THE CLIFTON EVANGELIST

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION - NEWSLETTER

Volume Eleven - 2024

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE

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Called to be a People of Hope

The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation seeks to serve our diocesan community at all levels in living out this invitation, serving the Church's mission to evangelise and to proclaim the Gospel. We are committed to encouraging parishes in all they do to welcome others into the life of their community as well as nurturing the faith and prayer of those who seek to understand their faith in a deeper, richer way.

The Team

Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation

Sarah Adams
Director of Adult Education and Evangelisation

Jason Charewicz
Caritas and Environmental Officer

Rich Williams
Adult Education and Evangelisation Administrator

Welcome to **'The Clifton Evangelist'** our eleventh departmental newsletter. For this venture we would like it to serve the **Diocese of Clifton** community as effectively as possible. Our aim is that it is both a source of information and formation, engaging you, the people of our diocese, in sharing and growing in our capacity to be faith-filled people, serving the wider community and proclaiming the Gospel.
If you're reading a hard copy and would like to read online to make use of the hyperlinks, scan the QR code below.

Follow this link for our department page.
Follow this link for the faith and formation page.
Follow this link for our future events (*linktree*).

Follow us on X

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"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day".
Evangelii Gaudium 3

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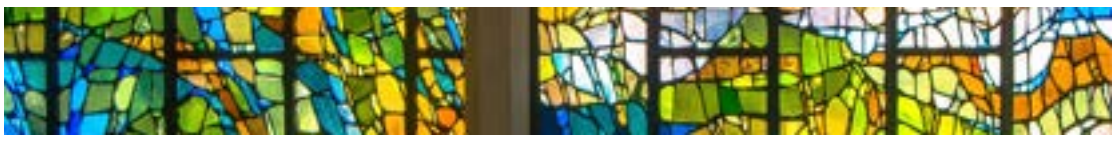

Diocesan Prayer Offerings

The common good is always oriented towards the progress of persons:
"The order of things must be subordinate to the order of persons,
and not the other way around." (GS 26)
This order is founded on truth, built up in justice, and animated by love. (CCC 1912)

Lord, you call us to love others
the way you loved us.
Grant us Wisdom, that we may recognise
your Will and direct our communities,
large and small, according to Your Love.
Grant us Understanding, that we may see
through distractions and discern
Your actions in our communities.
Grant us Counsel, that we may hear Your
Word and work to build the Kingdom of God.
Grant us Fortitude, that as we strive to obey
Your call we may persevere through
all challenges and setbacks.
Grant us Knowledge, that when you call us
to act we may always follow Jesus
on the path of justice.
Grant us Piety, that when we turn
our hearts to You our hearts may grow
in love to be poured out for our neighbour.
Grant us Fear of the Lord, that we may seek
to cleave to You always and avoid
all that could separate us from You.
By these gifts, we humbly ask that your grace
strengthen us to always be doers of Your word,
not merely hearers,
and that we may faithfully play our part
in building up Your Kingdom in our local,
national, and international communities.

Amen

DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION

A FUTURE *full of*
HOPE
MINISTRY *of Catechesis*

GROWING SEEDS OF HOPE

PASSING ON THE FAITH IN OUR PARISHES

A day with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph to explore the practical implications of renewing our approach to sacramental preparation, and to offer formation centred on Christ and his call to us, at the service of our people.

The day will take place on Saturday 13 July at St John the Baptist, Trowbridge, beginning at 10am, refreshments from 9.30am. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will end at 4pm.

Please sign up for the day please email: ***adult.education@cliftondiocese.com***

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Diocesan Day

Diocesan Day - Hope Does Not Disappoint

Join Bishop Bosco and our diocesan family at our next Diocesan Day, Hope Does Not Disappoint. The title of the day comes from Spes Non Confundit, the Papal Bull of Indiction for the Ordinary Jubilee in 2025 . Pope Francis has decreed that the theme will be Pilgrims of Hope, and so on 6 July at St Bernadette's Secondary School in Whitchurch, Bristol, our diocese will gather to be formed for this joyful occasion.

Canon Chris Thomas, the General Secretary for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, will be our main speaker today focusing on Hope. He was ordained a priest in St Barnabas' Cathedral, Nottingham by Bishop Malcolm McMahon OP in 2001 and was appointed an assistant priest at the Cathedral and Catholic Chaplain to Nottingham Trent University. In 2003 he was appointed parish priest of Corpus Christi, Clifton, Nottingham and in addition transferred to be Chaplain to the University of Nottingham where he remained until 2011. In 2011, he was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Finance and Administration and Moderator of the Curia by Bishop McMahon, and in September 2011, he took on ad interim additional responsibilities as Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Education with a particular focus on the programme of academy conversion in the Diocese. He was a Trustee of the Diocese, Trustee of the Diocesan Education Service and a member of the national conference of Financial Secretaries.On 9 May 2014, he was appointed General Secretary to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in succession to Monsignor Marcus Stock, who was subsequently appointed as Bishop of Leeds. He took up his full responsibilities in November 2014.

Phil McCarthy, a member of our own diocesan family, will also be speaking on pilgrimage. He is a retired GP and former CEO of Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN), and returned to the NHS to help with the Covid Vaccination programme. Now he runs the website https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/ and seeks to revitalise the ancient tradition of walking pilgrimages in Britain. He has developed walking pilgrimages in most of the dioceses of England and Wales, including our own from Clifton Cathedral to Glastonbury.

