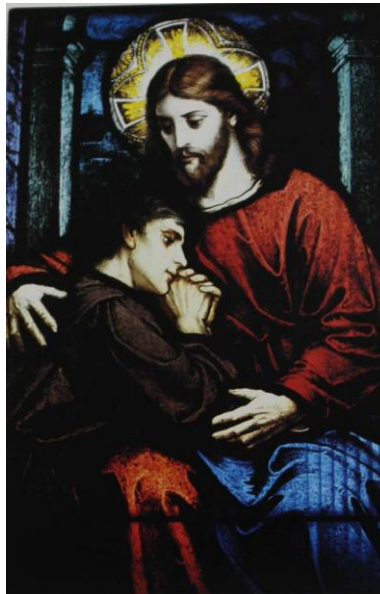


A Prayer of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot receive you sacramentally now, come at least spiritually into my heart. And, as You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me never be separated from You.

An Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you: and I detest my sins most sincerely because they displease You, my God, who are so deserving of all my love for Your infinite goodness and most amiable perfections: and I firmly purpose by Your holy grace never more to offend You, to avoid all occasions of sin and amend my life. Amen.
I further resolve and promise to go to sacramental confession as soon as practicably possible.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Also available to download in 13 different languages at www.virc.at



First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Psalm 145(146):7-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Second reading

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

1Sg:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.