

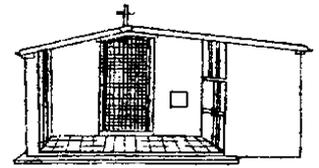


St. John Fisher
Wellington



**CLIFTON
DIOCESE**

Registered Charity no. 233977
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**St. Richard
of Chichester**
Wiveliscombe

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Parish bulletin for Sunday, 15th March, 2020



Parish mission statement: Our mission is to witness, in our daily lives, to the presence of the living Christ in our parish and local community. To this end, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are a people grounded in the sacraments and prayer, in the Word of God, and in the teachings of the Church.

Mass this week:

3rd Sunday of Lent	Sunday	15th	9.00am	Wiveliscombe
			11.15am	Wellington
	Monday	16th	9.15am	
St Patrick	Tuesday	17th	9.15am	
	Wednesday	18th	9.15am	
			9.45am	Rosary
St Joseph	Thursday	19th	10.00am	Wiveliscombe
	Friday	20th	11.15am	
			12 noon	Stations of the Cross followed by CAFOD bread & cheese lunch
			5.00pm	Stations of the Cross Wiveliscombe
	Saturday	21st	10.00am	
4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)	Sunday	22nd	9.00am	Wiveliscombe
			11.15am	Wellington

Confessions: usually Saturday 10.30 – 11am

Hymns for 11.15am Mass

Ent:239; Kyrie; Gloria;; Gifts:677; Holy Holy:47; Mem acc: 47

Amen: 47 Agnus Dei: 452/29, v14,4; Comm:145; Recess:113

Psalm response:

O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not your hearts"

Communion antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to sternal life.

Collection: Cash: £259.08 + direct debits c.£187

Second collection: CAFOD family fast day: £251.17

Please pray for sick in our hospitals & nursing homes around the parish.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH: William Mardon, Mary Tolmie

General

Food Bank is requesting items for Easter, such as Easter eggs, cakes, etc for hampers to distribute for Easter.

School admission appeals panel members required for appeals usually in May, June and July. Full details in porch.

Employment vacancy: part time office administrator requires at Alexander House working with finance tea. Salary circa £20,000. Full details and application form from www.cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us

Bishop Declan is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent at various venues across the diocese. This week at St John, Trowbridge. Complete list of dates and venues in porch.

Coronavirus: the diocese follows the guidance issued by the Bishop's Conference. As new information comes guidance will be updated. To keep well informed see

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>

Please, if any parishioner has travelled and returned from any of the countries that the NHS has identified as a high risk place for contracting or imparting Covid-19, for the sake of yourself, your family and parishioners, exercise self quarantine/isolation for 14 days. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

This Week

Coffee, cake and conversation for separated, divorced and remarried: Tuesday 17th March, 11am at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, South Parade, Bath.

First Holy Communion preparation class: Saturday 22nd March, 11 – 12noon.

Coming Events

Church spring cleaning at St Richard's: Saturday 28th March, 9.30 – 1pm. Please all come and help us.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine Ireland: 8–12 July. Details on poster in porch.

Living your Faith diocesan summer camps: to be held at Viney Hill Christian Outdoor Centre in the Forest of Dean; two age streams available, from Monday 10 – Friday 14 August. Cost £210 per person all inclusive. See www.cliftondiocese.com for full details and booking.

International Eucharistic Congress: September 2020 in Budapest. Full details on poster in porch.

Diocesan pilgrimage to northern Spain: 22 – 29 October. To be led by Bishop Declan as part of the celebration for the Year of Communion. Details and contact information on poster in porch.

Gospel commentary for 3rd Sunday of Lent

Many Jews avoided travelling through Samaria. Jesus, however, felt impelled to go there. One can imagine the travel-weary Jesus asking humbly for hospitality wherever he went, including on his journey through Samaria. Samaritans were reluctant to talk to Jews but Jesus could quickly turn everyday chatter into heart-to-heart encounters.

The Samaritan woman in our story evidently had a colourful past, which Jesus was quick to recognise. The meeting with Jesus turned out to be a love that would never die. She was probably looked down on by the other residents of her town because of her troubled marital history, but went on to take Jesus' words of life and love to them. As the Gospel writer tells us, "Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony".

Today many are still thirsting for an experience of God that makes them feel truly loved and known. It is easy to be seduced by worldly attractions. Just as the woman kept having to go back to the well, some people find the happiness the world promises illusory and short-lived. You do not have to keep coming back for more, Jesus assures us. He offers us himself as the true source of life and joy. Drink of God's Spirit, he says, and you will never be thirsty again.

Whatever our past story, God longs to win us back. This Mass is an invitation to enter into deeper communion. If we are tired of encounters that are only ever brief ones, Jesus offers eternal union. He is waiting for each one of us at the well.

Year of Communion –3rd Sunday of Lent

In the Jewish faith, water was used often as a powerful metaphor. In such a semi-arid environment water was a precious gift to relieve thirst and bring refreshment. Within the UK we have recently experienced anything but a thirst for water – such have been the terrible floods affecting so many people. However, in today's Gospel, we will hear of a different thirst which needs quenching. Jesus is thirsty because he is tired and hot, but there is another kind of thirst in him – a thirst for the woman he meets at the well, to be transformed. Jesus offers living water, a spring of water willing up to eternal life. This is the water we all thirst for, the living water of the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time to quench our thirst, to be transformed by him, just as the woman was transformed. The Lord wants to give us living water so that we might have life and have it abundantly. Drinking from this well, changes us so that we become, like the woman, true disciples, ready and able to share what we have encountered, the love of Christ in all its fullness.