The day will include an opportunity to plan for the Jubilee in our Pastoral Area groups. We warmly invite you to join us on the day. The day will start at 9.30am with refreshments and will include Mass as a central part of our day. Please bring a packed lunch. We will finish by 4pm. Everyone is welcome but places are limited, so please book early!

To register for the day please click the Eventbrite link: https://cliftondiocesanday.eventbrite.co.uk

A FUTURE *full of*

HOPE

DIOCESAN DAY

DIOCESAN DAY

JUBILEE - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

This year's Diocesan Day will take place on ***Saturday 6 July*** *at* ***St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol****. The focus of our day will be on* ***Hope*** *– especially in relation to the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'.*

All are invited to join Bishop Bosco as we explore the theme of Hope together.

The day will start at 9.30am with refreshments and will include Mass as a central part of our day. Please bring a packed lunch. We will finish by 4pm.

Everyone is welcome but places are limited, so please book early!

To register for the day please click the Eventbrite link on the diocesan website.

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Journey In Faith: the path of adventure

There is a lovely Scots word *stravaig*, which means to wander without purpose. The natural history writer Robert Macfarlane calls such a wanderer a "Meanderthal" and claims to be one. I neither stravaig, nor am I a Meanderthal. I need to have a purpose and a destination when I walk. I want to walk **to** somewhere, **for** something. More often than not, I go in search of very old trees.

A walk should be an adventure and what makes it an adventure is the element of discovery. Journeys are about discovery. You do not have adventures until you feel the thrill, the wonder of seeing something new or spectacular, something that stands out in your memory, something you talk about and recall with friends. There is always the risk that what you seek will not be where you expected it to be, but there is also always the chance that you will come upon an unexpected delight. These purposeful walks combine the art of the hunter with the hopeful expectation of the naturalist: I have a set purpose but am also open to a joyful serendipitous encounter that will divert me from my mission, leading to revelation and inspiration.

Revelation is one of the great things about hunting for ancient trees. I know that I will meet a remarkable tree; that I will measure it, photograph it and know it. I also know that these trees hold many secrets. They have holes where bats live, mammals burrow around the roots and fungi gradually hollow their centres. Any meeting with an ancient tree holds the promise of a meeting with a whole community living within and around it.

I have always found that the natural world thrills me deeply; touches me profoundly. Natural discoveries can be small, happenstance encounters. Last week I watched a raven performing a display flight over the chalk hills near my home. I heard it's deep croak "prruuk", and looked up to see it flip over upside down, then roll back again. It dipped and rose again, effortlessly surfing the great green wave of the downland escarpment. Encounters can be more purposeful, more deliberate: in the autumn I was in Africa where I looked into the deep amber eyes of a leopard and she stared back, right through me.

Journey in Faith

One of my first meetings with an ancient tree was when I was about seven years old. It was a great old beech the lower limbs of which were so wide and heavy that they drooped down to rest on the ground. It was truly venerable, hundreds of years old. All that was left was a massive, hollow, ivy-clad bole a few metres high from which two of the kneeling limbs still grew. I could climb up one branch, cross over to the other by clinging to the ivy on the trunk, then clamber back down to the ground only to run back around and do it again. Traversing the hollowed trunk, using the plates of fungi that extruded from the wood as a staircase, held the risk of an encounter with the barn owl that sheltered within. Roots had sprouted from inside the trunk, writhing down through the rotting carcass of the old tree: the growing branches were feeding on the decaying remains of the original tree, extracting and recycling nutrients that it had first acquired in the previous century.

Such encounters open windows on the natural world, brief glimpses into lives and ways of living that are completely alien to humans. This is what makes purposeful walking so important to me. It is a mode of travel that enables a journey to take place, that promises the possibility of adventure. When I walk I am part of the world, I am within the landscape.

So far, so Wind in the Willows, but what is this talk of trees and wandering lonely as a cloud type stuff doing in the Clifton Evangelist? If you journeyed with me this far, then thank you and you will have noticed some familiar words. First of all 'journey': we talk of our 'journey in faith', it is the title of the catechetical programme that welcomes adults into the church. 'Encounter': Pope Francis talks of 'encountering' one another. It is not enough to meet someone, in a true encounter with another person we meet Christ in him or her. 'Revelation': it is by 'revelation' that we know God. 'Community': we do not journey alone, we travel together as a church, a pilgrim people. Instead of 'risk' I might have used 'suffering'. There is always the risk of disappointment, misdirection or accident and in this we will suffer. I have told a story of a tree that was reborn, that was in fact immortal for where the great limbs touched the ground you will now find fine beech trees growing. Different trees but genetically identical to that veteran beech that I clambered over in the hot summers of the 1970s. The ends of the branches took root and that tree never died.

Our journey in faith is indeed a great adventure, a pathway of discovery. As Christians, we follow the Way in search of an encounter with Jesus Christ. We do this by the light of revelation and we do not journey alone. We are not Meanderthals, going for a spiritual stravaig through our lives aimless and alone. We walk with purpose, hand in hand, arm in arm, heart in heart with one another and also with the one with whom we seek that encounter; we travel "through him, with him, and in him".

David

Caritas – General Election

General Election

It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfil their roles in the life of the political community.
Catechism of the Catholic Church 2239

How often do we think of "politics" and "charity" as inextricably linked? That is the vision that the Catholic Church calls us to. The desire for truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom moves us to build up the Kingdom of God in our world. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the service of the common good requires citizens to fulfil their roles. What, exactly, is our role in our political community?

