

2019 What happened to your New Year's resolutions?

Lent started Wednesday and offers a fresh attempt!

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. A bequest to Father Bill M., O.S.M. from the estate of Mrs Carmel Shepherd will help re-gild the last of the chalices needing refurbishment.

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

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!

Thanks for continuing to help when you can.

Remember The Food Bank!: Please leave your food donations in the box in the porch. Everything needs to be in date please:- instant coffee, tea bags, 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.

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 endeavour not to 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 that you are playing your part with that?

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

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?

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

World Day of Prayer that took place on 1st March. Apologies to regular women worshippers here who had not heard of it in time. The organisers regretted that we were not notified directly and they will rectify that in future years.

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Times of Holy Mass & Services FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER 10th MARCH 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.

Times of Daily Holy Mass & Services here at Ss. Peter & Paul this coming week:

Holy Mass Mon 10th Mar @ 9.30am

Holy Mass Tues 11th NO celebration of Holy Mass here this morning.

Holy Mass Wed 12th @ 9.30am.

Holy Mass Thurs 13th Mar @ 9.30am.

Holy Mass Friday 14th March @ 9.30am.

Adoration will follow closing with Benediction at 11am.

Holy Mass Sat 15th Mar @ 9.30am.

NEXT SUNDAY 2nd collection will be for the Family Fast Day – 15 March 2019

Other Services during Lent if you (or a group) wish to make the Stations of the Cross in the church at other times than those announced, Father Bill will always make arrangement for entrance for you. If you can and would like to offer to lay-lead The Stations please let Father Bill OSM know so that it can be announced.

How about making a special Lenten effort of self-discipline by deepening respect for the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the Tabernacle outside the times of Holy Mass which is so very important?

A good Lenten practice would be to come for Adoration on Friday mornings and to support the Rota on First Fridays. It is very rewarding and inspirational on many levels.

Taking part in Lectio Divina is a beautiful practice and a good time to learn how to share in it is during Lent. Enquire more and feel welcome to join existing groups or help stat another at a time that suits you.

*Today is the tomorrow
you worried about yesterday.*

The Sign of Peace: Many families and seniors are once again hit by viral 'Flu and illnesses of that kind some even ending up in Hospital. The Bishop's direction given some time ago to use another way of exchanging the Peace of Christ without hand contact is replaced here with our simple 'Bow' – no need for it to be theatrical / keep it simple - 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? Hurry up and get it. When in Rome do as the rest and so we ask our visitors and lead those less often here to do the same as the rest of us.

Catholic teaching that attendance at Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day is a priority and obligatory as a duty for Catholics: A number of people in the UK and across the UK and Ireland is now following a mentality of Flexi-church attendance which is 'on the rise in the UK' and fewer individuals are making attendance at church a regular habit, new research suggests. Surveys recommend 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.

The best help to us all as a Parish Community is to share spiritually in Holy Mass every Sunday but not just at weekends even daily if and when at all possible to be present at **Adoration**. Sadly, despite much talk about the Liverpool Adoremus Congress last September with meetings here

there has been little follow up in increasing the presence at the various opportunities for Adoration here, though some of our Parishioners turn up faithfully on First Friday and others go to the Adoration Chapel in central Bath. Taking part in Adoration would be a key part of our Prayer in continuing the Diocesan Mission in Prayer and for Vocations to Priesthood and Consecrated Life!

CONFIRMATION: the sessions take place as arranged with Father Bill M., O.S.M. Keep our candidates i8n prayer please.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Please be faithful to the meetings and the arrangement to help the children prepare. Children who made First Holy Communion last year and previous years are encouraged to support the new First Communicants and encourage them. Sadly some of those who made their First Holy Communion in previous years have already disappeared. Let' pray them back into our company and hope the adults of the Parish will give a good example of faithful and regular Sunday observance at Holy Mass.

THE TABERNACLE SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning before The Blessed Sacrament for **BATH CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY.**

The lamp before **The PIETA** is burning for the family of Geraldine King.

If you would like the Sanctuary Lamp to burn night and day before The Blessed Sacrament for yourself, for a loved one or a special intention please contact the sacristan with a written note stating the intention for inclusion in the bulletin AND Father Bill M., O.S.M. will ensure that is done The suggested offering is £5.00.

We offer a reminder - for those who have forgotten them - as to the Corporal works of Mercy. 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.

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 constantly hope to be helped by seeing an increase in Gift Aided Offertory collections by those newcomers to the Parish Community and 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 one could remember the needs of the church in your Will as several deceased Parishioners have thought to do?

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

A Group of Jazz Musicians now meets in the Apostles' Room monthly to practice - . Interested? Feel welcome to know more! If you have a musician in your family invite and encourage them to come along to join in Music making or just enjoy th plying.

