



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

We welcome visitors, family and friends to our Mass today.
We are glad you are joining us today.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER- YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI- CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT As human beings, we are built for relationships and connections. We know that we are a social people, and yet there are those among us who are trying to convince us that we should hate each other or be afraid of each other. The image offered this weekend, allows us to imagine and dream about the world as if it were intact and as God wishes it to be. We are meant to be connected not because we can get something out of it, but because our connection is the very life blood of our existence. The image of the vine and the branches are offered to us this weekend as a symbol of how it's supposed to work in our relationship with God, as well as with others. Just as the branches cannot exist without the vine, we cannot exist well without God. If a branch is severed from the vine, it withers and dies. For us human beings, our withering might look different than a branch. When we separate ourselves from God, no matter how we might pretend that it be different, we lose our lives from the inside out. We may look very healthy and very fit on the outside, but something intrinsic and necessary for life is missing. It begins in small ways. We begin to think that we know better than God. God has offered us certain ways to live, certain ways to worship him and certain ways to treat other people. When we separate ourselves from God and act as if we don't need God, all those things that God has planted in our hearts begin to die. We see others as competitors or enemies. We see the gifts that we've been given as the stuff that makes us important rather than the gifts to be shared with others. We begin to worship our own knowledge and freedom rather than fall in love with the privilege of sacrificing our lives in love for others. We die from the inside out. God is most generous with every one of us. Who among us hasn't taken some side road in our lives away from the path that God has instructed us to follow. Time and time again we do that and we come back to God, counting on his forgiveness and compassion. Never does he limit that forgiveness and never does he turn his back on us.

When we come home to him, he offers a feast because we were lost and now we are found. If you find yourself in that place right now, it is time to quit pretending as if you don't need God. Even though you might be coming to church every week, you can still be living as if God is not needed. You can be worshipping your own agenda rather than what you know God has asked you to do. You can be coming to church every week and not acting godly at home. Choose today to turn back to God and experience his mercy. When Paul was brought before the early Christian community, many of them were afraid of him because they have heard about his willingness to persecute Christians. Barnabas testifies on PAUL's behalf and tells the story of all that PAUL has been doing in the name of Jesus. His testimony is an example of what it's like when someone is courageous enough to live his faith because he is connected to God, and not acting only on his own power. He is given the courage to stand between Paul and those early Christians, who were ready to deny him entrance. Paul was a person who is persecuting Christians and those other Christians had reason to be afraid. It was Barnabas' standing with him that allowed others to know that PAUL was one of them now. Receive the body and blood of Christ today as God's pledge to you that you are connected with the vine. Take that food for the journey ahead of you this week and testify to the power that Jesus has in your life. Have a blessed week! BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING.

CLERGY TRAINING FUND second collection 27/28 April The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Diocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout the Diocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. This weekend 27/28 April there will be a second collection in aid of Priests' Training fund at both Masses. Thank you.

PROLIFE CHAINS If you have half an hour to spare on Saturday April 27th between 11.00am and 1pm, please join the pro-life movement representatives on the pavement opposite Salisbury College to hold up a placard supporting unborn babies. Thank you!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors attending public Mass. Whether you are just passing through or looking for a spiritual home, we pray you find Christ the King inviting and spiritually uplifting. If you are attending Mass on a regular basis, we encourage you to register with the parish. Please call our parish office and start the conversation! To our visitors, we hope you enjoy your stay here in Amesbury. Our church is always open to you, your family, and friends. pax et bonum (peace and all good)

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND GENEROSITY A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, this would help to simplify our banking procedure. The Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church, Amesbury, Bank: NatWest Account number 66286638 and Sort code-52-10-03. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the Parish Treasurer or office

REST IN PEACE-May those who have died enter into the mercy of God and the joy of the Kingdom.

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE? Question: What is a pilgrimage?

