

**Remember The Genesis Food Bank!** Thanks for continuing to help when you can. Everything needs to be in date please:- instant coffee, tea bags, TINNED & DRIED FOODS; most kinds of tinned/cartons e.g. chopped tomatoes, tinned rice pudding, sponge puddings, dried fruit, UHT milk and Long Life fruit juice, packet cereals, vegetarian meals [packet or tinned], instant mashed potatoes, pasta sauces, biscuits, snack bars, chocolate and sweets. Fresh Fruit & Veg are not needed thanks because hard to store. Please leave your food donations in the box in the porch.

*A CONSTANT THANKS TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO GIVE OF THEIR GIFTS AND TIME WITH SUCH LOVE TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY HERE AT Ss. PETER & PAUL.*

**2019** Did you make New Year's resolutions? One for us all in the Parish might be: Let us resolve to use our many gifts with a new courage and generosity to build up the life of the Parish and encourage one another. If we are disappointed with things in any way, let us not slip away and seek our personal need elsewhere, but let us see the value of building up community here and reaching out to the many that have perhaps lost sight of the Lord in our area. Let us welcome back those who are disconnected from the Catholic Community and this will begin best in prayer and especially at Holy Mass both on Sundays and at other times. We are presently and usually blessed with the opportunity to come to daily Holy Mass in our own parish church. Perhaps a good plan would be to make the effort to come at least one day in the week as well as fulfilling the Sunday obligation to attend Holy Mass. One might also pray the Rosary with others for Peace in the world.

*If you say you are too busy to play a part in the Parish more than simply by being here for Sunday worship, then perhaps you are simply too busy and missing out on some of the good things to be shared in the community here! Why not have a little ponder and a re-think? A little advice about having the Parish here – don't regard it as a mere option among many – YOU must use it or lose it and that must mean, therefore, supporting it in every way YOU can.*

**Remember God doesn't call the qualified—He qualifies the called.**

**Are you new to Ss Peter & Paul or have you been coming on and off for a number of years?**

It is good to find the church here when you need it, isn't it? We owe a great debt to those who provided it and supported it over many years and who still care for it lovingly and generously.

You won't be unaware, however, that churches are closing in a number of places not far away from here and that might be food for thought.

**Our parish has a long history** having started in the 1830's in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception first in Midford Castle itself and then later in a purpose built chapel; after that the Parish community moved to the chapel of Our Lady of the Snows in Prior Park College where it remained until 1965.

**When you visit the Crib** here before leaving the church, say a prayer that you will always find the house of God here when you return and pray for those who have now gone before us who did so much to provide our church and all the things that have helped us to worship God in this Holy Place.

Perhaps one day you and all who worship here will be glad to be remembered by those who come after us.

You are invited to take a copy of the census form from the Church Porch, fill it in for the PARISH RECORDS and return to the Parish Priest at the Priest's house (Presbytery). On Sundays, **please do feel most welcome to go into the Apostles' Room immediately after Holy Mass for a coffee/tea and make new friends.** Equally, if you are moving away from the parish, please let us know & don't just disappear. It may surprise you but Father Bill worries what has happened to you!

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019** is an important moment for local Christian unity efforts when Churches together in Bath make annual efforts to pray together in this special week. We are in the South East Area and we will have an occasion of prayer and celebration on **Sunday 20th January at 4.00pm** in the afternoon at St James the Great, South Stoke for our SE Area. Keep the date free in your diary.

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its Compendium, enumerates the following five commandments of the Church: -**

- 1. You shall attend Holy Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation.** Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church. Come regularly under your own steam! Not just now and again, but again and again on Sundays!
- 2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.** When did you last do this?
- 3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season.** We must not receive unworthily!
- 4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church:** abstinence from meat (but not fish) on Fridays (except solemnities), and abstinence-plus restriction to one meal only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Details vary, including some countries allowing for a different way of Penance on at least ordinary Fridays.
- 5. You shall help to provide for the needs of your Pastors and the Church.** Are you comfortable you are playing your part with that?