Living in a democracy, all citizens of legal voting age have right to cast their vote to decide the shape of the next government and help to determine its priorities. That right brings a responsibility not only to cast the vote, but also to inform ourselves about the candidates, policies, and circumstances so that we might best use our right for the common good. The Church, through Catholic Social Teaching, provides us with the formation to consider the important and complicated questions the General Election on 4 July. There are plenty of resources out there to help us apply the teachings of the Church as we discern the best path to realising the common good in our communities.

We all have an opportunity to put our faith into action right now, even if we have not yet decided how we will vote. As Catholics, we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves. Asking questions – "What do you think about this policy?", for example – and discussing our common life with our neighbours inside and outside the parish gives each one of us an opportunity to model and to live the charity-infused politics we hope to see reflected in the next government.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have resources on seven issues likely to be of interest to Catholic voters – Criminal Justice, Domestic Poverty, Family Life and Taxation, Education, Environment, International Relations, Human Rights and Peacebuilding, Life Issues, and Migration. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/

Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN) has produced a pre-manifesto analysis which gives a quick snapshot of the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Reform UK, Green Party, and Plaid Cymru. The document also links to a host of resources to support Catholics as they seek to learn more and get involved in the General Election. https://www.csan.org.uk/guidance/pre-manifesto-analysis-from-csan/

Caritas – Refugee Week

Refugee Week

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2241

God has commanded His people to care for the stranger all the way back to the Mosaic Law (*"You shall not oppress a stranger; you know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."* Exodus 23:9) How, though, are we to do this today?

17-23 June is Refugee Week and provides an opportunity for us to welcome the foreigner in our midst. The theme this year is "Our Home," inviting everyone to reflect and celebrate the rich variety of foods, cultures, and experiences that home means to each of us. There are a variety of resources for people to get involved in this weeklong celebration, ranging from simple acts anyone can do to films to help better understand the experiences of refugees: https://refugeeweek.org.uk/

This Refugee Week takes place in the heart of the 2024 General Election Campaign. This makes it an opportune time to look to Catholic Teaching on this subject. In 2023, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales produced a document, "Love the Stranger," to help form Catholics in the teaching of the Church so that we might transform the world we live in according to the love of Christ. Reading, contemplating, and discussing this document is a way both to participate in Refugee Week and to prepare for the General Election on 4 July. Our own Bishop Emeritus Declan Lang wrote the forward for the document with Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/

To enable schools and young people to participate in Refugee Week, Caritas Brentwood, with support from Clifton Diocese and the St Vincent DePaul Society, produced resources to introduce primary and secondary students to the principles of "Love the Stranger." These resources can be used to support any young people – in schools, confirmation classes, youth groups, families – to engage in the Church's care for refugees and all strangers. https://www.csan.org.uk/news/love-the-stranger-school-resources-launched/

As Catholics, we are called always to pray for our neighbours. In your prayers today, remember those who have fled their homes and are trying to find a new one, remember those who work to support refugees, and remember those in the government and civil service who are tasked with promoting the common good.

Jason

Glastonbury Pilgrimage

The Spiritual Journey: Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury

Embarking on a pilgrimage holds great significance in various religious traditions, providing individuals with a unique opportunity for spiritual reflection, renewal, and connection with the divine. Within the Catholic faith, pilgrimages are especially important, drawing believers to sacred sites rich in historical, cultural, and religious significance. One notable destination is the Shrine of Our Lady in Glastonbury. Let's explore why individuals choose to embark on a pilgrimage to this Shrine, examining the spiritual, historical, and cultural dimensions that make it a focal point of devotion for Catholics worldwide.

Glastonbury is a place steeped in history, mysticism, and spirituality, and has been a destination for pilgrims from all over the world for centuries. It is often linked to the legendary tales of King Arthur and the Holy Grail and holds a special significance in the Christian spiritual landscape. Located in Somerset, Glastonbury is home to the oldest Shrine to the Blessed Virgin in England and possibly even north of the Alps. According to tradition, it is believed that Christianity was brought to Glastonbury by St. Joseph of Arimathea in the first century, who is said to have built a wattle church dedicated to Our Lady upon his arrival. The original church, known as the "Old Church," was described in a charter from around 694AD as the "foremost Church in Britain, the fount and source of all religion".

Tragedy struck on 25th May 1184 when the old wooden church was destroyed by fire. Despite the devastation, a wooden painted statue of the Virgin and Child survived the flames. The face of the Virgin's sculpture was blistered by the heat, but the rest of the statue remained unscathed. Undeterred, the faithful built a new stone church on the same sacred ground, which was considered the holiest part of the abbey. This church, consecrated in 1186, had the same dimensions as its predecessor and was once again dedicated to Our Lady. The ancient Shrine, along with its revered statue, was reinstated. Subsequently, during the Middle Ages, the Glastonbury Shrine flourished as a prominent pilgrimage destination, drawing devotees from distant lands.

However, the reign of King Henry VIII marked a turning point for the Shrine. Driven by his desire for power and wealth, he severed England's ties with the Holy Church. Glastonbury soon fell under his scrutiny. In 1539, Henry's commissioners arrived at Glastonbury, stripping the Abbey and Shrine of their treasures. The last Abbot, Richard Whiting, along with two of his monks, John Thorne, Treasurer, and Roger James, Sacristan, were executed on the Tor on 15th November 1539, following a trial at Wells on the previous day. All three were beatified by Pope Leo XIII on 13th May 1895. For nearly 400 years, the memory of the ancient Our Lady of Glastonbury seemed lost.

