



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

THE PRESBYTERY, 4 LORDS CROFT, AMESBURY, WILTS., SP47EP

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Saji Mathew
saji.mathew@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office Telephone: 01980 622177
Website: Amesbury.cliftondiocese.com
PARISH MOBILE 07412604880

WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

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

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI-SHATTERED LOVE (Part I of II) There are people who question whether lifelong marriage is possible today with the number of marriages ending in divorce. Many marriage experts relay the message to remember that the very things that helped a person fall in love need to be rekindled week after week, year after year; yet, divorce strikes so many good, wholesome families. There is tremendous pain for spouses who set apart as well as children who bear the hardship of a separated relationship. It is seldom anticipated at the beginning of a relationship when romance dominates the lives of two people that the relationship will end with much heartache and sadness. Sometimes people who live in the aftermath of divorce fail to recognise that their faith and presence in a believing community is invaluable during this time as it may induce healing from the trauma of divorce. A strong faith and support system renders tremendous value to people in broken relationships in that divorce is exhausting, unpleasant, and costly as it saps much energy out of a person. I've observed the way some friends and acquaintances responded in the wake of divorce as emotions brought forth shock, disbelief, betrayal and even surprise as the anguish in each situation was unmistakable; however, many became thankful for the courage to abandon a relationship bombarded with abuse, neglect, and control. It also led me to reshape my relationship with each party. In Vatican City on June 24, 2015, Pope Francis stated, "There are times when it is "morally necessary" for couples to separate...in some cases separation is inevitable and can even be morally necessary." In touching upon family breakdown, the Pope added times when he saw divorce as justifiable by saying, "When it comes to saving the weaker spouse, or young children, from more serious injuries caused by intimation and violence, by humiliation and exploitation, by lack of involvement and indifference." It is common for questions from divorced people to surface. These concerns often pertain to their status in the church. Regretfully, many Catholics believe that divorce is a sin beyond forgiveness, which stems from the approach some clerics and members of the church have taken to divorced people as well as the fact that it is less complex and agonising for an individual who commits child abuse, theft, or murder to be welcomed at the Lord's Table than a divorced person who is remarried outside the faith. Since many have given divorced Catholics an unhealthy rap throughout the history of the church, there are divorced people who believe they are not welcomed in Catholic Churches regardless of the lifestyle that is lived following a divorce. Some even cast aside their Catholic faith for other "Christian" traditions due to church law that prevents remarriage in the faith; especially if an annulment has been filed and rejected. Others live with resentment due to ill-advised comments that pertain to divorced Catholics.

The Gospels illustrate the way Jesus raises the beauty of marriage to a high level as he brings to light equality in relationships between a man and woman. This was so unconventional in his era. Jesus also sets the agenda that marriage is a lifetime commitment; and frequently blesses unions of marriage as he often refers to a wedding feast as a symbol of God's kingdom. Jesus insisted on the oneness of marriage and speaks against divorce; however, Jesus spoke against many other matters which do not impose the same "penalty" on Catholics as divorce; or render a composite of perplexing circumstances to address within church law for a Catholic to come to the Eucharistic table if remarriage outside the church takes place. The scriptures indicate that the most common sin Jesus spoke against was the sin of hypocrisy. Compassion and love are the basic principles needed to affirm another to pick up the pieces in the midst of divorce. Although sometimes it is not hard to point a finger on decisions, actions, and statements that created barriers among two people who once were so much in love, some divorced people live with spiritual starvation at a time when Christ is most needed. In my early years as a priest I recall a loving father who became a committed spouse to his second wife and a fine example to his church. Unfortunately the man could never believe in his own goodness due to a rocky relationship in his initial marriage that ended in divorce and the denial of a Catholic annulment. He was a "regular" at daily mass, but never understood an image of God that was merciful and loving. Next week I'll address the way the church is challenged to reach out to divorced people so that any anger and hurt within victims of divorce gives way to God's love. Have a terrific week ahead. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God

RESPONSORIAL PSLAM From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Peter said to Jesus; you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

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.