Parish of  
**Saint Peter & Saint Paul**  
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**Father Bill O.S.M.**



[www.stspeterpaulbath.org.uk](http://www.stspeterpaulbath.org.uk)  
[www.bath-catholics.org.uk](http://www.bath-catholics.org.uk)  
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**Diocese of Clifton: Registered Charity**  
[No.233977](http://No.233977)

**Times of Holy Mass & Services**  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 (Year C)**

**Holy Mass Saturday at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday) and Sunday 10.00am.** Celebration of Holy Mass at The Ecumenical Chaplaincy Centre @ Bath Campus at 12 30 TODAY 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**The Knights of St Columba Christmas Crib** is *Keeping Christ in Christmas* in Bath for the 70<sup>th</sup> year for the remaining three days. The Crib is in the shop window @ No.6 Upper Borough Walls. We must not let our hearts be so full of things that are not as important as making sure that it will never happen again that there is no room in the inn for Christ to be born. Let us clear a space for him with the joy. Make sure to realise that Christ's actual birth long ago in ancient Bethlehem is remembered best when we don't miss the fact that Christ is reborn in the Bethlehem of our homes daily. May we always know that the real reason for celebrating Christmas is that it happened once in a way that changed the world. The infant born that first Christmas came to save his people from their sins so that we might have 'God with us' Emanuel.

**Daily Holy Mass at Ss. Peter & Paul:** Sadly, no celebration of Holy Mass here on Monday or Tuesday. Times of Holy Mass Wed-Sat will be daily at 9.30am or as announced the day before. Apologies to those who come from other parishes to us on a Monday.

**The best help to us all as a Parish Community** is to share spiritually in Holy Mass not just at weekends but daily if and when at all possible.

That's our Prayer continuing Mission!  
**LIMITING OUR CHALLENGES IS A GREAT WAY TO ACHIEVE CERTAINTY BUT PERHAPS TESTING ONE'S LIMITS IS A MORE CERTAIN WAY TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS.**  
**BETTER TO TRY TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS?**

**Catholics who visit Eastern or Central Europe may know the ceremony of the blessing of the chalk.** The chalk is taken home, and with holy water, which should always be kept in every home, the house is sprinkled, and the chalk may be used to mark the outside of the door one most often uses, firstly with a +, then with the year (2019), then with the initials CMB (= Melchior, Balthasar, Caspar, the traditional names of the Wise Men). The initials have an additional significance standing for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which translates from Latin as May Christ bless this house. The chalk marks are left on the door until next year – and you may be surprised how many people ask you what they mean...and their response to your explanation may be just as surprising. The marking is done thus:

±  
**CMB**  
**2019**

**The Sign of Peace:** Many families and seniors are once again hit by viral 'Flu and illnesses of that kind. We continue the Bishop's direction given some time ago to use our **simple 'Bow'** – no need for it to be theatrical - as the sign of Peace to avoid passing on by hand contact such troubles as Swine 'Flu and other strains of 'Flu that apparently are around again. Have you had your 'Flu jab yet?

*The Christmas Day Offertory Collection was your traditional Christmas offering made directly for the personal support of the Parish Priest. Sincere thanks to all on their return who have also made offerings in addition to those made by those who were here. Promise of prayers from Father Bill, M. OSM.*

**Some have asked** "Why did we have The Jesse Tree?" with symbols during Advent? The story on the Tree is now complete. It explains the story of Salvation unfolding in the family tree of Jesse, the father of King David. The children helped us all learn to 'read' the tree by placing the symbols on the tree week by week with the Star appearing at the top! **Twelfth Night is the day to take down The Jesse Tree** and so the children will take down the symbols + the Star of Bethlehem, which explained the completion of that story of salvation. The children who brought the star on Christmas Eve now help us follow the last part of our story of the arrival of

the Magi and lead others to the Star.

