

**CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY
to UNIVERSITY OF BATH
& BATH SPA UNIVERSITY**

Served from Parish of
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See www.bath-catholics.org.uk

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**Times of Holy Mass & Services
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
9TH MARCH 2008 (Year A)**

Sunday Mass: Holy Mass over the vacation at Bath University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Centre at 12 noon on Palm Sunday (16TH March) Easter Sunday (23rd March) NOT on Sunday 30th March but once again on 6th April, the day before term resumes.

Whether here at Holy Mass for the first time or returning after time away, please always know we are very glad to have you with us!

PLEASE THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ATTENDING THE EASTER VIGIL IN YOUR PARISH, OR, IF YOU ARE IN BATH, AT ONE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES. IT IS HELD ON HOLY SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL OF EASTER. THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL EXPERIENCE OF THE EASTER LITURGY & THE WHOLE LITURGICAL YEAR AND CAN HELP US ALL. THE LIGHTING OF THE EASTER FIRE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH AND THE CARRYING OF THE EASTER LIGHT INTO THE DARK CHURCH ARE WONDERFUL MOMENTS TO EXPERIENCE.

Updates on what is happening and the weekly newsletter of Catholic Chaplaincy to Higher Education in Bath can be accessed on

www.bath-catholics.org.uk

Please do take a look & tell others it is there.

and Fr.Bill may be contacted on
catholicchaplain@bath.ac.uk

HAPPY EASTER!

While away, take good care of yourselves and experience the Peace of Christ and share it with others where you can.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill,

which includes provisions such as creating human/animal hybrids, extending experimentation on embryos, creating embryos so that their organs can be used for other people, and removing statutory recognition of a child's 'need for a father' is moving through the House of Commons. Currently all Labour MPs are begin required to vote in favour but will be allowed to abstain. Mr Geoff Hoon MP, Labour chief whip, said MPs would be allowed to absent themselves rather than vote for the bill. He also argued that support for the medical research promoted by the bill was matter of conscience too. [Yorkshire Post, 7 March] More than 100 academics have called for a free vote. Signatories to a letter to the Times include Professor David Albert Jones, professor of bioethics at St Mary's University College, Middlesex, and Professor John Finnis, professor of law and legal philosophy at Oxford University. [Times, 7 March] SPUC is urging supporters and pro-life MPs to focus on opposing the unethical content of the bill. The question of allowing abstention or free votes is a fine point and should not obscure the wholly immoral nature of the bill.

The Press are speculating that three British cabinet ministers could defy an instruction from their party to support their government's Human Fertilisation and Embryology bill. Ms Ruth Kelly and Messrs Des Browne and Paul Murphy, all Catholic MPs, are said to be contemplating a rebellion. The government calls the bill "vital". [Telegraph, 6 March] John Smeaton, SPUC national director, commented: "Of course it's right that politicians should demand the freedom to vote according to their consciences, without being penalized by their party, on a bill which, if passed, will cost the lives of countless human beings. However, we must not confuse the issues. Whatever their party leaders may threaten, politicians have a moral duty to vote against the bill. No punishment meted out by Gordon Brown on cabinet ministers or backbench politicians, however dreadful, absolves them of their moral responsibility to vote against such a bill." Not enough people have signed the e-petition asking Gordon Brown to allow a free vote on the Bill to get it to the Prime Minister's attention. Please do everything you can to advertise this petition: It's very simple to do and shouldn't take more than two minutes. One could also write to the Prime Minister. Why not write to Members of Parliament both expressing your concern about the bill and also urging a free vote and write yourself to the PM on the email-petition being promoted to ask the Prime Minister to withdraw the three line whip from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill:- <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/embryovote/> For further information, please see www.passionforlife.org.uk

SACRAMENT of Confession & Reconciliation (by arrangement at any mutually convenient time with Fr.Bill or see times in Catholic churches in Bath listed in the Catholic Chaplaincy Flyer).

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

BEING THE LAST DAY OF TERM ,THERE WILL BE NO ORGANISED STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN the ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY CENTRE at 1.20pm but those who wish are welcome to sit together and think of the last journey of Christ which we will solemnly mark on Good Friday, a week later.

Bath Spa University Chaplains' Charity Last Soup Lunch of the term on Thursday with great help from Sue & Gail. Raising money for Water Aid.

YOU MAY BE LOOKING FOR STUDENT ACCOMMODATION FOR SEPT 2007-2008. A SUITABLE CENTRAL BATH 2 BEDROOM + SHOWER ROOM FLAT WITH DINING/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM IS AVAILABLE TO SUITABLE PARTIES: DETAILS FROM FR.BILL, OSM ASAP.

Keep enjoying the good things, don't forget the good values that guide your life and be a friend to others here. Take the good advice of so many to keep happy and safe by being with other good people and look out for one another especially over the coming weeks of pressure in revising and exams! Let your light shine forth and do not always look for a reward for what you do here! Stand for your own Catholic values and don't be too easily swayed in the wrong way by others. If anyone seems in need of a friendly word then give it or at least draw attention to someone who might be able to give them a little encouragement.

Altar Servers, Musicians, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers

Please let Fr.Bill know of willingness to help with these ways of assisting with the Liturgy. You may have been ministering elsewhere already or may like to be trained or even retrained to serve in these ways.

All are always welcome to help prepare the music and arrangements for the following Sunday's Liturgy.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Let Fr.Bill know if you would like to prepare or even refresh your understanding of this step in your life.

Used Stamps for the Missions Please save & bring on Sundays or send any used stamp for:- St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers), 20 Beauchamp Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 OPA and ensure that you tear off a good corner of envelope around the stamp. Do not cut close to the stamp or it

means they lose value. The money raised can help spread the Faith.

Fr.Bill OSM always tries to be in the Ecumenical Chaplaincy Office at Bath Campus at agreed times, if you need a private word, the Sacrament of Confession or just a chat, and at Bath Spa University Newton Park Campus on Wednesdays between 1-2 pm again at agreed times. He can, of course, be contacted at other times on e-mail catholicchaplain@bath.ac.uk and phone 01225.832096 (best time between 8-9 am most days).

CATHSOC COMMITTEES OF UNIVERSITY OF BATH & BATH SPA UNIVERSITY- ALWAYS LIKE TO HEAR FROM CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS WITH YOUR IDEAS AND OFFERS OF HELP. Help others to know that we are here by bringing them along with you and letting them know of the websites.

We may have great committees but it has to be said the committee is only as good as the support it receives from the membership, so don't just wait for things to happen – get involved, please!

BATH CATHOLIC YOUTH: 'Fun, Films & Faith Nights' on Sundays [after the 6.30-pm Holy Mass @ St.John's] in the Catholic Chaplaincy Centre in Bath @ 7.30pm Films of Catholic interest and for a little relaxation & conversation at the weekend. These will resume after Easter.

REMEMBERING SICK AND INFIRM FRIENDS

We pray for all the sick known to us, especially among the community of the University and for those who care for them including Mark Price recovering from surgery.

Please fill in the Catholic Chaplaincy Form – helps very much in keeping contact with students

both in Cathsoc and those not. Print e-mail very clearly, please, or even better send an e-mail to him on :

catholicchaplain@bath.ac.uk
catholicchaplain@bathspa.ac.uk

When you move on, go on placement, or are ill please let Father Bill know and don't just disappear from view!