In 1925, a small church was built, and in 1939, the foundations for a new church were laid. This new church, situated across the road from

Glastonbury Pilgrimage

the ruined Abbey, would become the successor to the ancient Shrine. In 1955, a statue bearing the ancient title "Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury" was blessed, marking the revival of devotion to Our Lady in this sacred place. Today, the Shrine Church of Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury remains the heart of a thriving Catholic community.

The veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an ancient Catholic practice. She holds a special place as the Mother of God and is seen as a source of intercession and grace. The Shrine of Our Lady in Glastonbury is an important place for Marian devotion, providing pilgrims with a sacred space to honour and seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother. Pilgrims are drawn to the Shrine to deepen their relationship with Mary, seeking solace, guidance, and spiritual nourishment in her maternal embrace.

Pilgrimage is a longstanding tradition within Catholicism, recognized as a transformative journey of faith, prayer, and self-discovery. The pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady in Glastonbury offers pilgrims an opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth, allowing them to step away from the distractions of daily life and immerse themselves in prayer and contemplation.

The tranquil surroundings of Glastonbury, combined with the sacred atmosphere of the Shrine, create an environment conducive to deepening one's spiritual connection and fostering a sense of inner peace and renewal. Pilgrimage is not just an individual endeavour but often a communal experience, fostering a sense of solidarity and fellowship among believers. Pilgrims traveling to the Shrine of Our Lady in Glastonbury often do so as part of a group or community, sharing in the joys and challenges of the journey. The shared experience of pilgrimage strengthens bonds of faith and friendship, as pilgrims support and encourage one another along the spiritual path.

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine is a significant event for the Catholic community. It is a time for the faithful to come together to honour Mary, take part in Mass, and engage in prayerful reflection. This year's pilgrimage will be held on Sunday, 14th July. The theme for this year, "Mary, Woman of Prayer", encourages pilgrims to reflect on the role of prayer in their lives and to consider Mary's unwavering devotion and communication with God as an example.

The day is structured to allow for both communal and personal acts of worship. After the recitation of the Rosary at 11:30am, the Shrine Church will be transformed into a chapel for Exposition and Silent Adoration, providing a serene environment for personal devotion. The sacrament of Reconciliation

Glastonbury Pilgrimage

will be available, offering pilgrims the opportunity for spiritual renewal. Additionally, there will be Private Healing Prayer in a tented chapel located within the Abbey grounds, opposite the Shrine Church, providing a space for individual healing and reflection to complement the communal activities of the day. The Rosary procession, a moving and unifying act of prayer, will commence at 2:15pm in the Abbey grounds, followed by the Pilgrimage Mass at 3:30pm, also held within the Abbey grounds, reminding pilgrims that they are part of a larger body of believers on a shared spiritual journey.

The pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury is more than a physical journey; it is a passage of the heart and soul towards greater understanding and closeness to God. It is a tradition that honours the past, celebrates the present, and looks forward to the future with hope and faith.

As the preparations for this year's pilgrimage continue, the Parish of Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury extends a warm invitation to all who wish to join in this time-honoured tradition. It is a journey that promises spiritual enrichment, communal fellowship, and the chance to walk in the footsteps of countless pilgrims who have sought the blessings of Our Lady of Glastonbury throughout the ages.

For more information on the pilgrimage and how to participate, you can visit the Shrine's website: https://www.glastonburyshrine.co.uk/.

Graham

COMMUNION PARTICIPATION MISSION

Walking Together in Service of the Church

Praying, meeting, working, discerning and taking decisions together

PASTORAL MINISTRY FORMATION

From the outset of Vatican II, the Council envisaged the Church as the whole 'People of God' worshipping and working together to evangelise the world, each person with his or her own role to play. All the baptised together, priests and people, form the People of God. Lumen Gentium states that "the apostolate of the laity is sharing in the Church's saving mission" and "Through Baptism and Confirmation all are appointed to this apostolate by the Lord himself." LG 33

Sixty years on from Vatican II, the current Synodal process has shown us that there is a desire by the laity to be more involved and the need for solid formation to give people the confidence to respond.

Clifton Diocese offers two in-depth courses in support of this need.

CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS

(DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH)

THE CLIFTON MINISTRY SKILLS PROGRAMME

Neither course requires any specific qualification but rather a disposition to serve others, to develop the art of listening and spiritual accompaniment and a commitment to mission and ministry within the Church. Both courses take place part-time over two years and include on-going support and guidance from a committed team.

If you would like to know more about these courses, then please do come to one of our information evenings.

A FUTURE *full of*

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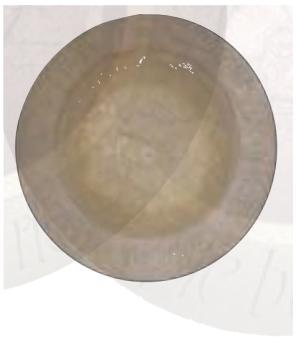

Pastoral Ministry Formation Courses - information sessions around the diocese:

Thurs 6 June:
St Joseph, Portishead

Tue 11 June:
St John, Bath

Thurs 13 June:
St Gregory, Salisbury

Tue 18 June:
English Martyrs, Tuffley

Thurs 27 June:
St Catharine, Frome

Tue 9 July:
St George, Taunton

Thurs 11 July:
Emmaus House, Bristol

Tue 16 July:
St Peter, Cirencester

Thurs 18 July: Our Lady, Weston-Super-Mare

Each session starts at 7pm.

No need to book, just turn up on the evening.

