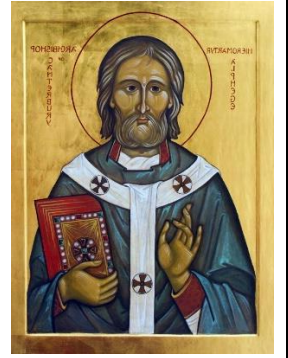


**Parish of
Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath
together with
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John**

**Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
The Presbytery, Oldfield Lane, Bath BA2 3NR
01225 424894 / 07788 415200
bath.stalphege@clifftondioocese.com
www.saintalphege.org.uk**

Parish Secretary: Alice Fouad Office: Behind Parish Hall



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

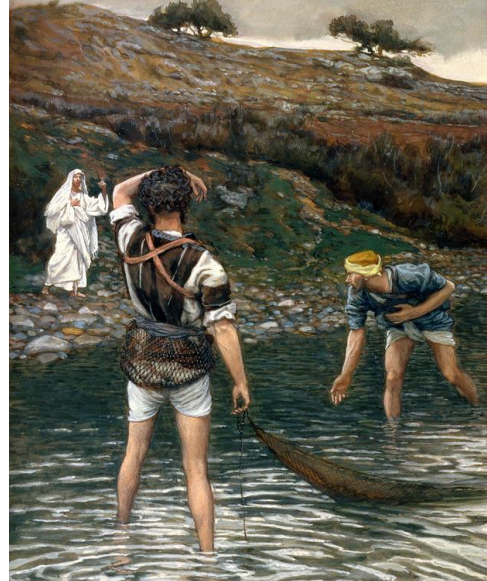
22nd January 2023

The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light

Mass Times at St Alphege

or St Joseph's, Peasedown if indicated

Sat 21st	St Agnes	
	10.00	Holy Souls
Sun 22nd	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	(Peasedown)
	11.00	Martyn Keith Smith (ill)
	18.00	
Mon 23rd	Feria	
	10.00	
Tue 24th	St Francis de Sales	
	10.00	
	10.30	John Millman Requiem Mass (Peasedown)
Wed 25th	Conversion of St Paul	
	No Mass	
Thu 26th	SS Timothy & Titus	
	18.00	
Fri 27th	Feria	
	12.00	
Sat 28th	St Thomas Aquinas	
	10.00	
Sun 29th	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	(Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	



Calling of St Peter and St Andrew, James Tissot 1886-94

Sunday of the Word of God

Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated today on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This annual celebration was announced by Pope Francis in a document entitled *Aperuit Illis*, published on 30 September 2019, the Feast of St Jerome. Pope Francis said, 'The Word of God Sunday is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God'.

I believe that it is vitally important for every Catholic home to have a Bible. This may sound self-evident but it is surprising just how many homes do not have a Bible, let alone one which is actually read. At the back of our Church copies of St Matthew's Gospel are available; please take one home and read it. In the course of this year it is St Matthew's Gospel that we will be following in the liturgy so it is important to have a copy at home for reference. In the liturgy we have read to us only very short sections of the Gospel and so it is good for us when we go home to read the relevant passage in context so helping us to understand the text much better.

The Gospels in particular give us much fruit for meditation since they are the inspired Word of God. The Gospels then ought to be an important element of our life of prayer. Taking a passage from the Gospels and turning it over in our mind is a very good way of enriching our life of prayer. Please do make some effort this Sunday to become more familiar with sacred scripture. As St Jerome, the famous translator of the Bible, said, 'Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.'

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 3
 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 Sacred Heart,
 Tisbury with Wardour

Cycle of Prayer: Ordinary Time: Winter

Peace on Earth, Christian Unity, Victims of Human
 Trafficking, The Sick and those who care for them, The
 Unemployed

First Communion



Classes for our First Communion candidates begin this Sunday 22nd January directly after 11.00 Mass. If your child is not yet signed up, please fill in a form available at the back of the Church and bring it to the class. Candidates should be in Year 3 or above. The First Communion Mass itself will take place on Sunday 14th May 2023.

**Some books are to be tasted;
others swallowed;
and some few to be chewed and digested**

Francis Bacon

Converting to Catholicism

At the end of the month Father Alex will be starting classes for those wishing to become Catholics. These classes will lead up to reception into the Church at Easter. If you are interested, please speak to him so that a suitable time can be arranged.

Leaks

There has been a problem in the Lady Chapel caused by leaks from the roof during the recent bad storms. Work is in hand to rectify the matter. Additionally, we are looking at the possibility of laying a path to the rear of the Church to link up the Church and Presbytery gardens as well as digging a French drain alongside the Lady Chapel wall of the Church to improve drainage.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered on Saturday 11th February at the 10.00 mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes which is also World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Please come along to receive this important sacrament and to pray for all this who are sick especially the members of our families and fellow parishioners.



Marriage in 2023

If you are considering getting married in 2023 it is important that you contact Father Alex urgently so that the preparation process can be started in good time. Six months' notice is required.

Sunday Coffee



More volunteers are needed to help prepare the tea and coffee after 11.00 mass on a Sunday. Please let Father Alex know if you can help.

**Ultimately,
in the battle against lies and violence,
truth and love have no other weapon
than the witness of suffering**

Pope Benedict XVI

Forthcoming Dates

Talk on St Thomas More 27th January
Sacrament of the Sick 11th February
Ash Wednesday 22nd February

St Thomas More



Dr Giles Mercer will be giving a talk entitled 'Why was St Thomas More Executed?' in the Parish Hall at 19.00 on Friday 27th January. Refreshments before and after. He recently gave this talk to Winchester Catholic History Society where it was very well received.

Answering God's Call

A vocations discernment retreat for young Catholic adults aged 18-35 from 3rd to 5th March entitled 'Answering God's Call'. The retreat will be held at Brownhill Monastery, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 8AL. It will be about listening to the voice of Christ so that we can discern and respond to his call. For information, please contact Rina Bird rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk.

**A good deed is never lost;
he who sows courtesy reaps friendship
and he who plants kindness gathers love**

St Basil

Readers

Since today is Sunday of the Word of God maybe it is a good occasion to consider becoming a reader at mass. We already have several people who do the reading but it would be good to have some more as well as a better representation of ages. Speak to Father Alex if you would like to join the rota.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th to 25th January 2022. It always concludes with the feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Materials are available at: ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023.

A Prayer for Christian Unity

Loving and merciful God, teach us the joy of sharing in your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that the walls of hostility separating us may be removed. May the risen Christ, who is our peace, help us overcome all division, and unite us as members of his household. We ask this in the name of Jesus, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

SPUC Appeal Today

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child is a grassroots campaigning organisation which defends the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death. SPUC does this by spreading its message far and wide right across the UK - educating, inspiring and empowering people to get involved so that real change can be achieved. Their vision is a world where abortion is unthinkable. Please support them in the second collection this Sunday.

Christmas Crib

All gifts at the Crib are given to the Clifton Children's Society. Please support the important work of our adoption agency as generously as you can. The Crib will remain in the Church until 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Upcoming Second Collections

Today: 22nd January: SPUC, 5th March CAFOD

Sunday Collection

15th January Loose £244.24, Gift Aid Envelopes £37.