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.

VISITS TO THE SICK If you cannot come to church because of illness, please be sure that we are notified so that we might minister to you either at home, hospital, or nursing or care homes. Because of confidentiality issues, we cannot come to you unless requested to do so by you or your family.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY - SUNDAY 14TH JULY -The Annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Sunday, 14th 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. The cost of the whole day out by the coach is just £20 per person.

RECONCILIATION Confessions are held on Saturdays from 5:00 - 5:40 p.m. and other times by request only. You are always free to make an appointment with the priest to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ASK A CATHOLIC PRIEST-QUESTION What should I respond to someone who claims that the Bible does not instruct us to pray to Mary? I informed them that we implore her to intercede on our behalf, but they countered that it is absent from the Bible and thus, we shouldn't pray to her. **ANSWER**-Ask them if they ever asked their mother to help them convince their father to let them do something. If it was OK to ask their mom, then there's nothing wrong with asking our spiritual Mother to do the same for us with our heavenly Father and spiritual brother, Jesus. Then you need to remind them that we do not actually pray TO Mary. We pray to God but we ask her to help us make our case, to be our advocate at the time we most need the help. Just look at the words of our most important and popular Marian prayer: 'Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.' Clearly, we are asking her for help with making our case to God, our heavenly Father. We are not equating

her with God! Our prayers ask her to help us come to know her son better too. We are not asking her to take his place!!

DO WE FIND STRENGTH TO CONTINUE WHEN WE DON'T SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS? Every effort does yield results, but not always the way you want and when you want. Trusting yourself, believing in your dreams and keeping faith can give you the courage to keep walking. Sometimes, we begin our journey to our dreams, but even after trying hard, we do not reach them. When we don't see progress, we lose our motivation, feel too tired to walk any longer and think of giving up as our only option. Don't be disheartened if you don't see your destination. Take rest, calm your mind, plan again, seek support, lift yourself up, and keep going. Don't give up on your dreams. Try an alternate path, go slow, and eventually, you will reach there or at least be closer to it. When the journey seems long, do not give up on your dreams. Your destination might just be a few steps away.

DIOCESAN DAY - SATURDAY 6 JULY at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol. The focus of the day will be on Hope. All are invited to join Bishop Bosco as we explore the theme of Hope together. If there is sufficient interest, we will investigate the possibility of taking a minibus. Please do contact the Parish Office in Salisbury if you would like to go.

SUNDAY HOMILY FROM BISHOP ROBERT BARRON - In reflecting on this week's gospel which gives the story of Jesus with his disciples, in a boat, in a storm. Bishop Barron gives us three separate interpretations of this story, all of which have come up out of the ancient Church, and all of which shed light on the spiritual life. To watch and listen click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CANDIDATES who were Confirmed in the Holy Spirit by Bishop Bosco at St Gregory & the English Martyrs last week. A big thank you goes to the catechists who prepared the candidates and also to those who made the evening such a wonderful event. The flowers were amazing, the Holy Spirit banners adorned the pillars, the church was gleaming and tidy, the music & the liturgy were inspiring and such commitment shown by those who helped with the reception afterwards - huge thanks to you all. The Mass was recorded and is available to watch by clicking on the website It is certainly worth listening to Bishop Bosco's homily which begins at 30 minutes into the recording - a homily for us all, not just for those being confirmed. Photographs are available on the same webpage Salisbury Catholic Churches. Please keep the newly Confirmed in your prayers.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 29TH JUNE -2024

SATURDAY 29TH JUNE MASS VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM LISAMMA KUNCHERIA, RIP

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE MASS AT 11.00AM JO CHAMBER'S FAMILY'S SPECIAL INTENTIONS

MONDAY 1ST JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ALFRED RYAN, RIP (Heavenly Birthday)(DONOR MARGARET RYAN)