**THE TABERNACLE SANCTUARY LAMP THIS WEEK IS BURNING BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR THE COMMITMENT OF OUR PARISH TO OUR OWN FAMILIES TO SHOW FORTH OUR FAITH IN OUR HOMES AND TO OTHERS / THE LAMP BEFORE THE PIETÀ IS BURNING FOR THE INTENTIONS OF PEACE IN OUR WORLD AND ESPECIALLY IN OUR PARISH.**

**WHEN WE MAKE THE SIGN OF CHRIST'S PEACE MAY WE BE GENUINE IN OUR DESIRE TO SHARE IT AND NOT USE IT TO CONVEY OTHER SENTIMENTS OR OUR OWN AGENDA THAT HAVE NO PLACE AMONG US!**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE SANCTUARY LAMP TO BURN NIGHT AND DAY BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR YOURSELF, FOR A LOVED ONE OR FOR A SPECIAL INTENTION PLEASE CONTACT THE SACRISTAN WITH A WRITTEN NOTE STATING THE INTENTION FOR INCLUSION IN THE BULLETIN. THE SUGGESTED OFFERING IS £5.00P

**FROM THE LOVELY CHRISTMAS CARDS, FOR WHICH MANY THANKS, IT INDICATED A NUMBER WERE AWAY FOR THE FEAST. THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE THE SAME CHRISTIAN NAME AS OTHERS BUT DIDN'T ALWAYS SHOW WHICH ONE THEY ARE ON THEIR GREETING. IT IS FUN TRYING TO PUZZLE OUT WHO HAS WRITTEN WITHOUT PUTTING THEIR SURNAMENAMES OR ADDRESS BUT AMAZING HOW WE FORGET WE MIGHT SHARE OUR FIRST NAME WITH OTHERS! MANY THANKS FROM FATHER BILL M, OSM FOR THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGES TO HIM & FOR THE KIND GIFTS FOR THE FEAST AND THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING WHICH HELPS HIM TO LIVE THROUGH THE YEAR. A HAPPY & NEW YEAR TO ALL WHO ARE WITH US AND ALSO TO ALL PARISHIONERS WHO WERE AWAY OR WENT ELSEWHERE FOR THE FEASTS AND TO OUR HOUSEBOUND & THOSE SICK IN HOSPITAL & THE HOSPICES.**



**Parish Diaries** –Very useful containing the Saints' days and information. Please do take one regardless, but a suggested donation of £1 in the box provided to the important work of LIFE would be marvellous.

**CHURCH CARE** Thank you very much to all who helped clean and tidy the Church and Apostles' Room for Christmas and who do so regularly each week. Keep up the good work if you can and if you haven't managed so far always feel welcome to pitch in when you are able. It is a good way to get to know other parishioners.

### **Catholic teaching that attendance at Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day is obligatory as a duty for Catholics:**

The number of people in the UK attending evangelical churches across the UK and Ireland is said to have long followed and is now following a mentality of Flexi-church attendance and is 'on the rise in the UK' but fewer individuals are making attendance at church a regular habit, new research suggests. The survey recommended that Christian communities should help cultivate committed attendance. According to a 'YouGov' survey commissioned by The Times newspaper, the proportion coming to church "several times a year" rose from six per cent last year to seven per cent in 2018. But only five per cent this year said they go every week - a decrease compared to six per cent in 2017. The Catholic teaching that attendance at Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day is a matter of obligation is still holding as a teaching but for many it is not being observed. Think about it, folks! The Third Commandment requires that we keep Holy the Sabbath Day.

**We might need a reminder as to the Corporal works of Mercy and we might be surprised that there are Spiritual works of mercy too.**

#### **The Corporal Works of Mercy**

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick.
- Visit the imprisoned.
- Bury the dead.

#### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- Counsel the doubtful.
- Instruct the ignorant.
- Admonish sinners.
- Comfort the afflicted.
- Forgive offenses.
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

Great minds discuss ideas;  
Average minds discuss events;  
Small minds discuss people.

