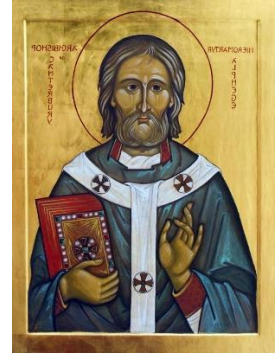


**Parish of
Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath
together with
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John**

**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)



Third Sunday of Advent

17th December 2023

Prepare a way for the Lord

Mass Times at St Alphege

or St Joseph's, Peasedown if indicated

Sat 16th	Advent Weekday	
	10.00	
Sun 17th	Third Sunday of Advent	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	Moira Horton +
Mon 18th	Advent Weekday	
	10.00	
Tue 19th	Advent Weekday	
	10.00	Thomas and Rita Dolan +
	11.00	(Peasedown)
Wed 20th	Advent Weekday	
	No Mass	
Thu 21st	Advent Weekday	
	18.00	
Fri 22nd	Advent Weekday	
	12.00	
Sat 23rd	Advent Weekday	
	10.00	
Sun 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	
	18.00	



St John the Baptist in the Wilderness, *Guido Reni 1636-7*

Information

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 2
 Sunday Readings: Year B
 Weekday Readings: Year 2
 Baptisms & Marriages: Contact the Parish Priest
 Diocesan Prayer League..... St Augustine, Matson
 English Martyrs, Tuffley

Cycle of Prayer: Advent and Christmas

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees,
 Expectant Mothers

Modern Day John the Baptists

The task given to St John the Baptist was to prepare the people for the appearance of Christ. Jesus had of course been born thirty years beforehand but it was only after his Baptism at the hands of John in the River Jordan that Jesus finally begins his public ministry. To avoid misunderstanding, John the Baptist explains that he is not the Messiah and goes on to tell the people, as best as he is able, just what this coming Messiah was to be like. In a way this is our task too; to explain to those around us just who the Son of God is and what he achieved in the world, and how important is the salvation he brought for us.

Father Alex



**Age is a question of mind over matter
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.**

Legacies

Please think about the parish when drawing up your last will. Our beautiful Church was built through the generosity of parishioners often by means of legacies. Think of a legacy as a gift to the next generation of Catholics enabling them to maintain a truly worthy place of worship. Explanatory leaflets are available at the back of the Church.

		Christmas Mass Times	
Sun	24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)	
		9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
		11.00	
		18.30	First Mass of Christmas (Peasedown)
		22.00	First Mass of Christmas
Mon	25th	Christmas Day	
		9.00	(Peasedown)
		11.00	
Tue	26th	St Stephen	
		10.00	
		11.00	(Peasedown)

**An optimist can always see the bright side
of the other person's misfortune**

Forthcoming Dates

English Wind Consort..... 22nd December
 First Communion Classes Start 7th January
 Film Night 19th January
 Beetle Drive..... 2nd February

First Holy Communion

First Communion classes for children in Year 3 and above will commence on 7th January. Sessions will start at 10.00 and last an hour so that parents can go with the children to Sunday mass afterwards. Please note that going to mass is an essential part of the package. The dates for the sessions are: January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, February 4th and 25th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, April 21st and 28th, May 12th (with an additional practice after Mass). Any changes to these dates will be notified. The First Holy Communion Mass will be on either 18th or 19th of May depending on numbers. Application forms are at the back of the Church. Please return as soon as possible.

Year of Prayer

Pope Francis has asked us to keep 2024 as a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025. At St John's Church they will be holding a series of talks on prayer throughout the Year of Prayer. The talks will be held in St John's Church on Tuesdays at 19.00. The talks are as follows: 23rd January Lord Teach us to Pray, Fr Tom Dubois; 20th February The Prayer of Jesus, Fr Dermot Power; 30th April The Prayer of the Desert, Fr John Udris; 28th May The Prayer of St Benedict, Fr Mark Hargreaves OSB; 25th June The Prayer of St Dominic, Sr Hyacinthe OP; 23rd July Window on the Divine -Icons, Tamara Penwell; The Prayer of St Martin & St Clare, Fr Maximilian Martin OFM Conv; 29th October The Prayer of Carmel, Fr Michael McAndrew; 26th November The Prayer of St Ignatius Fr James Hanvey SJ.

A Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

God of glory and compassion at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise. To all who long for your Son's return grant perseverance and patience, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen ICEL

**I wish to create a church so beautiful
that it would move
even the hardest heart to prayer**

The unknown architect of Glastonbury Abbey

Advent Retreat

There will be an Advent Retreat at St John's, Bath on Friday 22 December, 17.00 to 21.00 led by Father Joseph Edattu and Father Paul Pallchamkudiyil from the Divine Retreat Centre, Ramsgate.

Upcoming Special Collections

11th February Aid to the Church in Need

Sunday Collection

Loose: £286.61, Gift Aid Envelopes £69, Christmas Social £213.25

Readers

11.00: Nkechi n/w Bibian, 18.00: Grainne n/w Grainne

Little Church

This week Helen