

ALL SAINTS NEWS

14th January 2024
The 2nd Sunday of
Epiphany

Theophany – The Encounter of Humankind with God

The Orthodox Epiphany

Why have we recognised Orthodox Epiphany this year?

To recognise and celebrate difference across Christian communities.



In the Orthodox Church, the 'Epiphany' is known as Theophany and commemorates **Christ's baptism**. This festival takes place on the 19 January. After fasting, Orthodox Christians attend a church ceremony where a priest blesses water, then uses it to bless the congregation. The holy water is taken home and used to bless themselves and their homes all year long. Orthodox Christians believe that all water is sanctified on Theophany. In Eastern Europe and Greece, a common custom is for a crucifix to be thrown into water and recovered by worshippers. Let's not try this in the Floating Harbour.

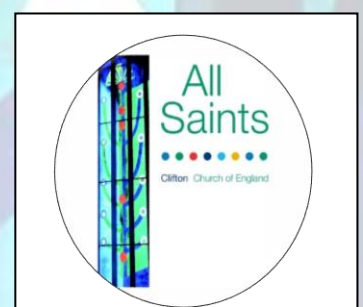
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Among Catholics and other non-Orthodox Christians, Epiphany (7 January) focuses on another important event in Christ's life: **the arrival of the Magi**, the 'wise people' from the East sometimes characterized as kings. The gospels give different accounts of the Magi's visit to Bethlehem.

The central message of the Baptism is that Christ's first act in public life was to be baptised by John amongst soldiers, publicans, sinners and all aspects of life that mark humanity. It is an act of humility, that many would say is the best preparation for great work.

The central message of the Adoration of the Magi is that God's love extends to all people and throughout creation. It is these foreign visitors, these gentiles, that recognise the long-awaited Messiah and worship him, but not as an earthly 'king'.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated every year from **18 to 25 January**, (closing at the conversion of Paul, 25 January). Material for worship and for study is produced by a different country each year under the oversight of the World Council of Churches.

Ruth Gee writes: "This provides an opportunity for local churches to worship, pray and study together, conscious of the wider, global Christian family. There is also the opportunity to share together in mission and service and other ways which might continue to develop over the following months or years."

For 2024, the resources have been produced by the churches in Burkina Faso in West Africa on the theme "You shall love the Lord your God . . . and your neighbour as yourself. . ." Luke 10:27. Ruth Gee says: "Burkina Faso is experiencing a serious security crisis and this has affected all the communities of faith. In this context faith leaders have been working together, seeking lasting solutions for peace and assisting internally displaced persons."

Who is my Neighbour?

In choosing the parable of the Good Samaritan for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis.

Communities in our British contexts may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey

so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other?

Loving God and neighbour in the midst of a security crisis

Burkina Faso is in the Sahel region of West Africa, which extends into the neighbouring countries of Mali and Niger. It covers 174,000 km² and has 21 million inhabitants, of about 60 ethnicities. Approximately 64% of the population is Muslim, 9% adheres to traditional African religions and 26% is Christian (20% Catholic, 6% Protestant). These three religious groups are represented in every region of the country, and in virtually every family.



Burkina Faso is currently experiencing a serious security crisis, which affects all faith communities. After a major jihadist attack was mounted from outside the country in 2016, the security situation in Burkina Faso, and consequently its social cohesion, deteriorated dramatically. The country has endured a proliferation of terrorist attacks, lawlessness and human trafficking. This has left over 3,000 people dead and almost two million internally displaced. Thousands of schools, health centres and town halls have been closed, and much of the socio-economic and transport infrastructure has been destroyed. Attacks targeting specific ethnic groups exacerbate the risk of intercommunal conflicts. In the context of this dire threat to security, social cohesion, peace and national unity are being undermined.

Christian churches have been specifically targeted by armed attacks. Priests, pastors and catechists have been killed during worship and the fate of others who were kidnapped remains unknown. At the time of writing, more than 22% of the national territory is outside the control of the state and Christians can no longer openly practise their faith in these areas. Because of terrorism, the majority of Christian churches in the north, east and north-west of the country have been closed. There is no longer any public Christian worship in many of these areas, but where worship is still possible, with police protection, usually in large cities, services have to be shortened owing to security concerns.

Despite the efforts of both the state and religious communities, the country is becoming increasingly unstable as extremist groups become more widespread. Nevertheless, a degree of solidarity is emerging between the Christian, Muslim and traditional religions. Their leaders are working to find lasting solutions for peace, social cohesion and reconciliation. To this end, for instance, the Christian-Muslim Dialogue Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Burkina-Niger is making a major effort to support inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue and cooperation.

Following the Government's calls for prayers for peace, social cohesion and reconciliation, individual churches continue to organise daily prayers and fasting. Action by the various Catholic and Protestant churches has intensified to assist displaced persons. Reflection and awareness-raising meetings have been organized to promote better understanding of the situation and of the value of fraternity, and to develop strategies for a return to lasting peace. This hope is also reflected in the traditional Mossi proverb:

"Regardless of the nature or duration of the fight, the moment of reconciliation will come."

Candlelight Concerts at All Saints, Saturday 27th January at 6.00pm and 8.30pm

A Tribute to Adele

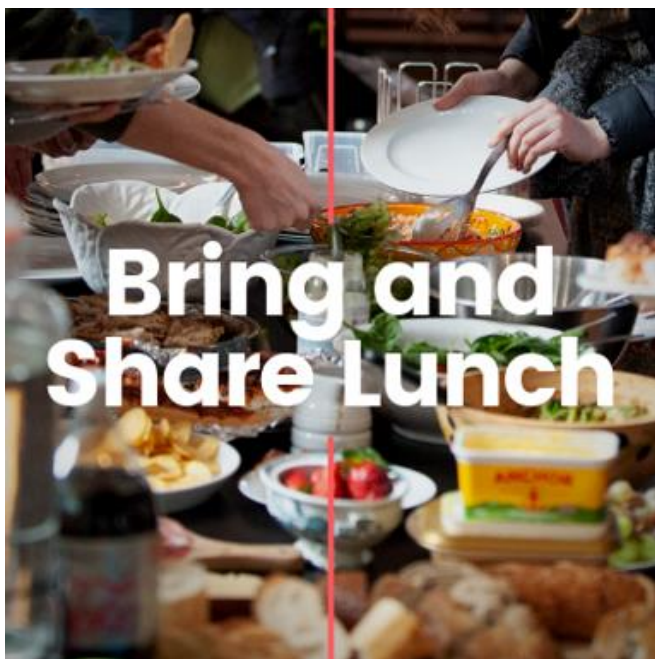


A Tribute to Bad Bunny



Tickets available now from
www.feverup.com

**Bring and Share Lunch for Epiphany Sunday 14th January 2024
after 10.30am Mass**



The First event in this year's All Saints Social Calendar.

*Please sign up on the list in the porch with your name
and the dish you will be bringing to share – just to avoid duplication
and we will all share the feast!*

Pay bar available – courtesy of the All Saints Society

Bring a friend or just come and share a delicious lunch with good company



Would you like to try Church Flower arranging ?

I am sure you will agree that the Church Christmas Flower arrangements and our magnificently decorated tree this year are beautiful.

Many Thanks to the All Saints Flower Team for their vision and hard work.

The Flower Team are offering an opportunity to try your hand at church flower arranging on either the 19th of January at 2.00pm or the 2nd of February at 10.15am.

An interest in flowers and/or gardening and enthusiasm is all that is required and there will be plenty of support from the team.

If you have always wanted to 'have a go' now is your chance !



GROWING FAITH. TOGETHER

Sat Jan 20, 2024 | 9:30am - 4pm
St Michael's Church Centre, Bristol, BS34 8PD

Come and be a part of this exciting event where we gather to strengthen our faith and grow together as a community.

Holy Habits • Sabbath rest • New resources • Building hope

Featuring Keynote speaker:
Christopher Jamison



Former Abbot of Worth Abbey; reluctant star of the BBC2 series, *The Monastery*; Director of Vocations for England and Wales from 2010-2017 will speak on spiritual patterns for every day life and lead a workshop on learning from Benedictine rhythms.

Don't miss our other events!

Everyday Faith
11.05.24

We're in this Together
13.07.24

Creating Pathways into Faith
14.09.24

For more information, visit [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)



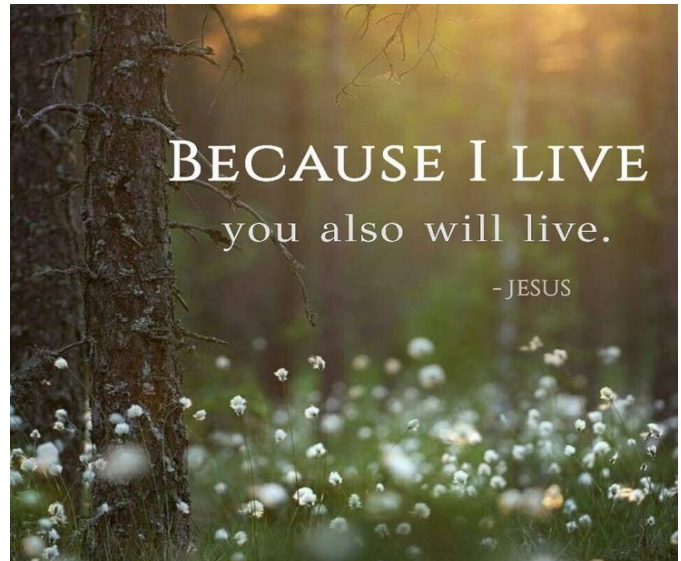
Diocese of Bristol
TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TOGETHER.

Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



Those who we remember in our Prayers.

Sunday Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sue Hilliar Mary Greenacre Nadine Benn Lorna Osbon Elisabeth Morgan June Matthews Sathia Aruliah Ryan Lindsey

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Maureen Mumford George Lympelopoulos

Thursday

Friday Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza.

Saturday

The Departed

Joanne Wilkins Eileen Davies Len Hughes John Morley-Bunker (Pr)
Erna Sacof Betty Shaw Richard Sleaford Irene Cameron Sheila Cameron (Pr)
Colin Buchanan (Bp)

Years' Minds - this week we remember

Kenneth Biggs Clara Henderson George Meade – King Alma Powell Rosalind Brennand
Dennis Cleeve Sian Ivey Dennis Skinner (Pr)

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

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| Mon 15 | Pray for cavers, potholers and speleologists. Caving as a sport and for research reasons is increasingly popular; many locations are now tourist sites. Remember also those engaged in mine exploration and archaeological research. |
| Tue 16 | Religious Freedom Day Pray for the work of the world's religions and religious organizations that bring good to the world. Thank God that Religious Freedom exists in many parts of our world. Pray for those who suffer persecution - and for those who deliver such persecution. |
| Wed 17 | Mass 10.00am Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356 Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932 Pray for the life and work of the Community of the Resurrection, and for the College of the Resurrection. Give thanks for the life and work of Brother Andrew (John Norton) – at ASC and in South Africa with the Community. |
| Thurs 18 | Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951 The theme for 2023 is "Do Good, Seek Justice." The theme is inspired by Isaiah 1:12-18, which laments a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice. Like Isaiah, we hope to inspire a renewed desire and effort for justice among the Christian peoples around the world. |
| Fri 19 | Mass 10.00am Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095 Pray for the Diocese of Worcester and the parish of Westbury on Trym (founded in the year 717). Pray for the ministry team, the work of the parish at Westbury and the work of the Elsie Briggs House of Prayer. |
| Sat 20 | Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349 Remember in prayer those special parts of creation – the Arctic and Antarctic. Pray that we may address the issues of climate change effectively. Pray also for those who live lives of prayer and work to deepen our spiritual insight |
| Sunday 21 | Epiphany 3 Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power Early Worship 9.00am Parish Mass 10.30 |

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

Parochial Church Council of All Saints
Account No. 65256747
sort code 08 92 99

Gift Aid forms are available from the office
office@allsaintsclifton.org

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :
The Parish Safeguarding Officer - Stephen O'Keefe
stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com and Caroline Davenport
c2davbristol@hotmail.com