**Bath Friends of Life** Thank everyone who participated in their stall and raffle at Bath Charities Annual Fair, last month, which raised £324-50 and for an anonymous gift of £20-00 to Life 2009 through Charities Aid Foundation.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Thanks to all who seriously and generously play their part in funding the regular work of the Church here in our various needs and all other apostolates that go on from here.**

*We are grateful that you keep what you give under review and take seriously the need to support weekly the parish through regular covenanted and gift aided contribution It recognised that we need to strengthen this. We REALLY would be helped by seeing an increase in Gift Aided Offertory collections by those who didn't realise this would help, to achieve and ensure financial stability. Direct debit of your regular contribution ensures support even when you are not able to be present. It might be that could remember the needs of the church in your Will*

***The Christmas Fair is having the closing session of the Tombola stall! Alison kept it open for those who were away until you got back! You might be lucky and win an Epiphany Gift for someone you care about!***

There are three indicators of what it means to be an adult parishioner here:-

- I am part of the Parish Finance Plan (Gift Aid and planned Giving) & by Standing Order if at all possible for when absent or attending elsewhere that Sunday. If you don't fit into any of these categories below, then ask yourself if you might give it a thought and ask how to fit in!
- I belong to the weekly gathering here for Sunday Holy Mass with co-parishioners or those who live within the parish boundaries.
- I play a part in the Ss P & P Parish by being present regularly, sometimes doing a specific task such as cleaning, flower arranging, cake making, or taking part in one of the various parish groups

**'Advent Tubes of Smarties'** for REACHING THE UNREACHED: if you had a tube of Smarties from the 1st Sunday of Advent and managed to fill your tube with your coins that you have gathered from your own money and small sacrifices during Advent well done! This supports the work of 'Reaching the Unreached' of Bro. James in India for the children who have so little. Thanks for bringing it back if you did but if you forgot or weren't here bring it next time, please.

**CHURCH CARE** Thank you to all who helped clean and tidy the Church during the past year as well as for our **Christmas** services and who do other sometimes thankless and unseen jobs that makes life more comfortable for us all. Look around and see what you could do and say a prayer for those who have taken on the lion's share of task for a long time.

### **ANNIVERSARIES and LATELY DEAD**

We pray for the repose of the souls of all lately dead including **Mrs Joanna Priscott-Jones daughter of our good friends Jennie & Mike of Beechen Cliff Methodist community, Alexander Somers Cocks,** Victims of the Storms worldwide, Victims of all Wars and terrible Violence throughout the world & other natural disasters and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including the Most Forgotten Holy Souls and **Vincent Taylor, victims of Earthquakes, Typhoons, Fires and Floods & natural disasters in so many places & other tragedies, all who have died suddenly without time to prepare and for those being put to death simply for courageously following Christ in so many places, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Keston Stevens, William Newton, James Peard, John Prichard, Lewis Adams, Amelia Van Cutsan, Edwin Herridge, Freda Bates, John Bailey, James Tracey, George Hamilton, Leonard O'Keefe, Beryl Welbelove.** May they, together with all the Faithful Departed, our own loved ones, and the most forgotten Holy Souls have a full share in the Resurrection. One day you and all who worship here or have worshipped here over the years will be glad to be remembered in prayer by those who come after us.