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Bishop's Ordination

The Ordination of Bishop Bosco MacDonald

On 8 May 2024, Bishop Bosco MacDonald was ordained as the 10th Bishop of Clifton. Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and Metropolitan Principal was the Consecrating Bishop, with Bishop Declan Lang and Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia, as Co-consecrating Bishops. Joined by bishops from around England and Wales, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, and a thousand representatives of Clifton Diocese, Bishop Bosco was consecrated and took possession of Clifton Diocese.

During a beautiful, solemn, and joyful liturgy, Clifton Diocese welcomed its new bishop, and the celebration poured out from the liturgy as people gathered at the reception afterwards. People from different parishes and different pastoral areas were able to meet, perhaps for the first time in a long time, while others may have met for the very first time. All carried something of the celebration outside the walls of the Cathedral, for any who passed by to catch a glimpse of the life of our diocese.

Bishop Bosco chose as his episcopal motto "Nolite Timere" – Do Not Be Afraid! Jesus is constantly calling His disciples not to fear, and instead to trust in Him and to follow Him. One thing we can all do to respond to our new bishop's guidance is to take his motto to heart, and ask ourselves, **"Where have I allowed my fears to stop me from hearing and obeying the Lord's call?"** We are never alone when we ask that question. Jesus is always calling us to turn to Him, and we have our sisters and brothers in Christ to accompany us as we strive to live our baptismal calling. Bishop Bosco's ordination was one vivid reminder that we are called to real Christian joy. Please keep Bishop Bosco in your prayers as he shepherds Clifton Diocese.

Bishop's Ordination

Letter From Pope Francis

Francis, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, sends greetings and a Blessing to his dear son Bosco MacDonald of the clergy of Clifton diocese and hitherto appointed to the Bishop of Clifton as dean and administrator of the Cathedral church of Saints Peter and Paul in the city of Bristol.

Blessed indeed was that Apostle who, proclaiming true witness to Christ the son of the living God, received at that moment his heavenly reward (cf Mt 16, 16-17). As We reflect today, stepping ahead joyfully, on so great a fatherly revelation, which is a support and consolation in Our task of guiding the universal Church, We now intend with fatherly concern to secure the welfare of the Clifton ecclesial community which, deprived at present following the resignation of Our Venerable brother Declan Ronan Lang, awaits its Pastor.

We therefore consider that it is appropriate for Us to approach you, dear son, who, devoted as you are to pastoral activities, have displayed many human and christian gifts, by reason of which you seem to Us suited to this ministry. Accordingly, guided by the counsel of the Dicastery for Bishops and by the fullness of Our Apostolic authority, We willingly appoint you Bishop of Clifton, granting you the due rights and matching obligations associated with this ministry.

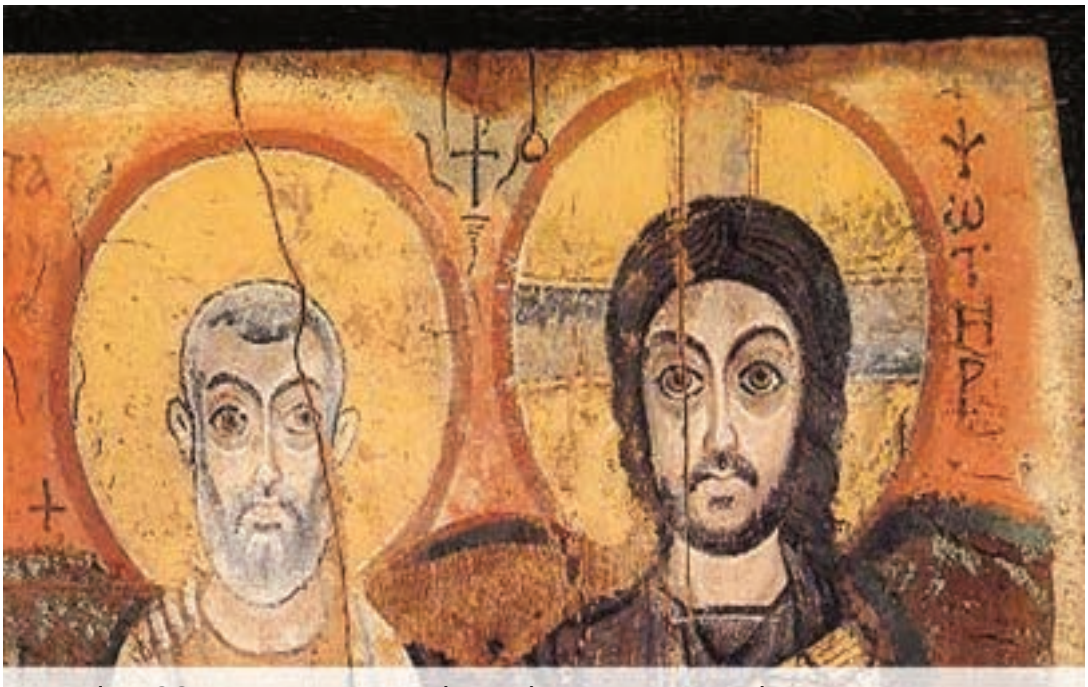
You may commit yourself to episcopal Ordination outside the City of Rome, maintaining liturgical norms, by a catholic Bishop of your choice. Before your episcopal Ordination, nevertheless, it will be for you to make a profession of faith and swear a declaration of loyalty to Us and Our Successors in accordance with the rules of ecclesiastical law. It is Our will that you should inform the clergy and people of your diocese of this Our decree. We urge them with all our heart to cherish the diocese and accept you as custodian and guide.