Parish Soup Run on Friday 5th April to help with the preparation of the sandwiches and soup : Thanks to our First Friday of the month group for preparing sandwiches and soup taking them down to Bath for the Homeless. If you used to help and would like to join the new team 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]

Thanks to those who have helped over the past but not always been known to be doing so which might have given the impression of it being a one man show. We do everything here as Catholics and in the name of the Parish and on behalf of our Parish Community. We now have a pool of 8 sandwich makers and one or two willing to make the soup, which is much appreciated by the Homeless. Newcomers who come along to help quickly pick up how it is done! Newcomers and veterans are always welcome to help.

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. God bless donors of such items.

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 and too often missed. During this period the meaning of the Sacraments is more deeply explained to those who have newly received them. Have you ever encouraged someone you know to come along?

ANNIVERSARIES and LATELY DEAD

We pray for the repose of the souls of all lately dead including **Father John Foster of the Clifton Diocese whose funeral took place on 7th March, Sargon Jonas (Catrinia Bix's nephew).** Victims of the Storms worldwide, Victims of the atrocity in Kenya, 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 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 **Alice O'Gorman, Alan Shepherd, Patrick Kehoe, Herbert Day, Herbert Smith, John Winter, Martin Price, Peter MacElroy, Herbert Francis, Mary Molloy, Br Joseph Daly, James Sunne, Phylis Pugh, Len Johnston.** 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 sic including Marian Diplock, Jack Bloor, Canon David Ryan, Franek Rosikon, Anne Bardon, Dolores Elliott, Ron & Imelda Fuller, Harry Barron, Bridget Barron, James Barron, Mrs Marion Nash, Mrs Janet Gate, Simon McLoughlin, Ruth Saul, AJ Gate, Dorothea & Eddie Saul, Father Raymond, O.S.M., Mrs Phil Taylor, Mrs Betty Hawkins, Mrs Marion Frawley, Jim & Anne Bardon, MaryAnn Stewart, Michael Tucker, Chris Watson, Maria Walsh, Bernard & Kay Barron, Mrs Ann Griffin, Mrs Ann Perry, Mrs Maggie Keane, Ms Ann Cusack, Charles Carr, Marie & Eugene Farrelly, Florence Boyall, Carmelo DeCesare, Paul DeCesare, 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.

“I never realised how well I was until I gave up thinking how ill I was.” St. Theresa of Avila.

Respect for the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the Tabernacle outside the times of Holy Mass is very important. Genuflection is a time honoured way of showing reverence when we arrive in church and when we depart. Whenever we pass the Blessed Sacrament and especially during Holy Mass after the Consecration one ought to genuflect and teach children to do so. 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, we are trying 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. Pray for Emil and for our recently Confirmed parishioners including Matthew. Do you have any young people at home who are somehow disconnected from us? Can you do anything about that? Example speaks louder than words and growth in Faith will happen through taking part in social things too.

Ask what can U do to S_PPORIT!

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.

*Are you wrinkled with burdens?
Come to church for a Faith lift.*

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!

Thanks for ongoing TIME CONSUMING efforts to provide Music for our celebration of Worship here. The emerging Musicians of all ages are great to see. We know there are young and older singers among us who are able to enrich the celebration of our Sunday Liturgy and we want all who enjoy and can contribute to feel welcome to help have a word with AJ.

Reception of Holy Communion

When we should and when we shouldn't?

In our regular attendance at Sunday Holy Mass we may receive Our Lord frequently when we have prepared well. We should receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist **at least** once during the Easter season. We must only receive Him when we are in a state of Grace and not receive unworthily! If in doubt pop in for Confession and Reconciliation.

Holy Communion is shared by the Catholic Community only 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.

A 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. They are most welcome to receive a Blessing as are we when not in a state of Grace.

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 do9n't feel shut out but feel welcome to come, if you wish, to receive the Lord's blessing from Father Bill OSM in order to give you the help of the Church to be close to Our Lord in the way you are able to be.

PILGRIMAGE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE PARISH.

Would you like and be able to invite close neighbours of your choosing 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 an offer of some afternoon / evening dates in mind so that he might be available to make the visit.

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]

SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is an unremitting threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please help us defeat this increasing attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and use the SPUC card – they are in the porch - to the Prime Minister to help stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

*Take care of your own good name.
Your own reputation will hopefully then take care of itself.*

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

PRAYER FOR PEACE:

Christ, why do you allow wars and massacres on earth? By what mysterious judgment do you allow innocent people to be cruelly slaughtered? I cannot know. I can only find assurance in the promise that your people will find peace in heaven where no one makes war. As gold is purified by fire, so you purify souls by bodily tribulations, making them ready to be received above the stars in your heavenly home.

Alcuin of York (c.AD 735-804)

ROTAS ARE IN THE PORCH.

Thanks to all who have put their names down for **CHURCH CARE:** No shortage of dates so do check on availability.

Flower Rota: No flowers on the altar during Lent but if you would like to book a slot for after Lent the rota is available in the porch – there are places left to fill. It is a good way to get to know other parishioners. Thanks to families taking part in this task along with their children.