#### **REMEMBERING SICK and INFIRM FRIENDS**

We make special remembrance of all the sick including including Franek Rosikon, Mrs Janet Gate, Simon McLoughlin, Ruth Saul, AJ Gate, Dorothea & Eddie Saul, Father Raymond, O.S.M., Mrs Phil Taylor, Mme Claude Moisy, Mrs Betty Hawkins, Mrs Bridget Cahill, Mrs Marion Frawley, Jim Bardon, Dolores Elliott, Ron & Imelda Fuller, MaryAnn Stewart, Bridget Barron, Revd Michael Saunders, Michael Tucker, Chris Watson, Maria Walsh, Bernard & Kay Barron, Mrs Ann Griffin, Ann Perry, Mrs Maggie Keane, Mrs Marion Nash, Mrs Ann Cusack, Charles Carr, Marie & Eugene Farrelly, Florence Boyall, Carmelo DeCesare, Paul DeCesare, Harry Barron, Margaret McNally, Denzil & Philomena Lincoln, Mrs Madeleine Holyoake, Mrs Frances Samuel and all other parishioners and loved ones who bear illness and for those who care for them and for all who have been bereaved. The sick are always prayed for, even if a name does not appear on the list. Please advise us when people recover, so that the newsletter may alter hopefully with good news.

**RCIA is a help to knowing God better** and aims to answer questions about our Catholic Faith. The famous phrase “don’t keep the faith, share it” suggests we have to do a little encouraging of those who might be enquirers just needing an invitation to take a further step. Everybody is welcome even somebody from your own family, so please bring a friend and pray for those who do come to discover strength in their seeking of Christ and his Church in The Apostles’ Room. Next session tba. We should also be helping those recent converts to take part in the Mystagogy (“interpretation of mystery”) which is the final period of the initiation of adults. During this period the meaning of the Sacraments is more deeply explained to those who have newly received them.

**Respect for the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the Tabernacle** outside the times of Holy Mass is very important. If you find it impossible to be silent in the church, then please make every effort to speak softly if only out of courtesy for those trying to pray and as an example to children in the Lord’s house. Please feel most welcome to go into the Apostles’ Parish Room immediately after Holy Mass for a coffee/tea and a chat with friends.

**Thanks very much for supporting this appeal.**

**In the Diocesan Year of Prayer now started,**

let us try to cultivate the ancient practice of reverential silence in the church so valued by our Holy Father Pope Francis and help all to benefit from SILENCE AT ALL THE SERVICES HERE AND TRY TO GIVE A GOOD EXAMPLE.

IF SOMEBODY IS PRAYING AFTER HOLY MASS OR AT ADORATION PLEASE LEAVE THEM IN PEACE HOWEVER URGENTLY YOU WANT TO HAVE A WORD. MOST OF YOU HAVE A PHONE TO CALL LATER. OR ONE COULD SURELY WAIT UNTIL THE PERSON HAS FINISHED PRAYING?

It might be the only time & opportunity some have to be alone with the Lord.

If you must talk in church  
– TALK TO THE LORD!

**Confirmation preparation & growing in Faith as a group offers to all our young people –**

*wherever they are up to a chance to get to know one another. Life’s knocks can make certain experiences of Faith seem less crucial even for the young but the steady rhythm of contact with our Lord and His Church can be a real rock. Impress upon the young that they are welcome here always as is each one of us. Help them to take seriously the practise of their Faith and to be aware with us of the Year of Faith now under way. That will happen through taking part in social things too.*

Ask what can U do to S\_PPOR!

**If you are here only occasionally, why not, before leaving the church today,** say a prayer that you will always find the house of God here when you return, and pray for those parishioners who have now gone before us who did so much to provide our church and all the things that have helped us to worship God in this Holy Place both in the past and the times when we feel moved to come. Let us pray for those who have drifted away from the life of Faith or for those who no longer wish to walk with us here.

Reception of Holy Communion

When we should and when we shouldn’t.

**Are you new to Ss Peter & Paul?**

Newcomers to the Parish are always welcome here and at our recent Annual Christmas Fair many visitors commented on how welcoming our Parish is. Well done & Deo gratias! You are invited to take a copy of the census form from the Church, fill it in for THE PARISH RECORDS and return to the Parish Priest at the Priest’s house (Presbytery). Please do feel most welcome to go into the Apostles’ Room immediately after Sunday Holy Mass for a coffee/tea and make new friends. Equally, if you are moving away from the parish, please let us know & don’t just disappear. It may surprise you but Father Bill M., O.S.M. worries what has happened to you and if you are OK!