Dear son, may the Lord provide you with the strength to serve permanently God's holy people, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the apostles Peter and Paul, in faith and hope and in fervent charity to nourish that people fully. Given at the Lateran, Rome, on the fourteenth day of March, in the two thousand and twenty-fourth year of our Lord, the twelfth year of Our Pontificate.

Pope Francis

Bishop's Ordination

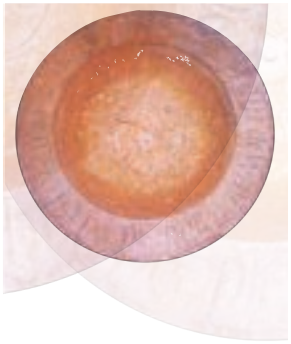
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SOUTH PARADE, BATH, B2 4AF



Tuesday 23 January:	Lord teach us to pray – how we pray Fr Tom Dubois
Tuesday 20 February:	The prayer of Jesus Sr Maria - Brownshill Monastery
Tuesday 30 April:	The prayer of the Desert Fathers & Mothers Fr John Udris
Tuesday 28 May:	The prayer of St Benedict Sr Walburga - Minster Abbey
Tuesday 25 June:	The prayer of St Dominic Sr Hyacinthe & the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph
Tuesday 23 July:	Windows on the Divine – praying with icons Tamara Penwell
Tuesday 24 September:	The prayer of St Francis & St Clare Friar Maximilian Martin OFM Conv
Tuesday 29 October:	The prayer of Carmel Fr Michael McAndrew
Tuesday 26 November:	The prayer of St Ignatius TBC

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

A FUTURE *full of*
HOPE



'For me, prayer
is a surge of the heart;
it is a simple look
turned toward heaven,
it is a cry of recognition
and of love,
embracing both trial
and joy.'
St Therese of Lisieux

Lord, teach us to Pray

Pope Francis has given us The Year of Prayer 2024 in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025. This series draws us into the school of prayer so that we might draw near to the Lord who calls us to draw near to him.

Each session will take place in the Church and begin at 7.00pm. All are most welcome.

DEVS CARITAS EST

CLIFTON DIOCESE
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The Power of Adoration

Come, Let Us Adore Him – The Power of Adoration

"If souls understood the treasure they possess in the Divine Eucharist, the churches would overflow with adorers no less by night than by day" Blessed Dina Belanger

In 1944, the Dominican Sisters founded Loreto Mission, the first mission in Zimbabwe to be founded by a women's religious order. This mission played a pivotal role in my social and pastoral development, and especially in my spiritual formation, even though I only realised it much later.

During my student years it was a 5.30am wake up followed by the Angelus at 6am, midday, and 6pm with class lessons in between the prayers. Daily mass was mandatory. Our Boarding Mistress would go round checking all rooms and dormitories. Occasionally, hiding in the wardrobe helped you to avoid Mass but often led to more problems. Sneaking back into the group after Mass was very tricky. We had adoration and benediction once a week on Friday evenings, rosary processions on Saturday afternoon, and High Mass on Sundays with the villagers.

During adoration we were taught to be quiet and pray silently. There were some readings and singing in between, but I could never concentrate and preferred to joke with my classmates to defy the silence. The nuns overemphasised the holiness and the closeness to our Creator in silence. We often revolted in different ways.

Little did I know a seed had been planted despite my resistance. That seed gradually but surely made adoration my fortress in times of sorrows, agony, stress and physical or emotional pain. Adoration has become a spring of healing water for me.

My next encounter with adoration was after I got married, while living in Harare, the capital city of Zimbabwe. On Maundy Thursday our parish had adoration of the reserved Sacrament till 6 am on Good Friday. Most young married women found it easier to spend the hours at the church, as husbands hardly came home early from clubbing during the Triduum. Most clubs were not suitable for married couples. During this period, I still did not understand adoration. The aim was to while away the time and avoid shouting at my husband for coming home late. I therefore resorted to reading prayer books to strengthen my newly found devotion.

I struggled when I lost my first husband in a car accident. This left me to raise our young children alone. I now had to go back to work. I would attend daily Mass during my lunch breaks. When Masses clashed with business luncheons, I would go to the Adoration House near Emerald Hill where retired nuns live. There I discovered the beauty of perpetual adoration for the first time. I found myself in awe of the peace and tranquillity, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me. The Adoration House became my retreat and pool where after full immersion I came out ready to face the next challenge.

The Power of Adoration

As economic conditions in Zimbabwe grew more challenging, I moved to the United Kingdom to work as a nurse or midwife. At this time, I began struggling with adoration again and felt restless. Every 10 to 15 minutes, I would check the time believing an hour to have passed. During this difficult time, only adoration sustained me, even when I could not feel it in the moment. I managed to see my children through their studies. When I look back at what each one of them has achieved, I am grateful to hours spent in adoration and those I continue to offer joyfully.

It wasn't until 2014 when I joined others from St John the Evangelist on pilgrimage to Spain, and in subsequent sessions that adoration became restful and joyful again. 'Ten Suggestions to Help You Live Adoration' and a little booklet 'Miracle Hour' by Linda Schubert were also a great help. After my midnight to 6am adoration slots I would sometimes reluctantly leave the chapel. It is beautiful kneeling or sitting there, loving and being loved by the Lord with earphones to listen to music, or following "1000 Thank You Jesus" or "1000 I Praise You" videos from YouTube using my rosary and praying for each of the people or things I thank the Lord for.

I never dreamt I would remarry. I am ever indebted to the devout family I remarried into. Today I give thanks to Fr Michael Fountaine for encouraging more hours of adoration and to my brother-in-law Andrew, who at 90 years accompanies me in 5 to 6 hours of continuous adoration. I also give thanks to a small team of dedicated adorers from St Mary's and St Patrick's for enabling the church to be kept open and to provide an opportunity for those with variable work patterns to come and adore the Blessed Sacrament.

