

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



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

23rd-24th January 2021 Psalter 3

DPL: St Joseph, Bridgwater and Our Lady & the English
Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea



SAT 23rd
SUN 24th
Tue 26th
Wed 27th
Thur 28th
Fri 29th
SAT 30th
SUN 31st
Tue 2nd
Wed 3rd
Thur 4th
Fri 5th
SAT 6th
SUN 7th

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

No Service
No Service
No Service
No Service

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

No Service
No Service
No Service
No Service

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHURCH SERVICES SUSPENDED

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 continued national government guidance to STAY AT HOME I am still taking 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 (and perhaps even more deadly) virus is very worrying. In all conscience I cannot provide more opportunities to put people at risk. I am hoping with the roll out of the vaccine that in a few short weeks we will be able to safely welcome back to mass all of you who have been most vulnerable and indeed most patient. Please continue to celebrate virtually and pray constantly for better times. God bless and please stay very safe at home. Fr Jim

Livestream Mass from Clifton Cathedral

The Cathedral continues to livestream daily Mass and Sunday mass, with recordings saved so that they can be watched later on. To watch, go to cliftondiocese.com and scroll down until you see the heading **Live Daily Mass** - next to that will be the player. Pressing play will show the live view. Under Schedules you will be able to see the Masses for the week, and under Recordings are the videos of previous Masses.

"Each one of us Christians is a branch of the one vine which is Jesus; and all of us together are called to bear the fruits of this common membership in Christ."

Pope Francis,
via Twitter
(@Pontifex)



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.

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 the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

1st Reading from the Prophet Jonah 3: 1-5, 10.

This prophetic book is an enchanting and unusual book in that there is more narrative than is customary, and very little of the prophetic utterances of Jonah. It is a bit of a mysterious book and has many different dates ranging from the 2nd century to 8th century BC. Some view it as a satire on the self-righteousness of religious people. Jewish scholars view the book as teaching fellow-Jews that Gentiles can receive God's loving forgiveness. That is exactly where we begin with Nineveh the capital city of Assyria, a Gentile city. His preaching of the coming destruction to the city was believed in by the Assyrians, as they trusted God's message and his message even reached the King of Assyria, and he went into penance putting sackcloth and ashes, as a sign. The whole city commenced to repent, and God was moved by their repentance and relented from destroying the city. It is a salutary lesson for all of us that it is never too late to repent and believe the Good News. God really does love us all and seeks our salvation, not our destruction. The thing that strikes me, as well, is that Jonah must have been a very powerful and convincing preacher, it is a shame that we do not have more of his utterances to ponder.

Responsorial Psalm 24: 4-9.

A beautiful song seeking forgiveness and help, following the theme of Jonah's message to the people of Nineveh. "In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord." Is a cry we can all make, from time to time during the day, especially at times of temptation.

2nd Reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 7: 29-31.

We have to read this passage with some care, as Paul is addressing the Corinthians who had a reputation, throughout the known world of the time, for sexual misbehaviour, and Paul may see celibacy as a sign of contradiction, but more likely look at his reference to the sense that time was coming to an end and so he most probably did not think that they would have to stay celibate for long. He sees the existing world order as coming to an imminent end and the reign of God to supersede. We would misread the apostle if we considered him an old, grumpy Puritan, decrying sex as evil. Paul was a very popular man amongst the people, with a very practical approach to living the Gospel life. It is always important to study all his writings and the interpreters, before drawing conclusions about the man.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 14-20.

There is a starkness about the sudden urgency of the mission, the Precursor has been arrested, so now Jesus must be about his mission. The same momentum is maintained in the call to the first disciples. There is no room for hesitation, as soon as the call comes, we must respond. It also illustrates Jesus' sense of humour in making them "fishers of men." A thing to note in Mark's Gospel is that where we see "by the sea of Galilee", then something momentous is about to happen. They follow immediately, leaving everything behind. The message is so urgent there is no time to look back, only forward into this new era of the "Good News", the Gospel of Jesus Christ, has now dawned, nothing else matters. Mark considers that this the only way to respond to God's call, "Repent and believe in the good news." Mark is hoping those of us who take up this Gospel will respond with the same enthusiasm as his first disciples. **God bless you all. Deacon Vincent.**

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/clifftondiocese.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.clifftondiocese.com
www.vatican.va

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