Why do people go on them? Answer: A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to visit a holy site, such as the shrine of a saint, a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared, or a historic church or chapel. What makes a pilgrimage different from a vacation and a pilgrim distinct from a tourist is the spirit in which the journey is made. Pilgrimages are really a symbol of our spiritual journey in life, reminding us that this world is not our true home and that we spend our lives journeying to our homeland, which is the Kingdom of God. Pilgrimages — which can be as involved as a trip to Rome or the Holy Land or as simple as visiting the Blessed Sacrament in a local parish church — are also an opportunity for us to step out of the rhythms and limits of our daily lives to seek out connection with God in a special way, by visiting a holy place. At times, such as on a special feast, a jubilee, or the anniversary of the dedication of the church, special graces (called "indulgences") can also be offered to pilgrims, helping to enrich our experience of the celebration. In the end, pilgrimages are an ancient act of devotion and something that each of us can put into practice, helping us to discover how God is present in the world around us, in places both near and far.

CONFIDENCE IN PRINCES Have you ever confided your problems to a friend, only to get the answer, "have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it?" Like all good advice, it can really irritate the recipient at first. Here I am, vulnerable and wounded, unloading my problems, and this joker tries to load them right back up and ship them off to Someone with a higher pay grade. But again, like all good and irritating advice, it rings true if you sit and think about it. Sure, venting is helpful. We all need that friend or family member who can listen to our problems. But if we ever start to think that person can solve them, it's a good sign that we're losing perspective. Are you looking to the world for an answer? Are you looking in the mirror, expecting to find a solution to your problems? Are you expecting happiness, peace, contentment or justice to come from any place other than God? "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes," the Psalms tell us. Well, I've never put much confidence in princes. But when it comes to problems, I often find myself telling God to take a step back — "I've got this." It's tough to pray about any problem as much as you talk about it. We want so badly to tackle the issue ourselves. But I'll let you in on a secret: it doesn't matter what the question is, we don't have the answer. Take it to the One who does.

EVERYDAY PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR -The elderly and infirm, the chronically ill and their caregivers. For those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical professionals and first responders; for the homeless and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those

who have no one to pray for them. We also pray for all of those who suffer alone and for all who have died and their families too.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY: For the formation of religious and seminarians. We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT The last talk (6 April) was on 'Discipleship' by the 'House of the Open Door Community'. You are now warmly invited to Life in the Spirit Seminars (requested by Pope Francis in 2019 for every Parish) which are about praying for a further or fuller release of the Holy Spirit in order to live a deeper Christian life each Friday at 7.30pm from 19 April to 31 May at the Parish Centre.

CHURCH FLOWERS-THANK YOU! Last week, Flowers for the sanctuary were kindly offered by Joan Boucher in memory of her beloved husband Peter Boucher who died three years ago. This week, flowers for the Sacred Heart are donated by D'Rozario James Francis in gratitude to God. Thank you Joan and Francis. God bless your families!

NEVER HESITATE TO ASK FOR HELP DURING DIFFICULT TIMES As human beings, we are interdependent. If we are there for each other, we can reduce, if not eliminate, our suffering. Many times we are going through difficult times in life. We try our best, but still cannot handle our situation on our own. We hesitate to ask others for help because either it hurts our ego, or we assume that we will be judged or there isn't any way to help us. The more we stay in our miseries by ourselves, the more hopeless we feel in life. Do not hesitate to reach out to people who you think can help you. Asking for help does not make you weak or inferior. You are a human being just like everyone else and just as you have been there for others, you will find supportive people, but not everyone can know your situation unless you express it. It is okay to ask for help. You do not have to be alone in your misery.

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER "Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." -1 JOHN 3:18 Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 27TH APRIL 2024
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL MASS VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL MASS AT 11.00AM MARGARETSON AND BLANC FAMILY'S INTENTIONS-(DONOR LORETTA DAVIES)

MONDAY 29TH APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM GAY SAVAGE, RIP (DONOR ANN LARKE)

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM NATALIA (WELL BEING) DONOR JO CHAMBERS

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM GAY SAVAGE, RIP (DONOR MARIE KEMP)

THURSDAY 2ND MAY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM ANN LARKE (INTENTIONS)

FRIDAY 3RD MAY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM JO CHAMBERS FAMILY'S SPECIAL INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 4TH MAY VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM BRENDAN COCKING (HEALING AND WELL BEING)

SUNDAY 5TH MAY MASS AT 11.00AM KEVIN DE SOUZA, RIP

"When you have received Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible, and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence." - St. Francis de Sales