Mother Teresa said, "Adoration of the blessed sacrament is the best time you well spend on Earth." I encourage anyone to spend even half an hour per week in adoration, just to look at Him and let the Lord love you. I cannot begin to explain the visions and or His visitation during adoration, which often leave me with untold happiness and transformation, but I would like to share one example to encourage you.

Around three years ago I was blamed and publicly humiliated for something I did not do. I remained speechless and felt wounded and heartbroken for a long time. Later, while in adoration in the chapel as I was agonizing, the Blessed Sacrament looked bigger than the moon, with shining rays all around. I felt the physical presence of the Lord. I lifted the basket of other people's petitions and asked if he could please answer them. My own pain and brokenness had been wiped away completely.

Auxilia

A Deacon's Work

A chat with Deacon Bogdan Wasylkiw

Bogdan Wasylkiw trained as a deacon in Clifton Diocese for four years and was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Bishop Declan in 2013. He worked in architectural practices during his career, but he has more recently worked as a chaplain within two of our local prisons. He serves the parishes of Stonehouse and Woodchester, and supports the catholic community around Stroud with the other local deacons. He is married to Rosalind, and they have an adult family.

You've been a deacon for just over ten years and completed four years of formation training before that – you must have seen many things as a deacon, what have you enjoyed most, what is most fulfilling?

'My life has a different purpose now. It's on a different level than before, great though that was. Ordination changes you, gives you graces and enhances your skills. Before I did my best for myself and my family. Now I've found myself increasingly called to look out for other people, and it's great. My life has changed, and we've changed in ways that I couldn't imagine before.'

What does being a deacon involve?

'There are different flavours for different deacons – we do what we can, where we can in our parishes and communities. Some do more and some do less as their time allows. Some have particular callings and some work more generally in the parish. First and foremost, I'm a man called to pray, and it underpins everything I do, but I also spend a lot of the week preparing for the weekend which is when I meet people from all walks of life. I'm there to support people where they are and with whatever they need. It's a great privilege to be able to baptise, to witness marriages, and to conduct funerals. I get to see people at all different stages of their life and as their needs change. It's a real privilege.

Our priests are incredibly hard working, but there are fewer of them. Often I find I'm the first port of call for some parishioners who want to know what happens next in a particular situation. I work closely with my parish priest, of course. We both have different roles – he celebrates the consecration, he anoints people in the sacrament of the sick, and absolves people in confession for example, and I don't do that because those things are absolutely reserved to the priest. Although there is much we do in common, beyond being a man of prayer, my role is to break open the Word of God after I've proclaimed the Gospel, to explain what the Gospel means for us today. I also have a ministry at the altar which is where people will often see me, dressed in my alb and dalmatic, but that's only about 10% of my real role. The third part of being a deacon is to be a man of charity and that takes many forms – it could be in prison ministry like me, or reaching out to those on the street, or leading support activities for our youth or the homeless. We sort of leap in wherever there's a need, and wherever my skills and gifts from God take me. I love the difference and variety among my brother deacons.

A Deacon's Work

It sounds like a lot of hard but fulfilling work, with a four-year programme before you are ordained ! Do you enjoy it?

I do enjoy it. I have a different circle of friends, different people I work with and different people that I meet and work with, from all different walks of life. My role is to listen and serve, and you've got to ready for ordination to change you – I'm not the man I was, and to be honest the programme prepared me well but not for everything. It cannot prepare precisely what to say to someone when the situation is completely new. The Holy Spirit changes you, gives you the words, and you learn as you go. My life does balance itself, but you have to learn to say no, and to let everyone live their ministry too. This isn't about how much can I do. Our prime vocation is our marriage, and you have to work at it, to keep refining the balance and keep talking. My spiritual director said recently think of your relationship with your wife as a precious thread connecting you both. You've got to stay connected.

Do you want to learn more about being a Deacon in Clifton Diocese?

Are you called to be a Deacon in our Diocese?

We have just over 60 deacons across Clifton from all walks of life and experience. Each year we admit enquirers to our short discerners programme to explore whether you have a potential vocation to the permanent diaconate for our diocese. We offer a series of four Saturday sessions which begin each autumn to guide you through the enquirers process.
We explore together what is vocation, how do we discern, our lives of prayer and service and explore in depth what it is to be a deacon. The aim of the programme is to equip you to know whether you wish to formally apply, ultimately to the bishop, for the full four-year diaconal programme, but above all the enquirers programme is about learning to listen to the Lord's call.

Deacons are generally married with families; we routinely work in the world and have a passion to serve in our parishes and the wider pastoral areas.
We train during the academic year at least one weekend a month, and there is spiritual, pastoral, academic and human formation involved over the four years, so you are equipped to serve the Lord.
If you'd like to know more about the enquirers programme, the diaconal formation programme or just have a chat about the potential of a vocation to become a deacon, please email diaconal.formation@cliftondiocese.com and we'll be in touch. If you want to be considered for this year, we need to hear from you no later than 28th June.

Are *you* called to be a Deacon?

A FUTURE *full of*
HOPE
DIACONAL *vocations*

Are you a man of prayer with a heart to serve the community? Have you ever thought you might have a vocation to be a deacon – it's time to explore whether God might be calling you.

