

# SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



71 Broad Street Chipping Sodbury BS37 6AD & Sundridge Park Yate www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk

Parish Priest Rev Jim Williams 312161 james.williams@cliftondiocese.com Office Secretary chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com  
Deacon Rev Vincent Calder 311717 vk.calder@virgin.net Parish Sisters Greta & Fidelis 327105 St Paul's School 866790

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Carol Lawler 01454 317077 email PSR.chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com



## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Year B)

Proper of Feast

DPL: St Mary, Bath and Good Shepherd, Batheaston



SAT	9th	StL	5.00pm	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD		Bridie Green (Fmass)
SUN	10th	StP	11.00am	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD		Una Bradley
Tue	12th	StL	9.30am	No Service		
Wed	13th	StP	9.30am	No Service		
Thur	14th			No Service		
Fri	15th	StL	9.30am	No Service		
SAT	16th	StL	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY	TBC	Anne Toolan (Anni)
SUN	17th	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY	TBC	
Tue	19th	StL	9.30am	No Service		
Wed	20th	StP	9.30am	No Service		
Thur	21st			No Service		
Fri	22nd	StL	9.30am	No Service		
SAT	23rd	StL	5.00pm	THIRD SUNDAY	TBC	
SUN	24th	StP	11.00am	THIRD SUNDAY	TBC	

CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED

[www.churchservices.tv/timetable/](http://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/)

**Confessions by appointment only. Please phone if in isolation.**

To contact a Priest: Fr Jim Williams (01454) 312161 or Canon Frank Bermingham 0117 9833939. Parish Office Our Lady of Lourdes: 0117 9498743. To send items for the Newsletter e-mail Francesca: frannewsletter7@gmail.com

## LOCKDOWN

In light of the very latest national government guidance to STAY AT HOME I have taken the precaution of suspending public mass in the parish. Even with our excellent record of safety and a great compliance to the rules this new outbreak of a faster spreading virus is very worrying. In all conscience I cannot provide more opportunities to put people at risk. Please continue to celebrate virtually and pray constantly for better times. I await more guidance from the Bishop. God bless and please stay very safe at home. Fr Jim



### White Flower Appeal 2021

There will be a special collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC)'s annual appeal on 9th/10th January. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop home abortion, which gives women abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision. This is one of the most dangerous threats to unborn babies and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can help us to defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and help protect their mothers from increased risk of coercion and serious health risks. Donations can also be made online at [www.spuc.org.uk/donate](http://www.spuc.org.uk/donate)

### Happy New Year wishes

We are a bit late with this message of good wishes for the New Year, but as they say, better late than never. We also need to express out thanks for all the prayers, good wishes, and gifts with so many of you gave us at Christmas. Thank You. We are both well, staying home, following our routine each day which we have found to be very helpful. You are all remembered in our prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. We hope you and your loved ones are all well. We look forward to the day when we can meet everyone once again. God Bless. The Sisters.

Appeal for Coats, Socks & Hats The foodbank at St Nicholas Tolentino see about 80 people a day, giving out an average of 175 foodbags. The people going to them regularly ask for coats, socks and gloves. If you can help to donate clean coats/socks/hats for men, women & children please drop them off at their Parish Office at St Nicholas of Tolentino, Lawford's Gate, Bristol. BS5 0RE between 9am and 1pm, Mon-Fri. They are unable to take any other items of clothing due to lack of space. If you need to arrange a different delivery time, call Robert on 07767 706 163. Email: [bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bristol.stnicholasoftolentino@cliftondiocese.com).

### THE HOLY FATHER'S Prayer Intention for January - Evangelisation: Human Fraternity.

That the Lord will give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**BONUS BALL: POSTPONED** until we can gather for Mass again.

Going on Holiday? Pay in advance. Please see P. O'Rourke or K.Chapman for more information.

**If you are posting lottery money through the presbytery door, please include a contact phone number. Thank you.**

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# What's on?



## Reflections for Baptism of the Lord, Year B

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 55: 1-11.

This extract is taken from the final passage in what is called Deutero-Isaiah (Second Isaiah), which covers the period after Cyrus has decreed that the people of Israel can return to their homeland. This Isaiah sees it as their new and better Exodus. It is full of the most beautiful poetry of the Bible. It covers Chapter 40 to 55, so we are reading its final section. Some think it is referring to the cry of the water sellers, others that the hunger is for Wisdom, whichever you choose the message is the same, if you keep close to the Lord and his covenant, all good things will come to you. There is this lovely phrase, "Seek God, and when you find him, call upon him, and when he comes near you," there is no doubt that when you call upon God, he will come near to you. We need to remember that God is always listening for us and seeking us out. Sinners need not fear to return to him, "God will abundantly forgive your sins,". This passage concludes with the affirmation that God is in charge and will not rest until his will is accomplished.

### Responsorial Psalm is taken from one of Isaiah's Psalms 12: 2-6.

This psalm is one of thanksgiving and praise, and it is very noticeable that in this first section of Isaiah we come upon reference to God's proclamation is also for the Gentiles (Us), and this is a major move in Judaism, to be reaching out to the Gentiles as part of God's plan.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading is from the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of St. John 5: 1-9.

It is sometimes better to just sink into the atmosphere of this letter, that try to follow his logic. Note his absolute insistence on Jesus humanity, hence the insistence on blood and water, which ensures his humanity and so emphasises exactly what a great gift Jesus, God made man, means for us. For John it is summed up as eternal life.

We can only realise what God has done for us when we accept not just Jesus as God; but realise that he is God made truly man for our redemption. It is truly awesome to come face to face with God's great generosity in bestowing himself to us as a vulnerable human being, so he can show us the way to Him. Let us always be truly grateful for such a gift!!

### Holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 7-11.

John's message is presented as being all about Jesus' superiority, John poses himself as his slave, as dealing with sandals was the task of a slave, also Mark has John telling us that Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit, an idea that Mark has yet to explain to us. We must find it puzzling that if Jesus is so superior to John, why does he come to be baptised by John? We see the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descending onto Jesus, and Jesus is publicly affirmed as God's Son, so it is obviously God's will that Jesus comes to John. It also shows us how God himself establishes his solidarity with us vulnerable humans in drawing close to God's mercy. Jesus is there right alongside us in our struggles. He is not a remote God. He is at one with us, so we should not turn away from him in shame; but turn with confidence for him to wash us clean.

We see again just how God wants to be at one with us. We can have confidence in his abundant love and care for us. Let us truly rejoice and be glad that he has called us.

**God Bless you all, particularly in these difficult times. Deacon Vincent.**

Children's Liturgy [cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy)

[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

**Safeguarding our Vulnerable Adults and Children:** All church activities are subject to safeguarding policies and procedures. We encourage everyone to access these policies which can be found in the Diocesan Resource along with important contact numbers on the safeguarding pages. *Parish website:* <http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/cliftdiocese.html>  
<http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/safeguarding.html>



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION  
Meets regularly at St Paul's. To join please phone  
01454 312161  
Email [csandyatesvp@gmail.com](mailto:csandyatesvp@gmail.com)

Useful links:  
[www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk)  
[www.cliftdiocese.com](http://www.cliftdiocese.com)  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

If you are interested in learning about the ethos, aims, and works of the Legion of Mary Tel: 01454 321749