TUESDAY 2ND JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM JULIAN BEACHAM (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM ST THOMAS, THE APOSTLE DAVID O' BORNE (80TH BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS)

THURSDAY 4TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM SHARIFA SHANLEY (INTENTIONS)

FRIDAY 5TH JULY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM FOR ALL OUR SICK AND SUFFERING FAMILY MEMBERS

SATURDAY 6th JULY VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM PRO POPULO

SUNDAY 7th JULY MASS AT 11.00AM GAY TARRANT (INTENTIONS)

PARISH BBQ This Sunday 30th June is our Parish BBQ Day. This will be an event for the whole parish and we hope that parishioners will come along and join in what promises to be a wonderful social occasion. If you would like to contribute in any way to the success of this event, do let us know. Please come along and be a part of our parish social get-together.

SUMMERTIME: Please remember that in the summer, there is no vacation from your vocation of being a Catholic follower of Christ. Remember to participate Mass each Sunday and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bring God into your vacation in a special way by continuing to participate in Sunday Mass while travelling.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION (SECOND COLLECTION) 6/7th JULY The Peter's Pence Collection provides for the charitable works and structures of mercy identified by His Holiness, Pope Francis. By supporting this collection, you join with others across the world in supporting urgent projects including emergency assistance to those in need due to natural disasters, communities impacted by corona virus, conflict, oppression and disease. Our generosity allows the Holy Father to respond to those suffering with love and compassion. The Peter's Pence appeal has been severely impacted by World events and your support will be gratefully received by the Holy See. There will be a **Second Collection next weekend**. Thank you for your generosity.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: How does my faith affect the way I anticipate death? How can it increase my courage? How can I encourage others to keep the faith?

DEATH IS NOT GOD'S DOING: The untimely death of Jesuit theologian Peter Arokiadoss, during Holy Week 2008 shocked his friends. Arokiadoss had a persistent cough, diagnosed later as result of metastases in the bile duct. Within days, Arokiadoss breathed his last. On the eve of his death, when asked by a relative why God gave him a priest, such sickness, Arokiadoss replied: "No, God didn't give me this sickness. All of us have cancer cells which are under control. Most likely because of my lifestyle or food or sleeping habits, I might have given cause for these cells to grow and destroy the good cells. God does not cause sickness; we cause it ourselves." — The opening words of 13th Sunday's first reading declare: "Death was not God's doing." We often feel that God is the cause of all births/ deaths, but Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it in abundance." Indeed, God is a God of Life, and "death is not God's doing." It is, rather, we who cause death in myriad forms – through our sin, selfishness, pride, power-plays, greed, gluttony, and godlessness. Nonetheless, the Lord of Life bids us to touch people and heal them. Life is a mystery and we do not know or will not know the secrets of it until we meet the Maker of the world. Let's not be discouraged or disappointed and lose faith in our God who gives us the freedom to choose life or death.

POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JULY. For the pastoral care of the sick. We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

WE LEARN BETTER WHEN WE ARE HAPPY PART TWO

Last week I discussed The Happiness Advantage by Shawn Achor and how his research shows that approaching a task with positive thoughts makes us amazingly more successful. It activates all of our brain's learning centres, it makes us more focused, it makes us happy. Shawn defined happiness as the joy we feel striving for our potential. This definition implies that happiness is not something you get externally, it comes from within you. Shawn's research can impact all facets of our lives in amazing ways, but, last week, I suggested we imagine using this Happiness Advantage in how we approach the relationship that God offers each one of us. Our greatest joy, our greatest potential, our greatest happiness is found in the relationship that we have with God, who is at the source of us. Our relationship with God begins with faith. Faith is so much more than the baseline simple affirmations that God exists and the teachings of the Church are true. Faith is trust. It is active and dynamic. It increases and decreases in us every moment of every day when we strive to rise above that baseline. If someone tells you that their faith does not fluctuate, then I would argue that they are in the simple affirmation group. Yes, it is very difficult to fail in that group, but it is also very difficult to strive for our potential relationship with God.

Thomas Merton said in Thoughts in Solitude, "My Lord God, ...I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you." The desire to please God is active and dynamic, it shows trust and faith, and it is the only way to grow in relationship with God, the only way to strive for our potential. Without this desire, we are reduced to those simple affirmations. Can you think of anything that would make you happier than to KNOW that God is pleased with you? Meditate on that for 10 seconds! So how do we use Shawn's Happiness Approach to grow in our relationship with God? Begin every faith encounter with a desire to please God and recall the joy you just felt when you meditated on how that would please Him. Desire to please Him when you walk into Mass. Desire to please Him when you come forward for Eucharist. Desire to please Him when you pray before meals. Desire to please Him when you study for a big test. Desire to please Him when you listen as your spouse talks about their day. Desire to please Him when you are overwhelmed by tears. Desire to please Him when you correct the behaviour of your children. Desire to please Him when you open the scriptures and read the first passage you see. Desire to please Him when you are swamped with work and someone stops by to chat. Desire to please Him when you have no desire to please Him. In these moments, the lessons that God wants us to learn from these faith encounters will be met by a mind that is happy, a mind that is experiencing the greatest joy we can feel as we strive for our potential relationship with Him.

SAINT OF THE WEEK SAINT MARIA GORETTI Patron of Young Women, Purity 1890 - 1902 Maria Goretti was the daughter of a poor Italian tenant farmer. When she was 9 years old, her father died from malaria, which left Maria to the household duties while her mother and siblings worked the fields. To help earn money for the family, Maria would do mending for people in the town. Alessandra Serenelli, an 18 yr. old, who worked in the same fields as the Goretti family, entered the house where Maria was sewing a shirt. Alessandra motioned Maria into a bedroom, but she refused telling him it was a mortal sin. Enraged at her refusal, Alessandra stabbed her 14 times in her heart, lungs, and intestines. She died 20 hours later on July 6 at the age of 11. When asked if she forgave her attacker, she said, "Yes, for the love of Jesus, I forgive him." "He loves, He hopes, He waits. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant." (St. Maria Goretti)

ON THE WAY- SYMBOLS OF THE SPIRIT: THE CLOUD & LIGHT

For our scientific culture, a cloud is just a cloud. It's an atmospheric phenomenon and nothing more. So also, light is just light. We can name its source and break it into its various colours, and so on. In biblical thought, however, cloud and light are something more than just earthly phenomena. They are a manifestation of God and, in particular, of God the Holy Spirit. Note how God led the Israelites out of Egypt and throughout their exodus: "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people" (Ex 13:21-22). When the Lord came to speak with Moses, he did so in the same manner: "When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses" (Ex 33:9). So also, when Solomon dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem. "And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD" (1 Kgs 8:10-11). This cloud is more than a natural phenomenon, more even than just a lot of incense. It's the glory of the Lord, the manifestation of the Lord's presence. (And one of the reasons for our use of incense: to evoke that presence.) The cloud becomes more clearly associated with the Holy Spirit in the account of the Annunciation. The archangel Gabriel tells our Lady, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Lk 1:35). Cloud and light come together powerfully at the Transfiguration of our Lord.

On Mount Tabor, the Son was seen in his glory, the Father's voice was heard, and the Holy Spirit was manifested when "a bright cloud overshadowed" the Apostles (Mt 17:5). Thus, the Holy Spirit is a cloud that overshadows but also gives light. He both obscures and enlightens. The cloud speaks of the transcendence of God. By day the Israelites had that reminder that it was the transcendent God who guided them. But at night that mysterious God lit up their path to the Promised Land. The cloud on Mount Tabor confirms the transcendence of Jesus Christ and at the same time enlightens the Apostles. Cloud and light set the terms of our relationship with the Spirit. He is mysterious, which means that we cannot claim ownership of him or coopt him for our own purposes. He is not ours to do with as we will but the third Person of God who is given to us to perfect us in Christ's likeness. At the same time, the Spirit enlightens us with his gifts so that we can know God and the best way to glorify him. "For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor 4:6). The union of Christ and the Spirit is shown also at his Ascension, when "a cloud took him out of their sight" (Lk 1:9). Now we await that day when we "will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Lk 21:27).

