

SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

2nd-3rd January 2021 (Year B)

Psalter 2 & Proper of Season

DPL: St John the Evangelist, Bath



SAT	2nd	StL	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Joseph Sherer Brown
SUN	3rd	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Gerard McCarthy
Tue	5th	StL	9.30am	Mass	Mary Gilroy RIP
Wed	6th	StP	9.30am	SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	Sarah Green RIP
Thur	7th			No Service	
Fri	8th	StL	9.30am	Mass	Helbert Intention
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	Mass	
Wed	13th	StP	9.30am	Mass	
Thur	14th			No Service	
Fri	15th	StL	9.30am	Mass	
SAT	16th	StL	5.00pm	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Anne Toolan (Anni)
SUN	17th	StP	11.00am	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	

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



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear All Fr Frank and I wish to thank you for all the best wishes and gifts that we have received from you over Christmastide. In return we offer heartfelt prayers for you all but especially for those who have suffered during this year and missed being together for our worship. Let us hope for a truly blessed year and ask the Lord for courage to face the future which of course is in His hands. God bless. FJ

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@clifftondiocese.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.

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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 Second Sunday after the Nativity

1st Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12.

This Book, sometimes known as The Wisdom of Jesus ben Sira or Sirach, was written about the last quarter of the second century BC; and is translated by his anonymous grandson. It was written in Egypt, where there was a lively Jewish community, some people call ben Sira the last of the Wisdom teachers and the first of the scribes. This, extract; is taken from the last section of Part 1, and is Wisdom singing her praises. It is a beautiful poem that identifies Wisdom with the Torah, which is a first, and is seen as living in the Temple at Jerusalem. There is a wonderful picture of pitching its' tent in the beloved city, Jerusalem being its' domain. John will use this idea in his Gospel Prologue, presenting Jesus as the Wisdom of God.

This Book was used by the early Christians to introduce Gentiles to the teachings of Israel to prepare them for what the Gospel life would entail, hence it became known as Ecclesiasticus "the Church Book". It is worth reading and studying, there are some rather archaic attitudes to women and corporal punishment, but it attempts to deal practically with living out God's Covenant. The Book begins with "All Wisdom is from the Lord; and is with him for ever." Chapter 1, verse 1, so we are in no doubt that God, and his Wisdom are synonymous, which is why John is anxious to present Jesus as, the Wisdom of God.

Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20.

This psalm is in praise of the Lord; and continues the theme of the greatness of God's Word, which John will again pick up in his Gospel Prologue. Also, together with adherence with His Covenant, there will be blessings poured upon us.

2nd Reading from St. Paul to the Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18.

Verses 3-6 is lovely hymn of praise, and even if we find it difficult to follow Paul, we can relish his profound spirituality. Verses 15-18, just stand back and admire the broad picture, he paints, rather than to try and work out the details. It is a letter of great richness and beauty; steeped in the liturgy of the early Church. For many this is their favourite Pauline letter. It is well worth reading the whole letter during the coming week.

The Holy Gospel according to John 1: 1-18.

It is the most dramatic and beautiful opening to all the Gospels. Apparently, John was asked by his Community to produce a Gospel for them like the other Churches had done, so he asked for a great offering of fasting and prayer by the Community, and this Prologue is the result of that prayerful inspiration. It is amazing, it starts with the opening to the Holy Scriptures "In the Beginning" Genesis I: 1. And then we are introduced to the "Word". We are not told who the Word is until the last sentence of the Prologue, but it is implied that it is Jesus Christ. The beautiful flow of the language is breath-taking. "And the Word was made Flesh." What a statement!! John goes on to say that he pitched his tent among us, a reverting to the days when the people of Israel were a nomadic tribe. The Word, Jesus, is described in great lofty terms, "Light & Life and as God Himself", and then with a bump he takes on the ambiguities and frailty of human nature. As a result of all this we have all received a share of his fulness. Read it aloud to yourself and let it wash over you. In the Latin Mass this Prologue was recited with great solemnity after every Mass, so awesome was its' effect upon the Church.

God Bless you all. Deacon Vincent.

Angela & I would like to thank everyone for the cards and lovely gifts over Christmas. Thank you and God Bless You now and always.

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