

ALL SAINTS NEWS

15th March 2026
4th Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday – Laetare Sunday

Sunday Themes in Lent – Fourth Sunday in Lent Enlightenment

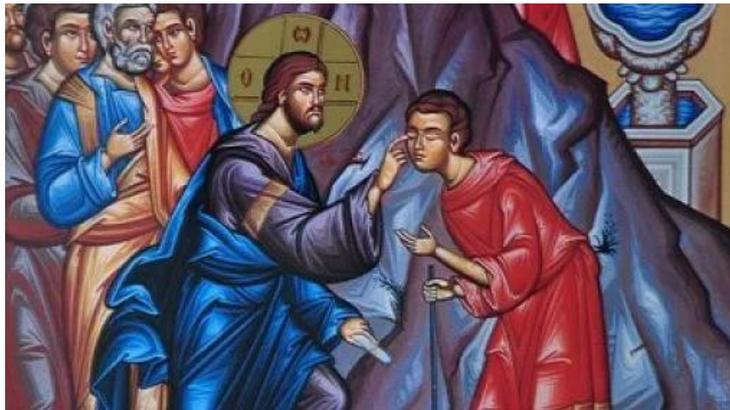
Fr Clive, just before the start of Lent, drew our attention to the meaning and themes of Lent. The first was 'Temptation', the second was 'Salvation through Faith', and last Sunday was 'The Water of Life'. You can see his article and the subsequent articles on the ASC Website, if look for the ASC News for the *Sunday before Lent, First Sunday of Lent, Second Sunday of Lent and Third Sunday of Lent.*

This Sunday is 'Enlightenment'.

This could be described as the Sunday of Sight

A time when we find enlightenment in the 'Heart of Lent'. While Lent is often described in the "shadows" of penance and reflection, the Fourth Sunday—known as **Laetare Sunday**—acts as a sudden burst of light. In our liturgical tradition, this day is profoundly linked to the theme of Enlightenment, serving as a spiritual midpoint where the dimness of our self-denial meets the approaching brilliance of the Resurrection.

From Blindness to Vision



Contact us

Office	01179741355
Web	www.allsaintsclifton.org
Email	office@allsaintsclifton.org
Address	68 Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3ED
Vicar	Fr. Charles Sutton
Mobile	07785912663
Associate Priest	Fr Paul Hawkins
	Home 0117 9078088
	Email charleses@me.com



The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the All Saints Church community.

The core of this "enlightenment" is traditionally found in the Gospel of **John 9**, the story of the man born blind. As always, the story is more than what appears to be a physical miracle; it's better to see it as part of our journey of faith. So, this Sunday isn't about gaining intellectual knowledge, but about our spiritual sight. The man in the Gospel begins in total darkness, receives the "light of the world" (Jesus), and gradually comes to see not just the world around him, but the divinity of the one who healed him. Perhaps we could ask: *What am I blind to in my own life?*

Approaching Baptism

Historically, this Sunday was the final threshold for those preparing for baptism at Easter – during the Easter Vigil. We have a number of people at this time being Confirmed and Baptised. Historically, and perhaps appropriately, these people were called '**the enlightened**'.

For them, and for us all, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is a reminder that faith is a process of gradually 'seeing more'. Yet it's not quite that simple, our journey of faith has moments of clarity, but we do spend considerable time thrashing around in the fog.

Turning, once more, to the liturgy of today we have some help:

- **Rose Vestments:** The shift from penitential purple to rose can be seen to symbolize the "dawn" breaking through the Lenten night.
- **The Anointing of David:** The Old Testament reading is selected to remind us that "God does not see as mortals see." Enlightenment is the grace to look past outward appearances and see the heart.

Living the Light

Enlightenment on **Laetare Sunday** suggests that the "refreshment" we feel today isn't just a break from fasting—it's the clarity that comes from it. By stripping away distractions during the first three weeks of Lent, we have attempted to clear the path for the light to enter.

