

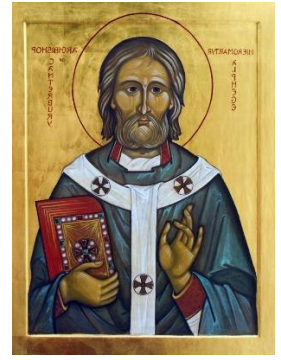


**Parish of
Our Lady and St Alphege, Bath
together with
St Joseph's, Peasedown St John**

**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)



Fourth Sunday of Advent

24th December 2023

Prepare a way for the Lord

Mass Times at St Alphege

or St Joseph's, Peasedown if indicated

Sat 23rd	Advent Weekday	
	10.00	
Sun 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	Ann Creevy
	18.30	First Mass of Christmas (Peasedown)
	22.00	First Mass of Christmas Carols from 21.30
Mon 25th	Christmas Day	
	9.00	(Peasedown)
	11.00	SVP Deceased Members of the Parish
Tue 26th	St Stephen	
	10.00	Creevy Family
	11.00	(Peasedown)
Wed 27th	St John	
	No Mass	
Thu 28th	Holy Innocents	
	18.00	Tom and Alice Craigmyle
Fri 29th	St Thomas Becket	
	12.00	Laurie Griffiths
Sat 30th	Sixth Day in the Christmas Octave	
	10.00	Maureen Dyson
Sun 31st	The Holy Family	
	9.00	Parishioners (Peasedown)
	11.00	Pat Carter
	18.00	Maira Horton +



The Nativity, *Lorenzo Lotto, 1523*

When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

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
Psalter2
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



Every good wish and blessing for Christmas

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love.

**I am the Way you must follow,
the Truth you must believe,
the Life you must hope for**

Thomas à Kempis

Diocese of Clifton Year Book

The Diocesan Yearbook is now available at the back of the Church. Copies cost £6 each.

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.

What the Donkey Saw

No room in the inn, of course,
And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host -
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
For love nor money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

UA Fanthorpe

**If the Church does not catechise the world,
the world will catechise us**

Christmas Offerings

The Christmas Offertory Collection customarily goes to the priest and forms a considerable portion of his annual income. Many thanks for your kind generosity.

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.

Forthcoming Dates

English Wind Consort.....22nd December
First Communion Classes Start7th 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 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 with a copy of the Baptismal certificate and £10 for the book, etc.

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 next year. 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.

**Christmas Day
is a day of joy and charity
May God make you very rich in both.**

Thank You

Christmas at St Alphege is a very busy and lively time; it is a real celebration of the love of God made manifest in the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. Our grateful thanks go to those who cleaned and decorated the Church so beautifully, to our singers and musicians, to the Altar Servers, to the readers and catechists and to all those who are involved in so many ways. Also thank you very much for your very generous Christmas offerings, cards and gifts.

Funerals

Ann Alford 11.15 Wednesday 3rd January
Moira Horton 11.00 Thursday 4th January
Josie Cook 12.00 Friday 5th January
May they rest in peace.

Upcoming Special Collections

7th January SPUC, 11th February Aid to the Church in Need, 25th February CAFOD

Sunday Collection

Loose: £201.62, Gift Aid Envelopes £40

Readers

11.00: Bibian n/w Simon, 18.00; Grainne n/w Seena