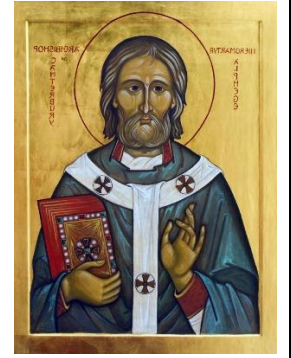


**Parish of
Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath
together with
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John**

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



Parish Secretary: **Alice Fouad** Office: **Behind Parish Hall**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

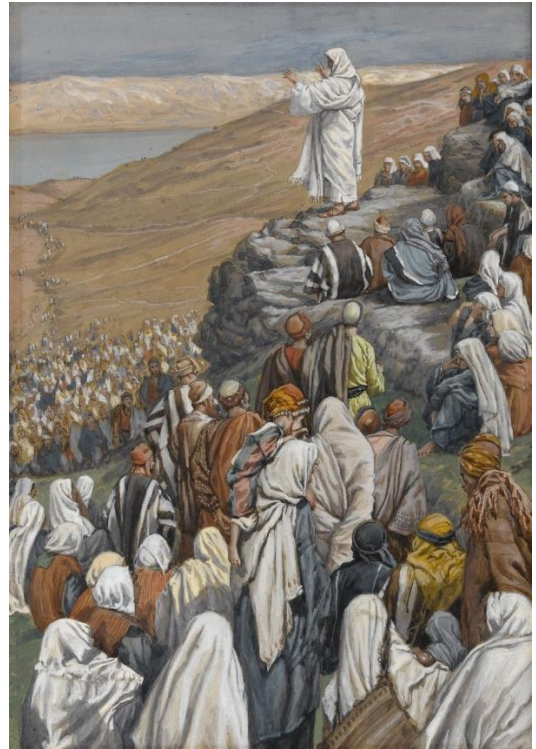
29th January 2023

Blessed are the poor in spirit

Mass Times at St Alphege

or St Joseph's, Peasedown if indicated

Sat 28th	St Thomas Aquinas	
	10.00	Bernard McAllister +
Sun 29th	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	(Peasedown)
	11.00	Aleena Sony (birthday)
	18.00	Tom Quinn +
Mon 30th	Feria	
	10.00	Tom Quinn +
Tue 31st	St John Bosco	
	10.00	John Millman +
	11.00	Holy Souls (Peasedown)
Wed 1st	Feria	
	No Mass	
Thu 2nd	Presentation of the Lord	
	18.00	Tom Quinn +
Fri 3rd	Feria	
	12.00	Hal McKee +
Sat 4th	St Thomas Aquinas	
	10.00	
Sun 5th	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	9.00	(Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	Sinead McKee +



The Sermon on the Beatitudes, James Tissot 1836-1902

The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes must be in everyone's top ten list of scripture texts. This reading remains a popular choice at both weddings and funerals because in very beautiful and poetic words it sums up the kind of person every Christian wants to be.

However on carefully looking at the Beatitudes we might start to think that we don't actually want to be poor or to mourn or to be persecuted. However we would be happy enough if we were gentle, if we had a hunger and thirst for what is right, if we were merciful or if we were peacemakers.

But maybe this mix of seemingly both positive and negative qualities is a more accurate picture of our lives here on earth. What we should remember though is that in the Kingdom of God everything is turned to a good purpose even that which is outwardly negative.

Perhaps then we should therefore look on being poor in a more positive light and perhaps interpret it as living simply. Maybe mourning could be seen as the result of loving the friends we have lost very deeply and perhaps persecution as the consequence for standing up for what is right and true.

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 St John the Baptist,
 Trowbridge & St Bernadette, Westbury

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 started last 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 next class. Candidates should be in Year 3 or above. The First Communion Mass itself will take place on Sunday 14th May 2023.

Fine words butter no parsnips

English Proverb

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.



A Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Readers

We wish to add more readers to the rota for Sunday masses. Please let Father Alex know if you would like to help.

Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding



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.

Forthcoming Dates

Sacrament of the Sick 11th February
Ash Wednesday 22nd February
Easter Sunday 9th April

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Bishop will be presiding at several Services of Reconciliation across the Diocese during Lent. the nearest one to Bath will be at 19.00 on Thursday 16th March at St Catharine of Alexandria, Frome.

Parish Council

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council at 19.00 on Friday 3rd February in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

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.

He did not say:

You will not be assailed,
you will not be belaboured,
you will not be disquieted,
but he did say: You will not be overcome

Julian of Norwich

CAFOD

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time (could be as little as a two-minute short talk twice a year) and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, bringing people together to help build a better world or by visiting local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the diocese? Could you support local volunteers or share your office skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with clifton@cafod.org.uk. You can join members of CAFOD praying the Rosary every Thursday morning on ZOOM. See cafod.org.uk/Pray/Pray-the-rosary.

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.

Accommodation Required

A couple and their mother-in-law are looking for accommodation in Bath for three weeks in the summer to support their daughter who is having a baby at that time. Please contact Father Alex if you can help.

Recently Deceased

Thomas Quinn (90 years) of High Street, Twerton who died on 21st January: Reception 16.15 Wednesday 22nd February, Requiem Mass 10.30 Thursday 23rd February.

Upcoming Second Collections

5th March CAFOD

Sunday Collection

22nd January Loose £293.05, Gift Aid Envelopes £57. SPUC Collection £189.46.