MAY IS FOR MARY Next Wednesday steers us into a new month with the celebration of Joseph the Worker; however, throughout the month of May the church brings to light an assortment of pathways that gives honour to the Blessed Mother through music, devotions, processions, and specific prayers such as the Hail Mary. The Hail Mary is one of the first prayers that children learn to say, and I always pray it with guests prior to First Communion celebrations as I ready myself to welcome families and visitors to such an important occasion in the life of a child. The Hail Mary renders calmness to big groups of people, and readies an assembly for this type of celebration that is often attended by parents, siblings and grandparents. Most believe that the origin of the Hail Mary is derived from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:28) “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you” and (Luke 1:42) “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” In addition to First Communions during May, the parish gives prominence to the annual May Crowning, which takes place on Sunday, May 12, at the 11:00 a.m. mass as a child who has received First Communion will place the crown on the statue of the Blessed Mother. The May Crowning is a long established tradition in the Catholic Church with origins difficult to pinpoint, however, many believe that the May Crowning stemmed from a multiplicity of feast days throughout May that honour the Blessed Mother. Many Catholic Scholars hold to the belief that the practice of placing a crown on the head of the Blessed Mother gained popularity throughout the 19th century; yet it must be maintained that devotions and activities of this nature strive to draw us closer to the heart and love of Mary’s son, Jesus.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke equate Mary as a model of faith as each paints Mary as a young mother who passes down values and virtues to Jesus, which he exhibits in his public ministry. Unlike Matthew and Luke’s Gospels where most attention on Mary is focused through the Infancy Narratives, John’s Gospel (John 2:1-12) situates Mary with Jesus at the Wedding at Cana, while (John 19:25-26) places Mary at the foot of the cross as she stands bravely watching her son die painfully and slowly. Mark’s Gospel makes reference to Mary (Mark 6:3) in noting Jesus as a carpenter, the son of Mary. Historians, theologians, and most Catholics uphold enormous curiosity about the life of Mary as many recall their initial images of Mary, and the way she entered their lives through family prayer, religion classes or faith formation. Mary’s importance in the church originates from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, which is neatly crafted in the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The church illustrates Mary as that special person who motivates us to live our faith within the unanticipated challenges that emerge through life. The New Testament awakens us to the way Mary handled awkward situations such as her relationship with Joseph, the birth of Jesus, parenthood, and the burden to witness her son carry a cross to his crucifixion and death. Sometimes it is forgotten that Mary was a Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee who experienced poverty, oppression, violence, and the execution of her son, yet maintained her trust and confidence in God. This led her to do God’s will. Mary exemplifies a life with belief that nothing is impossible with God as she coupled hard work with home responsibilities. Next month take time to ponder your own experiences of the Blessed Mother. All Mary sought in life was to do the will of God unaware of all it would involve. Like Mary, sometimes God challenges us to do likewise.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK How will I bear fruit this week at home, at work or school, and in my community?

ON THE WAY- SEVEN NEW WORDS: RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT The first Easter was full of wonderful events. The most obvious and important was the discovery of the empty tomb and then our Lord’s appearing in his risen body. For most of us, that would be enough for one day. But then our Lord does something else extraordinary. He appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room and, as John tells it (Jn 20:19-23), he said to them, “‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” The significance of these words cannot be overstated. But neither can they be understood apart from the gesture that accompanies them. He breathed on them. That isn’t now and it wasn’t then a form of greeting. The only other account of God breathing onto someone – or, rather, into someone – is at creation. “[T]he LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen 2:7). This would have been familiar to the ancient Jews. They would have immediately perceived that Jesus’ breathing upon the Apostles was a new act of creation. He is recreating man. We should attend to what makes for this re-creation. First, the Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit. The renewal of man comes from the Holy Spirit, the very breath of God. It is not achieved by the latest technology, a new economic policy, or a new political system. It comes not by the will of man but of God. It comes from the breath of God breathing within us. Which means also that our breath of life is no longer our own. We live according to the Spirit and thus can say, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20). Second, confession.

