

SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19th - 20th December 2020 (Year B) Psalter 4 & Proper of Season
DPL: Our Lady & St. Alphege, Bath



SAT	19th	CS	5.00pm	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Lorcan O'Rourke
SUN	20th	StP	11.00am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Tue	22th	CS	9.30am	Liturgy of the Word and Communion	
Wed	23th	StP	9.30am	Mass	Elizabeth Watkins
Thur	24th	StP	6.00pm	VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS	
Thur	24th	StP	8.00pm	NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS	
Thur	24th		11.45pm	MIDNIGHT MASS LIVE BROADCAST BY BBC FROM CLIFTON CATHEDRAL	
Fri	25th	CS	9.00am	CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS	Carmel O'Rourke Int
Fri	25th	StP	11.00am	CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS	People of the Parish
Sat	26th	CS	10.00am	Boxing Day Feast of Saint Stephen	Patrick McGettigan
SAT	26th	CS	5.00pm	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	Sarah McGettigan
SUN	27th	StP	11.00am	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	Sovis and De Silva Family Intention
Tue	29th	CS	9.30am	Mass [Saint Thomas Becket]	Michael & Mary Magner
Wed	30th	StP	9.30am	Mass	
Thur	31st			No Service	
Fri	1st	CS	9.30am	Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	
SAT	2nd	CS	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Joseph Sherer Brown
SUN	3rd	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Gerard McCarthy
Tue	5th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
Wed	6th	StP	9.30am	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
Thur	7th			No Service	
Fri	8th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
SAT	9th	CS	5.00pm	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Bridie Green (Fmass)
SUN	10th		11.00am	FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Una Bradley

PLEASE NOTE WELL!

Dear All Space is going to be very limited for the Christmas eve and morning masses. So I have put on an extra mass at 8.00pm and encourage those who would have loved the midnight mass to take a full part in the live streamed mass from the cathedral presided by Bishop Declan on the BBC. If you still find that we simply cannot accommodate you in the church please remember that Christmas Day is celebrated over an 'Octave' of eight days so you can celebrate the birth of Christ with your family and in the community on any of the other masses right up to the second Sunday of Christmas.

Please pray for a normal Easter and Christmas next year! God bless. Fr Jim

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 Bill Jennings: 633wejennings@gmail.com

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.

THE HOLY FATHER'S Prayer Intention for December -For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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 the 4th Sunday in Advent (Year B)

1st Reading 2nd Book of Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14-16.

With the books of Samuel and the books of Kings we have four books dealing with the transition of the people of Israel from government by the Judges to a monarchy. This was not a universally agreed development, but the people wanted to be more like the nations around them, so Samuel anoints Saul as their first King, a warrior King, and then anoints David (the ancestor of Joseph, Jesus foster father), as his successor. This book deals with the period where David, having overcome all his adversaries, can relax as the King of Israel. He moves from a nomadic existence to a fixed location, (a palace of cedar) and he is feeling guilty that whilst he now lives in splendour, God still resides in his mobile home, the Ark of the Covenant. He approaches the Prophet Nathan and explains that he wants to build a permanent place for God to reside in, but God decides that David is not the one to build Him a permanent residence. We do tend to treat God as requiring a place like us, rather than understand that God is a free spirit, which enables Him to be with all of us in a very personal relationship, within our lives. Christ's message will be "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand", it resides within each one of us, through the Spirit, who comes to us at our Baptism. This should be a great comfort to those of us who are unable to attend Mass, to realise that God is always close to us. He dwells within us to comfort and guide us. What a wonderful gift we have been blessed with. Let us rejoice at the imminent arrival of the Saviour who enabled us to have the Spirit of God within us.

Psalm 88: 2-5, 27, 29.

This is beautifully joyous psalm of rejoicing that God has made a covenant with David. It should also be our psalm, as we rejoice at the covenant he made with us at our Baptism. He is with us for ever, from one generation to the next. "I have made my covenant with my chosen ones." This is our song also, of God's love for us.

2nd Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 16: 25-27.

Notice how Paul begins and ends (as always) with God and Jesus Christ: how he speaks of "my gospel", which he has been defending, and how he links his message to the prophetic writings, whilst it has been a secret since the beginning of time, but now made known to all the Gentiles (that is us). And bring us all to the obedience of faith. It is a very joyous conclusion to his writing of this his longest letter. We are most blessed to be graced, by God with our faith and our share in His covenant.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 1: 26-38.

This lovely picture, which Luke paints in such a beautiful way has tried to be captured by thousands of artists. Mary sees the difficulty that the Angel's message brings; it is not something she has sought or asked for, and she is still a virgin, but she is happy to go along with God's plan. There is no doubt, only a question to extract an explanation as to how this great event in history can be accomplished. Again she will immediately after this appearance head off straight away to visit her cousin Elizabeth. What faith Mary had, she surely is a wonderful example for all of us to follow where God leads us, even though this might prove a challenge to us. One great point to note in Luke's opening here is that God is not mentioned the Angel is ent, but by whom? It is obviously God, who is in charge of all the events, and that is something for us always to remember, when reading Luke's Gospel. God is always in Charge, so we can rejoice and be glad that he has chosen us to share in his great covenant with mankind.

God bless. Deacon Vincent

THANK YOU FROM THE SVP

Thank you so much to those who donated goods and money for the SVP Christmas parcels for needy families this year. There was a very generous response this year which was very much appreciated at this difficult time. The Parish SVP Conference would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and a Healthy New year.

Children's Liturgy cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy

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

Useful links:
www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk
www.cliftdiocese.com
www.vatican.va

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