**TEN REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH:**

A Priest, apparently - sad at all the excuses given over the years as to why people don’t go to church - included this list in the bulletin:-

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites -- they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap; I can’t decide which is best.
4. I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
5. I wash only on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I’ll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
8. I can’t spare the time.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.

**Holy Communion is shared with those who are Catholics united with the Pope in our belief in Catholic teaching about the Real Presence in the Eucharist, which of course teaches us that as Catholics we truly believe He is really there under the form of Bread and Wine.**

This problem frequently arises for many when we take part in funerals or weddings or Baptisms involving Christians of other traditions who are not in communion with the Pope, which for Catholics is very important.

This restriction of giving the Blessed Sacrament to Catholics alone at Holy Mass is never to shut others out but is to express how our Faith as Catholics unites us in one belief, and so until the day we are united in Faith we must suffer the pain of disunity. No pain, no gain as the saying goes. It wouldn’t be correct for us to share something so amazing with those who do not believe in what we hold that it truly is.

We must pray that eventually with the Lord’s help we will be enabled to gain the unity we all desire so that when we are able to share in the Holy Communion it will be because we share what Christ taught us through the Church He founded..

Catholics will have or at least should have prepared to receive worthily by going to Confession as Pope Francis has asked. So, if you have been absent from Holy Mass often without good cause or just been careless about taking part or if one’s life has fallen short of the values by which we should live, then we must fast from the Eucharist until we have put that right by sharing in the Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation. That is so beautiful and easy to do when we see it also as a meeting with Our Lord. In the meantime, always feel able to come forward to receive a blessing to strengthen you and to help you put things right so that you may once again receive worthily.

Therefore, if you are not a Catholic and not “in communion” with Pope Francis or for any other reason are not able to receive Holy Communion, then please feel welcome to come, if you wish, to receive the Lord’s blessing from Father Bill OSM to give you help to be close to Our Lord in the way you are able to be.

**Holy Mass is offered from time to time as announced in honour of St Peregrine OSM –**

patron of those suffering from Cancer and there will be the Blessing with the Relic of St Peregrine for oneself or on behalf of those for whom you wish to pray at the end of Holy Mass, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for those who are ill or in fragile health. Feel welcome to arrange a private blessing with the Relic of St Peregrine O.S.M. by just asking Father Bill, OSM]

Would you be able to invite close neighbours into your home for a simple visit in a Pilgrimage of the Blessed Sacrament around the Parish as part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer? Speak to Father Bill, M. O.S.M. with some afternoon / evening dates in mind.

**Thanks to our first Friday of the month group** for preparing sandwiches and soup taking them down to Bath for the Homeless. Just turn up on First Fridays to help in the Apostles’ Room on Friday afternoon at 2.30pm [N.B. new times to suit the sandwich makers] on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb to help with the preparation of the sandwiches and soup.

Thanks to those who have helped over the past but not always been known to do so; they are still welcome to help on behalf of the Parish along with newcomers now helping when they can.

Where? Cattle Market Car Park next to Hilton Hotel on Walcot Street. If you wish to help distribute the food, please go to Waitrose Car Park [the Old Cattle Market] from set up at 6.30pm for 7pm distribution or if not sure where let other helpers know and arrange to go with them from the Parish.

Teams from 15 other Bath communities work around a rota to provide free soup and sandwiches every night of the year – even Christmas Day. Another Christian community is responsible for providing on the last Friday of each month if one occurs.

Clean warm clothing, blankets, sleeping bags or clean duvets surplus to need would be of great help now in the colder weather and are always of use. Superb brand new hats, gloves, scarves and items of clothing were kindly donated for the Homeless by Frances & Raymond Samuel. God bless them.

*Take care of your own character and your own reputation will hopefully take care of itself.*

*Take care of how you use your tongue and you will take care of the reputation of others!*