

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BATH HALF MARATHON Week-end (11th March): Due to road closures for the Bath Half Marathon 2012, morning Mass on **Sunday, 11th March** will be at 9am instead of 10am.

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION every Thursday morning. Exposition after Mass and Benediction at 11.50 am. All welcome!

LENT HOUSE GROUPS: We are pleased to announce that we have 3 House Groups for Lent 2012. The sessions are as follows:

MONDAY; 2-3.15pm for 6 people at 3 Rowacres (off Englishcombe Lane)
3 sessions (Feb 27; Mar 12 & 16) (Liz Dodgson)

TUESDAY; 2-3pm for 8 people at Highmead House, Lansdown Road
6 sessions (Liz Ganapathy)

THURSDAY; 7.30-8.45pm for 8 people at 24 Vandiemens Lane, Lansdown
6 sessions (Roberta Indoe)

Please add your name to the parish list to join a group, also booking a place helps the host to prepare for each session.

The Groups will follow a series of Adult Education Catechesis, written by Bishop Declan, called 'The Parish Project'. The first in the series is called 'The Listening Parish'. There will be leaflets available for participants and Group Leaders.

Please pray for the success of our House Groups.

HELP for Sunday Coffee Morning: Please help! 2 or 3 people needed to prepare the Hall and do the coffee after the 10am Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you are able to help, please let Elizabeth or David Kavanagh know or the Parish Office.

Street Pastors: Our special thanks to Helen Richardson who has responded to our recent appeal for training to become a Street Pastor in Bath. Helen went out to the streets for the first time this week and enjoyed it. She begins training soon. Please pray for her and our community is glad she is our first Catholic Street Pastor.

WHITSUN RAFFLE: The Parish Council will be running a Raffle to raise funds for the needs of our church. The draw will take place on 27th May— details will follow. We need several good prizes. If anyone can offer a prize or have contacts with businesses that will give us one, please contact Gervase O'Donovan on tel: 837922.

Letter of Thanks: We have received a letter of thanks for the warm hospitality given by the parish to the Wigan Circle No. 16 of the Catenians during a recent visit. In the letter to Fr David, the Secretary, Bernard Griffith writes: *"It was a pleasure to attend Mass to meet with you and some of your parishioners particularly fellow Catenians in the Hall afterwards. Everyone made us welcome!"* Bro. President Ian Dukes also sent us a card expressing their gratitude for such a lovely visit to St John's and assuring us of their prayers.

New Translation Sunday Missals now available for sale in the Repository - £19 each

St John the Evangelist Parish

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12th February 2012. Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Yr 2

Psalter Week 2

We welcome you to Mass here this Week-end.

EXCLUDED.

When I was young, if you caught some nasty infectious disease, you could be banished to a dreary Isolation Hospital. It was like being sent to Siberia. Of course this exclusion was driven by fear – the fear of contagion. The most dreaded disease then was TB, in more recent years, it became AIDS. In both cases fear drove the urge to set sufferers apart, in the words of our first reading, they must 'live apart – outside the camp.' In the days of Jesus this fear focussed on those suffering from leprosy. Today's gospel shows us Jesus breaking the taboo, as he stretches out his hand to touch the 'untouchable' leper. Jesus deals with disease, not by exclusion, but by inclusion. In fact it was his policy to draw all who were excluded back into human society. So it was that despised tax gatherers and prostitutes found themselves welcomed at his table and so included in the circle of his friends. But this way of Inclusion comes at a cost. When Jesus includes the leper, he finds himself excluded. He suffers the fate of the leper, having to 'stay outside in places where nobody lived.' In the end he will die the death of a despised criminal 'outside the city walls' – a reject of society.

As Catholics we are called to embrace this way of Inclusion. The decisive moment came when a little group of Jewish Christians decided to throw open the doors to include Gentiles. As the Blessed Pope John 23rd reminded us when he launched the 2nd Vatican Council, it is a constant struggle to keep open those doors. Love has to keep casting out fear and it is always a costly love. It will win us no applause in the tabloids – it has no populist appeal but it is this way of inclusion, which alone can heal our world.

~ Fr Peter Cornwell ~

Entrance Antiphon: Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me.

For the honour of your name, lead me and guide me.

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2; 45-46

Responsorial Psalm: *"You are my hiding place, O Lord; you surround me with cries of deliverance."*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Communion Antiphon: They ate and were filled; the Lord gave them what they wanted: they were not deprived of their desire.

TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK AND NEXT

Mass Intentions

Sat	11 th February	Mass 5.45 pm	Oliver O'Leary RIP
Sun	12 th February	Mass 10 am	Marion Therese Fletcher RIP
		Mass 6.30 pm	People of the Parish
Mon	13 th February	Mass 9.30 am	Ann Jennings RIP
Tue	14 th February	No Mass	
Wed	15 th February	Mass 10 am	James White RIP
Thu	16 th February	Mass 10 am	Baby Vincent RIP
Fri	17 th February	Mass 10 am	Michael & Betty Clements RIP
Sat	18 th February	Mass 11 am in LSU	Serina Ganapathy's intention
		Mass 5.45 pm	Vigil of 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Confessions: Saturdays 12-12.30 pm; 5-5.30 pm; 6.45-7 pm

Offerings for the week:

Offertory:	£ 505.19
Second Collection: Catholic Education Service	£ 224.41
Gift Aid Giving	£807.00
Tax Recovered	£227.00
Third World	£ 54.65
Sunday Coffee Morning: Church Maintenance Fund	£ 8.91

Second Collection: Bishop Declan has designated **next** Sunday for the Annual Appeal for Clifton Children's Society (awarded Ofsted Outstanding in 2010). Please be as generous as you can in supporting their valuable work finding adoptive homes for the 4,000 vulnerable children in the UK care system. CCS prides itself on the lifelong support offered to all their families so if you or anyone you know is considering adoption, please contact CCS for an informal discussion and free information pack on 08451 22 00 77. Please pick up an envelope and return next week.

PARISH EVENTS:

There will be NO Mass on Tuesday, 14th February. There will be no heating in the church due to boiler upgrade for the church, hall & offices. The new boilers will be linked to service each other in case of breakdown, making our heating system more efficient. The project cost is: £17,778.78+VAT.

Parents: There is **NO** Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) this Sunday. It will resume again on Sunday, 26th February.

RCIA Journey in Faith will meet again during the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the 6.30 Mass on **Sunday, 29th January** continuing in the Parish Hall.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER: This year the only Service in central Bath will take place here at St John's Church at 2.30 pm on **Friday, 2nd March**. The service has been composed by Christian women in Malaysia. Offers of help would be appreciated. Please contact Elizabeth on tel: 318828.

Parish Pastoral Care Week-end: 11th/12th February

It is necessary for our Parish Family to have an up-to-date and accurate Parish Records to aid the Pastoral Care of the Parish. The filling-in of the short & concise form will take place during all Masses this week-end. This is particularly helpful to our clergy to protect them against attacks from hoax callers at night time. It would be helpful if parishioners would ask the housebound or any other parishioners who will not be present this week-end to complete a pastoral care form. Thank you for your cooperation & completion of the task on the same day.

COFFEE Morning: after the 10 am Mass this morning. All welcome!

St Valentine's Blessing: at the Sunday, 6.30pm Mass this weekend a special prayer card will be given to all couples who will receive the S Valentine's Blessing.

PANCAKE PARTY: The annual Deanery Pancake Party will be on **Tuesday, 21st February** at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Tickets now on sale.

QUIZ NIGHT: Friday, 24th February from 7.30pm. Teams of 6 at £5 per person including light refreshment. Make up your team or join a team on the night. To book a table, contact Christine tel: 422922. See poster at the back of church. Tickets now on sale.

Association of PARISH WATCHERS: Volunteers are sought to form a Parish Group to be called 'Association of Parish Watchers'. The association will run a rota of two people at a time for one hour per session to be available in Church during daylight hours. The watchers will be trained and have the assistance of support in a number of different ways. No one will be left alone in the church. If you would like to know more about the Association, why not come to a meeting on **Sunday, 26th February** at 4pm in the church.

Christian Faith in the 21st Century TALK: Wednesday, 29th February at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. A talk & discussion led by Dr Malcolm Savidge, Consultant at Gloucester Royal Hospital on "*Mission to Serve the Poor in Nepal*". A Catholic doctor describes his experience in serving some of the world's poorest people as an anaesthetist working with a team of English ear surgeons. This is a living expression of what the council fathers envisaged in *Lumen Gentium*, showing that our faith is not an inward looking idea but a challenge to engage those who do not share our faith.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: We are pleased to announce that a course for couples to be married here in St John's in 2012 has been arranged for **Saturday, 28th April** from 10 am to 3 pm. The course will be run by the Chemin Neuf Community, Langport, Somerset. This community has been running courses for couples since 1993 in the UK. If you would like to know more, email: canamarriageprep@btinternet.com or contact the Parish Office.

JUBILEE YEAR 2013 COMMITTEE

Fr David wishes to thank all who have responded to his request to form a Jubilee Committee. He is close to introducing the committee to the parish and would like to do this on Wednesday, 28th March at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall.