

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

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

**Times of Holy Mass & Services
PALM SUNDAY
16TH 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.

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop!

As usual, there is a timetable for the events of Holy Week & Easter – yellow flyer. Please have it on your fridge door or even better by your phone and resist that urge to phone the Presbytery to ask at what time things are to happen! Many thanks.

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).

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

THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND WHAT IT MEANS TO US : VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Some have asked what is the Catholic Church teaching regarding Good Friday veneration of the cross/crucifix? Should we venerate a cross or a crucifix?. In accordance with tradition, unless the local Church possesses a relic of the true cross of Christ, such being rare, a crucifix must be used during the Good Friday veneration. This clearly echoes that we do not worship a mere cross, but the Person who died on the Holy Cross.

Why is it that some Churches use a mere cross while others use a crucifix (cross with the "corpus" [body of Christ])? Part of this problem may stem from the fact that the Latin word for cross and crucifix are identical. At the same time, during the past centuries, whenever a Vatican document made reference to the "cross," it literally meant a "crucifix."

A decline in the use of Latin and a certain lack of knowledge of the Church history and tradition may have led some to think that when the word "cross" is used in Latin, it is assumed to mean "cross." Those who can read Latin and know Church history and tradition know that the usage of the word "cross" literally means "crucifix" unless specified otherwise. The new General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) in places stipulates that the cross used at Holy Mass must have the figure of Christ. This notation has become necessary because of the abuse of removing the figure of Christ from the Holy Cross.

On Good Friday, Catholics venerate a crucifix unless their local Church possesses a relic of the true cross of Christ. **Here at Ss Peter & Paul we use the historic**

Crucifix that is loaned to us each year by Miss Joan Haran, our Sacristan of many years.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK. The Cross Walk is organised each year by Churches Together in Bath as an act of devotion and witness. We hope that those able will wish to take part. It starts from Ss Peter & Paul for this side of the City and is a walk through the streets of Bath linking up with the suffering of Jesus on the way of the Cross. You are welcome to join at any point. Please see maps showing the route.

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.

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.

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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

THE ROSARY FOR PEACE ON FRIDAYS IN ECUMENICAL CHAPLAINCY CENTRE @ 13.15pm will resume after East. People can meet in the Prayer Corner with whoever can manage to come. The Rosary is easy to use - explanatory cards on the prayer table. THE ROSARY LASTS FOR 15 MINS – ALL WELCOME. Even if you can't come every week drop in sometimes. It is a very simple witness to OUR FAITH AND CAN BE VERY APOSTOLIC. Its power as prayer for others and especially for Peace is well known .

O Lord my God Teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you.

Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me, for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me.

Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. **ST. ANSELM, Prosligion**