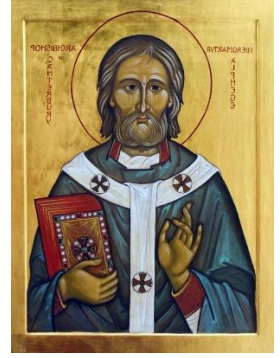


**Parish of
Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath
together with
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John**

**Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
The Presbytery, Oldfield Lane, Bath BA2 3NR
01225 424894 / 07788 415200**

**bath.stalphege@cliftondiocese.com
www.saintalphege.org.uk**

Hall Bookings: Isabella Lo (Parish email above)



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd July 2023

Happy are your eyes because they see

Mass Times at St Alphege

or St Joseph's, Peasedown if indicated

Sat 22nd	St Mary Magdalene	
	10.00	
Sun 23rd	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	Bernadette McKee +
Mon 24th	Feria	
	10.00	
Tue 25th	St James	
	10.00	
	11.00	(Peasedown)
Wed 26th	SS Joachim & Anne	
	No Mass	
Thu 27th	Feria	
	18.00	
Fri 28th	Feria	
	12.00	
Sat 29th	St Martha, Mary & Lazarus	
	10.00	
Sun 30th	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	



Burning the Darnel

Darnel

Darnel is a common weed in Palestine and indeed around the world. The seed of the darnel is easily mistaken for wheat and the two plants are indistinguishable until they have ripened. This means that they are easily confused for each other, hence the believability of the conclusion drawn in the parable that it had to have been an enemy who had sowed the darnel among the wheat.

Wheat and darnel are so alike that darnel is even known in some places as false wheat. The major difference between the two plants is that darnel is highly toxic and when consumed can result in a kind of drunken nausea which in some cases can be fatal. In fact, the Latin name for darnel is *lolium temulentum*; *lolium* is the genus and the description *temulentus* means drunk or intoxicated.

You can see that any farmer would take great care to plant only good seeds. And also, that farmers would burn darnel whenever it is discovered so that no seed remains to contaminate the next harvest.

We can see from this that the Parable of the Darnel is one that would have been well understood by the people at the time of Jesus. Of course, what is less clear to them would have been Jesus' interpretation which he gives only to his disciples. He tells them that the wheat stands for the good subjects of the Kingdom of God and the darnel for the subjects of the Evil One.

Jesus knows which is which and warns us that there will be a time of judgement and that we will be dealt with according to where our loyalties lie. While we still have time, we had better make sure of our true allegiance. We need to decide which side we are on: the side of Christ or the side of the Evil One.

Father Alex

Sunday Coffee

Coffee is served in the Parish Hall after 11.00 Sunday mass
 Confessions..... Saturday 10.30 and at Call
 Choir Practice..... 19.00 Wednesdays in Hall
 Psalter Week 4
 Sunday Readings: Year A
 Weekday Readings: Year 1
 Baptisms & Marriages: Contact the Parish Priest
 Mothers Prayer Group..... Tuesdays 9.00-9:45 Term Time
 Diocesan Prayer League..... Our Lady of the Rosary,
 Lawrence Weston, St Bernard, Shirehampton

Cycle of Prayer: Ordinary Time Summer

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews,
 Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of
 Human Rights, Europe, Human Life, Seafarers

Confirmation

The Deanery Confirmation Mass 2023 will take place on Friday 10th November, celebrated by Mgr Liam Slattery at St Mary's Church, Bath. The preparation course for young people in Year 9-13 (under 19) will begin in September at St Mary's, Julian Road, Bath. Forms are available at the back of the Church or you can email them at bath.stmary@cliftondiocese.com with the name of the young person and contact details.

What peace can we hope to find elsewhere if we have none within us

Teresa of Avila

Flower Arrangers

We are looking for a couple of people who are willing to join the flower arranging rota. If you are interested, please ring Diana on 07983 136369. It should be only once a month. Training can be given by the existing flower arrangers.

Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage

Each year the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton organises a walking pilgrimage to a place, shrine or area exploring a particular theme or aspect of faith and Christian heritage. This year they are walking from Bristol to Arundel and Sunday 13th August they will stay overnight here at St Alphege. We will, undoubtedly, make them very welcome.

Suscipe A Prayer of Self-Offering

Receive, Lord, my entire freedom.
Accept the whole of my memory,
my intellect and my will.
Whatever I have or possess,
it was you who gave it to me;
I restore it to you in full,
and I surrender it completely
to the guidance of your will.
Give me only love of you
together with your grace,
and I am rich enough
and ask for nothing more. Amen

St Ignatius Loyola

Deanery Changes

Bishop Declan has decided to renew the existing deanery structure in the diocese. Up until now there have been thirteen deaneries, drawing priests and people together in communion, prayer and mission. From September there will be nine deaneries allowing parishes access to greater resources and common mission for their area. From September the current Bath deanery and part of the current Trowbridge deanery will start to work together. More details will be made available as they emerge.

A house is made of brick and stone, but a home is made of love alone

Forthcoming Dates

Quiz 29th September
Diocesan Day 7th October
OT Talk Abraham 27th October
OT Talk Moses 17th November
OT Talk David 1st December
OT Talk Elijah 8th December

Autumn Talks

The two series of talks that we have held on Matthew in Autumn 2022 and on the Elizabethan Jesuits in Spring 2023 have both proved to be successful so we would like to continue with another four talks in the Autumn. This time the theme will be Important Figures from the Old Testament. A lot of Catholics don't know too much about the Old Testament so this will be an opportunity for us all to become a bit more familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures. These are the dates, topics and speakers: 20th October, Abraham by Monsignor Jeremy Rigden; 17th November, Moses by Father Alex McAllister; 1st December, David by Anne Barrett and 8th December, Elijah by Dominic Bailey.

Beacons

At Beacons last Monday we had a very joyful afternoon with tea and a little talk about Sister Pontiana's community in Zimbabwe for which we raised £115. On her behalf 'a big thank you to all of you who came and gave so generously'. No Beacons in August and the next one will be on 18th September. Have a peaceful summer.

Going to University this Autumn?

Each University and Higher Education Institute in the country has a dedicated Catholic Chaplain based either in the University or in the local parish.



The Catholic Chaplaincy is a place for you to explore your faith, to meet people with similar interests from a great range of backgrounds, and to get involved in activities and social outreach.

If you already have a strong faith, this is a chance to deepen it. If you are full of questions and doubts, this is a chance to share them and search for some honest answers about life and faith. Everyone is welcome. For addresses see www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk.

God's Word does not have secret codes That need a special key; It's understandable and clear, With truth for all to see

August

Please note that during August there will only be weekday masses on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Heritage Open Days

The Church will be participating once again in the annual Heritage Open Days. The Church will be open on Saturday 9th, Thursday 14th and Saturday 16th September. Dr Giles Mercer will give a guided tour of the Church at 14.30 on those days. All welcome.

Sister Pontiana

Sister Pontiana has been visiting Bath for the last few weeks. She returns home in August. We will take up a second collection for her work with poor and abandoned children and mothers in Zimbabwe today 23rd July.

Upcoming Special Collections

Sister Pontiana today 23rd July, De La Salle Brothers Mission Appeal 13th August, Home Missions 17th September

Sunday Collection

Last week loose: £305.46, Gift Aid £42, Barbeque £302.50

Readers

11.00: Liz n/w Anne V, 18.00; Grainne n/w Seena