As we move toward Holy Week, the theme of enlightenment encourages us to walk forward - not as those who have all the answers, but as those who are trying to open our eyes to the presence of God in the everyday, everywhere.

Healing Mass

This Sunday, 15 March 2026, the Fourth Sunday in Lent (also Mothering Sunday and Laetare Sunday) will be a Healing Mass for those who would like to engage.

All Saints Parish Retreat

Llangasty House - Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2026

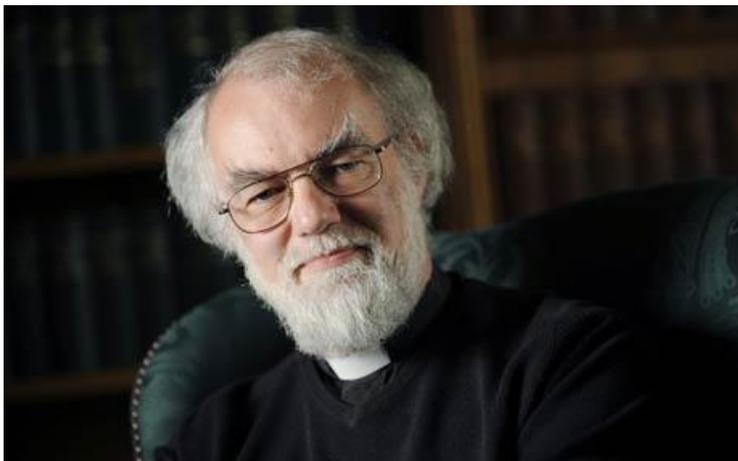


This year's Parish Retreat will be led by Fr Charles. The theme, very appropriately for today, will be based upon '*From Blindness to Vision*'.

We will engage in reflection on moving from blindness to sight, recognising the opportunity for spiritual transformation from our shared humanly impaired vision, toward a divine enlightenment through Christ and in creation.

In this spiritual place we have space to open the "eyes of faith" and perceive God's truth, grace, and presence in everyday life and the fullness of creation. (Have a read of today's Gospel: John 9).



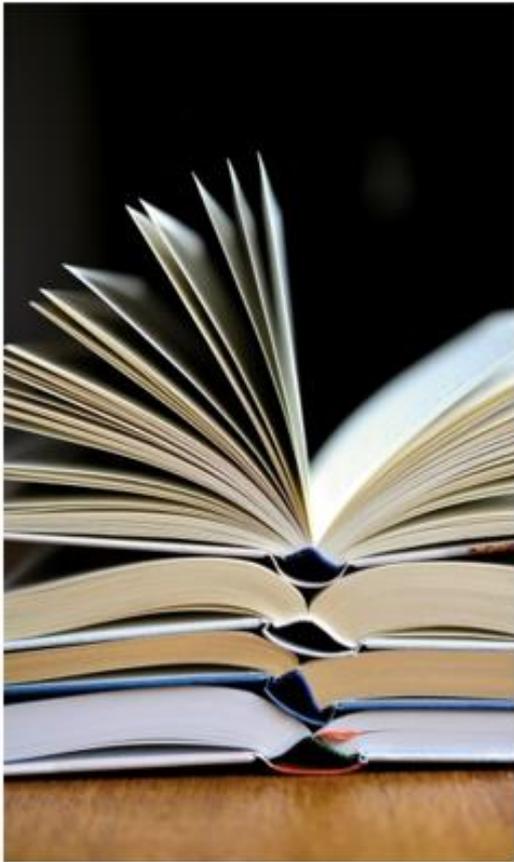


**Diary Date for November
2026!**

**Sunday 1st November 2026
All Saints Day**

On All Saints Day 2026 we will be joined by **The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth** – none other than Rowan Williams.

Fr Rowan will Preach and Preside at the Parish Mass.