ALTAR FLOWERS Altar Flowers are a symbol of grace, prayer, and virtue. They are a reminder to us of God's beautiful creation. Fresh altar flowers are a great way to honour a loved one for a special occasion such as a Birthday, Wedding Anniversary, or to remember a loved one on the anniversary of their passing. Your honourarium will be published in the bulletin the weekend the altar flowers are to be given. Please note that flowers cannot be given during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Please contact Ann Larke or Father Saji in the Parish Office or send an email.

DEAR PARISH FAMILY, This weekend, actually, Saturday June 29th, we are celebrating the Secondary patrons of our diocese. The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul: Peter, the great leader of the Faith, and Paul, its greatest defender. With this feast, the Church honours these Holy Apostles for the Christ-like way they lived their faith in the face of dire adversity. Saint Augustine said that today [June 29th] is made holy by the passion of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul. We are, therefore, not talking about some obscure martyrs. For their voice has gone forth to all the world, and to the ends of the earth their message. These martyrs realised what they taught: they pursued justice, they confessed the truth of our Catholic Faith, they died for it! It is upon the confession of faith made by Peter and the defence of the Faith by Paul, that the Church is built. Martyrs for the faith, both paid the highest price for their beliefs. With red vestments the Church recognises, in a visual way, the supreme witness to the faith given by the blood of the martyrs. The splendid red color shows us a wonderful paradox of our Faith: It is in the Blood of the Martyrs that the Church is washed clean, is purified, and made holy! It is in death that true life is found! The same Holy Spirit that filled the lives of Peter and Paul is at work in our lives guiding us to be witnesses to the truth. Can we be as open as they were to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Are we willing, like them, to give witness to Jesus in all we say and do? Their beautiful witness to the "faith of the Holy Apostles" continues in the Church today. Pope Francis continues as the Head of the Church on Earth, Successor of Peter the Apostle. The Holy Father continues as Christ's "Vicar" — teaching, sanctifying, and governing in the place of Christ until He returns in glory. This weekend, we are given the blessing of being able to support the ministry of the Holy Father, to take our part and continue the work of Saint Peter, in our gifts to the annual Saint Peter's Pence Collection: the oldest "second" collection in the Church, dating back to the Apostles themselves, and described in the Acts of the Apostles. What a blessing, what a legacy and testament of faith we have received from past generations. It's up to all of us to care for, advance, and live the Heritage of Faith we have received. We're part of a strong legacy of faith here at Christ The King. Let's live up to the challenge. Thank you and God bless you for your support, generosity, faith, and love for our wonderful parish. Pray for a strong and courageous witness to the truth and beauty of our Catholic Faith... Jesus is counting on YOU!

SUMMER GIVING Making plans for the summer? Make sure to plan for your offertory as well! When your summer travels take you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support our church and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Recurring gifts sustain our parish through the busy summer months. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programmes, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat. You can sign up online as well. You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programmes, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

ASK A CATHOLIC PRIEST-QUESTION-I have been teaching children that the water placed in the wine represents us, and the wine Jesus. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. "A lot of Jesus and a little bit of us" Our diocese sent out information which was very helpful instruction for the Mass; however it says that the water is Jesus (Divinely made) and wine represents humans(Man-made) Can you clarify? **ANSWER:** The comingling rite was found in the earliest preserved rites of the Liturgy. Wine symbolises His divinity, water, us, but in the sense of our humanity which Christ mingles with Divinity in the hypostatic union. About this St. Cyprian's writes: "When someone offers only wine, then the blood of Christ begins to exist without us; but when it is only water, then the people begin to exist without Christ" (Letter 63 to Caecilium)