The Lord calls men from all walks of life to serve the Church through the diaconate. We work in parishes and deaneries, in charities, hospitals, schools and prisons. We work in all sorts of jobs day to day; we balance our lives between family, work and church. Might you be called to use your faith and experience to serve? If you are open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and willing to explore a call to service as a deacon, please speak to your parish priest or a local deacon to begin a conversation. After that if you want to go further, please contact Deacon Steve Boughton from the Diocesan Vocations Team diaconal.formation@cliftondiocese.com for an initial discussion to learn more.

"Follow me"

God knows me and calls me by my name.…
God has created me to do Him some definite service;
He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.
(St John Henry Newman)

cliftondiocese.com/vocations/

CLIFTON DIOCESE
cliftondiocese.com

What We've Been Up To

What we've been up to...

Invited
We began our new formation course at The Immaculate Conception, Stroud. The programme is nearly halfway finished, but anyone is welcome to join the remaining sessions. Find more information and the dates here https://cliftondiocese.com/news/invited-a-formation-course-in-stroud/

Synod Gathering and Response Document
In March 2024, a group of representatives from around our diocese gathered to pray together and respond to the Synthesis for the first round of the Synod in Rome in October 2023. You can read Clifton's report submitted to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, as well as the report that the Bishops' Conference sent to Rome, here https://cliftondiocese.com/synod/

Bishop Bosco's Ordination
On 8 May Bishop Bosco MacDonald was ordained tenth Bishop of Clifton, succeeding Bishop Emeritus Declan Lang. Clifton Cathedral was packed with people from around our diocese, joining bishops from around England and Wales as well as the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, to celebrate this ordination. You can find photos from the day, as well as the text from Pope Francis's letter naming Bishop Bosco as the next bishop of Clifton, here https://cliftondiocese.com/news/new-bishop-ordained-at-clifton-cathedral/

Living the Common Good
18 May, Jenny Sinclair from Together for the Common Good (T4CG) guided our diocese to reflect on the common good, and how we might discern where and how we are called to serve. The two talks can be viewed on this link: https://cliftondiocese.com/news/jenny-sinclair-from-together-for-the-common-good-videos/ and you can find more resources from T4CG here: https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/

Marriage and Family Life Mass
Bishop Bosco invited all families to join him for Mass on Saturday 25 May at the cathedral to celebrate the joys of family life. He also invited over eighty married couples celebrating special anniversaries and those engaged to be married from across the diocese to this celebration of Marriage and Family Life. The Mass celebrated all those who came together to mark a combined total of 3,255 years of marriage! You can view some of the photographs here https://cliftondiocese.com/news/celebration-of-marriage-and-family-life/

Catholic Social Teaching Glastonbury
31 May the Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation led a formation evening at Our Lady of Glastonbury for the Blessed Richard Whiting pastoral area. The evening provided an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, as well as focusing in on the principle of dignity.

Dates for the Diary

Pastoral Ministry Formation Days (multiple dates and locations): We are now actively seeking to recruit for the next Pastoral Ministry Formation course which begins in the Autumn this year. The course is ideal for ANY parishioner who seeks to develop their capacity to serve the parish in anyway which they believe the Lord is calling them. You can find more information, and the location of the next meetings, on our website at https://cliftondiocese.com/news/next-pastoral-ministry-formation-course-autumn-2024/

Lord Teach us to Pray: Pope Francis has given us The Year of Prayer 2024 in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025. This series at St John the Evangelist, South Parade, Bath, draws us into the school of prayer so that we might draw near to the Lord who calls us to draw near to him. The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph will be speaking about the prayer of St Dominic on 25 June. You can see the upcoming events on our website her at https://cliftondiocese.com/news/lord-teach-us-to-pray/

Diocesan Day: This year's Diocesan Day will take place on Saturday 6 July at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol. The focus of our day will be on Hope – especially in relation to the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'. All are invited to join Bishop Bosco as we explore the theme of Hope together. We will look at where our hope lies, as well as our experiences of pilgrimage and where we might journey as a Diocese in 2025. The day will start at 9.30am with refreshments and will include Mass as a central part of our day. Please bring a packed lunch. We will finish by 4pm. Everyone is welcome but places are limited, so please book early! To register for the day please click the Eventbrite link: https://cliftondiocesanday.eventbrite.co.uk

Growing Seeds of Hope: The Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph will be returning once more to lead us in our exploration of how we form people in the Faith. Their knowledge and practical experience will help to guide and inspire us in our ministry as catechists. We hope it will also enable and inspire anyone who may not yet be a catechist but who cares about the formation of children, young people, and adults, not only for sacramental preparation but in all the in-between stages. Do join us if you can on Saturday 13 July at St. John the Baptist parish centre, Trowbridge. Refreshments from 9.30am. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will end at 4pm. Registration is essential for this event, please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing adult.education@cliftondiocese.com

Glastonbury Pilgrimage: The Annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday 14 July 2024. This year's pilgrimage will be centred around the theme of 'Mary, Woman of Prayer'. From 12 noon until 3:00 pm, the Shrine Church will transform into a chapel of Exposition and Silent Adoration, offering a peaceful and contemplative environment just opposite the Abbey grounds. During this time, visiting priests will provide the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Shrine Church. In addition, from 12 noon until 3:00 pm, Private Healing Prayer will be offered in a single tented chapel located just inside the Abbey gates, opposite the Shrine Church. At 2:15 pm, the Rosary procession will commence in the Abbey grounds, followed by the Pilgrimage Mass at 3:30 pm, also held in the Abbey grounds. For more details, please click on the link here: https://www.glastonburyshrine.co.uk/pilgrimage