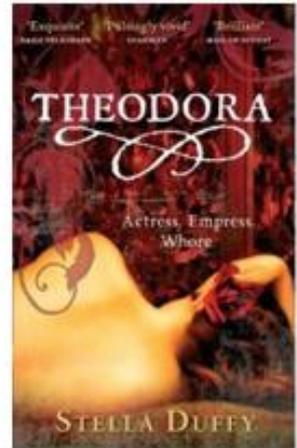
All Saints Book Group

Wed 25th March 2026, 7-9 pm
in the Sacristy

Join us for our bi-monthly book group in the Sacristy of All Saints. Every other month, a new book – bringing readers together for lively discussions and great company!

The book for our March 2026 meeting will be:

Theodora
By Stella Duffy



Silver Cleaning before the Easter services.

Please join the silver cleaning team
on Saturday March 28th
9.30 for 10 am

Refreshments



Prayers for those in Need and for the Departed.

This week Fr Charles has revisited the prayer lists in the News and Intercessions Book.

If you feel that people have been omitted please speak to Fr Charles or leave a message in the Parish office.

Thank you

Sam Coad, a member of the All Saints congregation, is being Confirmed at a Confirmation Service at St Paul's Clifton at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 17th.



Easter
Eve
April
4th

April 4th

From 3pm in the Richard Chapel
Creation of the Easter Garden

All ages welcome to contribute to this .
If possible please bring along a small posy
or even a single flower or some greenery
– but there will also be some material
available in Church.

AND Hot Cross Buns

AND 4 to 4.25pm

A short service with blessing of the Easter
Garden

AND Mini Eggs

Wednesday Lectio Divina

Each Wednesday during Lent there is a Lectio in the Richard Chapel at 3.00pm. Each will focus on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. This last week was the Samaritan Woman at the Well of Jacob and the Water of Life.

Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional Christian monastic practice of slow, contemplative, and prayerful reading of Scripture, aimed at fostering communion with God. It moves beyond intellectual study to transform the Bible into a "living word" through four distinct, meditative steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation.

The Four Steps:

- **Lectio (Read):** Slowly reading a, typically short, passage of Scripture multiple times, letting the words resonate.
- **Meditatio (Meditate):** Reflecting on the passage to understand how it speaks to one's heart and life.
- **Oratio (Pray):** A personal, spontaneous conversation with God based on the reflections.
- **Contemplatio (Contemplate):** Resting in silence to listen to God and experience His presence.

The origin of the practice was with early Benedictine communities and was encouraged by saints like Gregory of Nyssa and Benedict of Nursia. It has a very clear purpose. Untroubled by issues of context, interpretation, history, and literary criticism it provides an opportunity to listen to God's Word. It is used to deepen a relationship with God, allowing the Word to shape the reader inwardly.

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is the official register of lay membership in a Church of England parish, enabling members to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), stand for the Parochial Church Council (PCC), and take part in church governance. It requires applicants to be baptised, aged 16 or over, and either reside in the parish or have attended regularly (once a month-ish) for at least six months.

Last year we were required to start the roll from 'new'. This means that everyone had to rejoin. This is a regular event to ensure the Roll is up-to-date and properly maintained.

As mentioned, **the purpose** is to function as the voting register for the parish, allowing members to participate in decision-making and elect representatives to the PCC, Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods.

It also carries **significance!** The size of the roll reflects the active, committed membership, which impacts the representation on church councils but also informs future decisions about the life of the parish. With a mind to the future vacancy we need to recognise this significance!

You can apply by completing the form available in the Atrium and online or via the church office and submitting it to the electoral roll officer (Wendy) or a Churchwarden.

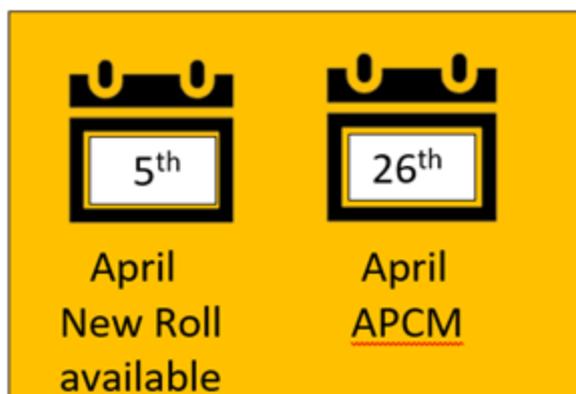
APCM and revising the Electoral Roll

The APCM will be held on Sunday 26th of April 2026 in the Randall Room.