This giving of the Holy Spirit is distinct from that on Pentecost Sunday, fifty days later. It is hierarchical, bestowing upon the Apostles (and their successors) the authority to forgive sins. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. Which means that the gift of the Spirit – and our living according to the Spirit of Christ – is inextricably bound up with the Sacrament of Penance. Sin blocks up our spiritual passageways and inhibits the Spirit’s breathing within us. The devout confession of our sins in the Sacrament of Penance heals our souls and creates more space for the Spirit to breathe freely within us. Third, proximity to Christ. Although this gift of the Holy Spirit is unique to the Apostles, the principle for receiving the Spirit remains the same. We must be close enough to Christ to feel his breath upon us. Which is not something we typically like. We like our personal space and someone “breathing down your neck” is a bad thing. Except when it is Christ breathing his Spirit upon and into us. To receive the Spirit of re-creation, we have to allow Christ to draw near, even into our own personal space. It is the desire not to have that intimacy, not to want him that close that leads to a still re-birth. The Spirit comes to us to the degree that we allow Christ to draw near. Saint Irenaeus described the Son and the Spirit as the two arms of the Father by which he embraces us. May we allow the risen Christ to draw near to us, so that he can breathe his Spirit into us and draw us into the Father’s embrace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS CONFIRMATION: MAY 19th FIRST COMMUNION MASS and Confirmation in June The parish community is invited to pray for our faith formation students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in June and First Holy Communion on May 19. Candidates have prepared to receive the Sacraments with the support of their parents, family, catechists, and the entire community. Thanks to all for nurturing our children on their journey. There will be a meeting for Confirmation candidates on Friday evening at 6.30pm. Please continue to check the bulletin for updates in our Religious Education Programme.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, You won’t find it on all the liturgical calendars the memorial of the Forty Holy Martyrs of England and Wales. But you would in England and Wales :That memorial will be observed this Saturday, May 4, in England. (In Wales it is celebrated on October 25.) These martyrs were Roman Catholics who refused to abandon their faith and their fidelity to the Pope. They take their place along with those notable martyrs of Henry VIII: Thomas More and John Fisher. Most of these martyrs, however, were executed during the reign of Elizabeth I, during the years 1535-1679. In 1571 an act of Parliament declared it a crime of high treason to refuse to acknowledge Elizabeth as Head of the Church in England, effectively making anyone who questioned her claimed title a traitor. These forty martyrs were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 and represent hundreds of religious, priests, and lay men and women who were brutally put to death in the 16th and 17th centuries. Pope John Paul II canonized an additional 85 martyrs who died 1584- 1689. During the Tudor persecution of Roman Catholics, the “crimes” of many were attending Mass or receiving the sacraments or simply possessing “Popish” sacramentals such as vestments, chalices, missals, rosaries, or statues. Many country homes were fitted with “priest holes” built into wall panelling or closets, where a priest might be hidden if agents of the crown arrived to search the house. Consider St. Margaret Clitherow. Born a Protestant, she converted to Catholicism in 1574. She was fined for not attending services of the established church, one of many Catholic “recusants” so persecuted. She offered her home to English Jesuit priests, ordained on the Continent, who risked their own lives to bring the sacraments to the Catholic faithful of their native land. A law passed in 1583 made it a high crime, punishable by death, to harbour Catholic priests. She refused to plead innocent or guilty, acknowledging only God as her judge. She was killed in 1586 by being crushed to death beneath a door piled with heavy stones and weights. St. Margaret Ward, the “Pearl of Tyburn,” was the second woman canonized among the Forty Martyrs. Little is known of her early life, just that she was in service to a woman of some means, but much can be said about her death. She heard that a Catholic priest, Fr. William Watson, was imprisoned awaiting trial. She received permission to visit him and decided to help him escape his almost certain execution. The plan went awry, and her part was discovered. She was arrested, hung in irons by the wrists for eight days, and flogged, but she refused to reveal the hiding place of the priest. She was executed at Tyburn in 1588.

St. Anne Line joins Margaret Clitherow and Margaret Ward as the third woman to be executed with the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. She was a Catholic convert in her early 20’s. (It is remarkable how the suffering of so many of the English Catholics inspired yet others to convert.) She managed a house of hiding for clandestine priests where Catholic Mass was often celebrated for the nearby villagers. On the Feast of the Purification (Candlemas) neighbours noticed a larger than usual number of visitors at Anne’s house. The authorities broke in and found Mass being offered. Anne was arrested, sent to Newgate Prison, summarily tried and hanged in 1601. Then there’s St. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, of noble birth, the son of Thomas Howard, the Duke of Norfolk. He attended Cambridge University and became a fixture at the court of Queen Elizabeth, who is said to have taken a liking to her 18 -year-old second cousin. His was a frivolous youth, but that changed when he attended the debate between Jesuit Edmund Campion and a group of Protestant theologians in the Tower of London. Howard was so impressed by the articulate Campion (who himself was later martyred) that he underwent a spiritual conversion that brought him into the Catholic Church. He and his family were Catholic recusants, heavily taxed and fined for retaining their faith. Howard was arrested when he tried to flee to the Continent, betrayed by a servant. He was imprisoned in the Tower, where he remained for ten years. He was never brought to trial; the charge of high treason was never established. He died of malnutrition and disease, never seeing his son who was born during his imprisonment. Not priests or monks or nuns, these four. They were lay folk of great faith, a faith for which they gave their lives, a faith for which they are now saints.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Holy Communion is a wonderful moment in a child’s life and represents a sign of growth in the knowledge and love of God for each and every child. Parents who bring their child or children for First Holy Communion are fulfilling the vow they made publicly at their child’s baptism some years before to be the “first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith”. Now they are more actively fulfilling this vow. The celebration of First Holy Communion each year is primarily a Parish Community Celebration. There is great expectation that the family are full practising members of the community and that they regularly come to Mass. On this understanding, the parish will provide all the necessary help to parents and children, particularly those children not attending Catholic schools. The support from parents for this and other elements of the course cannot be emphasized enough. No child will be denied First Holy Communion; however, children who miss two or at most three sessions will have missed key catechesis. In such cases and after discussion with catechists and parents, the parish priest may remove a child from the course and invite parents to reapply for the following year. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Holy Communion preparation and the regular attendance of Mass during the First Holy Communion year. First Communion Class Sunday 28th April at 12.15pm Sunday 5th May at 12.15pm and Sunday 12th May at 12.15pm **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 19th May at 12.30pm.**

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes (SOLL) are pleased to announce that their annual pilgrimage of the sick to Lourdes will be on the 24th to the 31st May 2024. SOLL seeks to ensure that sick pilgrims are offered an opportunity to travel to Lourdes, minimising the barriers of disability and finance. Applications are now open. Please think if there is someone in the parish who SOLL can help. Applications are also welcomed for volunteer helpers, carers, nurses, doctors and priests! For further information, please contact SOLL on [0208 8489833](tel:0208 8489833) or www.soll-lourdes.com or call your parish contact , Sacha Blanchard on [07768 622880](tel:07768 622880)

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD IN PRAYER-We, as a community of faith, must remember that we cannot give what we do not have. In order for us to welcome others into the life of the Church, we first need to make sure that our spiritual lives are properly in order. To become a more prayerful person, take inventory of how you spend the 168 hours in the week. Are you taking time to talk to God in prayer, to speak with Him as you would a friend? Are you seeking His truth through reading the scriptures? Will you make Him first on your priority list so that you are able to give to others from the graces He has given you?

COMMUNITY PRAYER The Mass is the highest prayer of the Church, and should also be the high point of our week. Consider making it your top priority to never miss a Sunday liturgy.

PERSONAL PRAYER Each person needs to spend time with God one-on-one. A daily heart-to-heart conversation with Christ is the key to personal spiritual growth. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to spend 10 minutes each day reflecting on the Gospel for each day, which can be found in your daily missal or on Catholic phone and tablet apps, such as iBreviary, Magnificat or Divine Office.

FAMILY PRAYER “The family that prays together stays together.” Choose times each day to pray with your spouse and children: bedtime prayers, a scripture verse at mealtimes, or a decade of the Rosary on the way to school, sporting events, or work.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION I am the vine, and my Father is the vine grower. Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament, invites us into a deep, abiding union with him so that his life and love can flow through us. Take 15 minutes to one hour before the Blessed Sacrament exposed from Monday to Friday in our Church.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY Pope Francis has given us ‘The Year of Prayer 2024’ in preparation for the ‘Holy Year of 2025’. There is a series at St John the Evangelist, Bath, which draws us into prayer so that we might draw near to the Lord who calls us to be near to him. The next in the series is on Tuesday 30 April at 7pm ‘The prayer of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Fr John Udris)’. You can watch live on St John’s website