The Electoral Roll is to be revised in 2026. Notice is given and Applications invited from Sunday 15th of March 2026.

The current Electoral Roll (names only) is available in the atrium for viewing
To be included in the Revised Electoral Roll please complete an application form and return it to the Parish Office.

All changes must be completed by 2nd of April at 11.00 am. The New Roll will be available for inspection from Sunday 5th of April for 14 days.

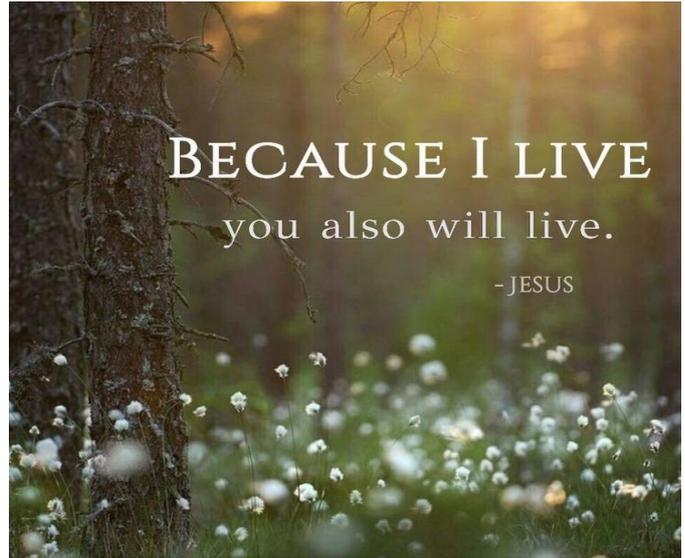


Prayers Requests

'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 of the parish and our hearts whom we remember in our Prayers:

Sunday

Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Nicky Epinay Sarah Jean Bradford

Monday

Tuesday.

Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford Jennie Williams

Thursday

Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nadine Benn The O'Sullivan family

Saturday

The Departed

Lucille Osafa Gwladys Hughes Antony Keyworth-Berridge Chris Griffin Jenny Oates

Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Nigel Mead (Pr) Stella Shute Pat Coole Jill Symonds Timothy Sherman Gwen Francis
Gwyneth James Charles Easmon

ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 16	Give thanks that public authorities are obliged to share certain information about their activity and conduct so that this openness helps ensure political health. Pray for those who live under regimes where information is not shared and where people are divided by fear and secrecy. (Freedom of Information Day)
Tue 17	Patrick, Patron of Ireland 460 Pray for the Church of Ireland, Archbishop Richard Clarke, its people and work. Giving thanks for the Celtic tradition. Praying for the growing links between the Anglicans Church and the Roman Catholic Church.
Wed 18	Mass 10 am Pray for those who provide and use the Sacrament of Penance. May each one of us take time in Lent to reflect on our life and seek better ways to serve God.
Thurs 19	Joseph of Nazareth Pray for husbands and fathers, and for those who work with their hands (carpenters) but also technologists those who make things out of materials. Reflect that in the Judaic/Christian account of creation God makes everything from nothing, and that it was good.
Fri 20	Mass 10 am Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne 687 Almighty God, who called your servant Cuthbert from following the flock to follow your Son and to be a shepherd of your people: in your mercy, grant that we, following his example, may bring those who are lost home to your fold
Sat 21	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop, Reformation Martyr 1556 Pray for those who raise children on their own – single parents. Pray also for those who help and support them in this task – grandparents, neighbours and friends. Pray for those who work to change ideologies, behaviours and shift public opinion. Those who suffer from discrimination or prejudice because of race
Sunday 22	5th Sunday of Lent Passiontide Begins Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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 Officers - Caroline Davenport & Janice Callow at safeguarding@allsaintsclifton.org