



# The Catholic Parishes in Communion - Bridgwater & Burnham on Sea

All contributions for the newsletter to be emailed to [bridgwater.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bridgwater.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com) by Thursday afternoon.

**St Joseph's Church (St J)**  
**9 Binford Place, Bridgwater. TA6 3NJ**  
**[bridgwater.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bridgwater.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com)**  
**01278 422703**  
**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Bridgwater 01278 422786**

**Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM)**  
**Highbridge Road, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1LL**  
**[burnham-on-sea.ourlady@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:burnham-on-sea.ourlady@cliftondiocese.com)**  
**01278 497959**  
**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Burnham- on- Sea 01278 784 641**

**Parish Priest: Fr Paul Vettikattu**

**Deacon Paul White (Retired)**

**Parish Administrator: Gosia Maynard**

**Safeguarding: Diocesan Safeguarding Office: 01179 540 993**

**Website: [www.bridgwatercatholicchurch.com](http://www.bridgwatercatholicchurch.com) & <https://www.olem-church.org>**

11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – The Baptism of the Lord Holy Mass and Service Times				
Sat 10th	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Mass Polish Holy Mass	St J St J	People of the Parish
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord	8:00 am 9:15 am 11.15 am	Holy Mass, Feast, Baptism of the Lord Holy Mass, Baptism of the Lord Holy Mass, Baptism of the Lord	St J St J OLEM	People of the Parish Sheila Hale RIP People of the Parish
Tues 13th	9.30 am	Adoration	St J	People of the Parish
Wed 14th	9:30 am 6:00 pm	No Mass No Mass	St J OLEM	People of the Parish People of the Parish
Thurs 15th	9:30 am 11.30 am	No Mass Requiem Mass	St J OLEM	People of the Parish RIP Kathleen Jordan
Fri 16th	9.00 am 11.30 am 5:00 pm	Adoration followed by Holy Mass Holy Mass Konkani Holy Mass	St J OLEM St. J	People of the Parish People of the Parish St. Joseph Vaz
Sat 17th	5:00 pm 6:30 pm	Holy Mass Polish Holy Mass	St J St J	People of the Parish People of the Parish
Sun 18th	8:00 am 9:15 am 11.15 am	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	St J St J OLEM	People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish

**Prayers for the Sick** Please pray for Alan Billings, Heather Brosnan, Tena Gosling, Mary Olsen, Joana dos Santos, Natalina Ximenes, Margaret Keohane, Frances Macauley, Joyce Dowds, Cathy Harper, Mike Newby, Deacon Paul, and Fr Paul's mother, Mary.

Parish collections	
<u>Collections last week:</u> <b>St J:</b> Weekend collection <b>£473</b> . Maintenance <b>£1,309</b> including a donation <b>£1,000</b> <b>OLEM:</b> Weekend collection <b>£184</b> .Maintenance <b>£46</b>	<b>Standing Orders and Gift Aid</b> – forms are available in church. If you need help or have any questions, please speak to Yanness St J. and Gosia or John OLEM.

Death & Funerals
<b>Mr Owen Corbett (RIP)</b> , funeral service at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 11am
<b>Kathleen Jordan (RIP)</b> , funeral Mass, 15 <sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am followed by burial at Brent Road Cemetery
<b>Dan Power (RIP)</b> , Funeral 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 details to follow.

## General News

Fr Paul will be away from 5<sup>th</sup> Jan as he is going to meet his mother, Mary. Fr Tibor and Fr Philip will be helping the parishes in his absence.

**A request for prayer** - Please keep Deacon Paul in your special prayers as he continues his medical treatments. We ask for God's healing grace and strength to be with him and his family during this time.

**Bequest form.** This should not be considered legal advice. Parishioners wishing to make provision in their wills for the benefit of the parish may find the following wording helpful:

"I give free of all taxes the sum of £.... (or residue of my estate) to Clifton Diocese (a company limited by guarantee, reg. no. 10462076), a registered charity (no. 1170168) of St Ambrose, North Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PW, for the general charitable purposes of ..... Catholic Parish and I declare that the receipt of the Diocesan Financial Administrator or other proper officer of Clifton Diocese shall be a good and sufficient discharge of my Executors. But if the said Parish has been closed or reorganised then for the general charitable purposes of such parish as the Bishop of the Diocese considers has taken the place of the said Parish".

Confirmation on: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Bishop Bosco's Parish Visits on: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

**The diocesan directory and liturgical diary** are now available, please speak to the sacristans if you wish to purchase.

## St. Joseph's Parish News and Events

**St J.-** Communion at Home – if anyone is unable to attend mass, there is the opportunity to receive a visit, Holy Communion and other Sacraments. Please let Fr Paul or Sheila Byrne know.

**Youth Group:** would like to sincerely thank all parents and guardians for allowing their children to attend our Youth Group Christmas event. We had a wonderful turnout of 34 participants, and it was truly a lovely evening filled with joy, laughter, and community spirit. We are also pleased to announce the winning raffle numbers from our Christmas draw organised by the Youth Group: 343, 345, 386, 73, 78, and 31. Winners are kindly asked to present their winning ticket to Fr Paul in order to claim their prize. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle and our youth activities. Your continued support means a great deal to us and helps make events like these possible. We look forward to welcoming everyone again at future Youth Group gatherings.

**First Holy Communion** - next class Saturday January 10<sup>th</sup>

## OLEM Parish News and Events

The first **Tea and Cake Afternoon** of the new year at OLEM: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, 2.00pm - 3.30pm. Everyone welcomed to this afternoon of friendship and delicious cakes.

**Do you like singing?** Then come and join the Saturday night music group. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm in church there will be a session to learn a new hymn and Gospel Acclamation for Lent and to practice the music for the Saturday evening Mass on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Further practices are on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6 pm and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 6 pm to prepare for morning Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and evening Mass on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Practical Advice on staying safe at home and online.** A drop in event at St Andrew's Church on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January from 10.a.m - 12 noon. Police and Fire Service will be in attendance, with officers giving guidance on fraud and scams, and home safety. Open to everyone.

**St Andrew's Church** thank us for taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Several hundred visitors enjoyed the display.

**Christian Unity week** is from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a Burnham Churches Together service on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at Burnham Methodist Church at 5pm. Put the date in your diary. It would be good to have a large contingent from OLEM attending to worship with our fellow Christians.

**OLEM Lantern Repairs** - Early in May the first phase of repairing the OLEM Lanterns was carried out. The second phase of repairing the Lanterns Window Seals will now go ahead. Any donations towards it greatly appreciated.

## . Diocesan News and Events

Retrouvaille helps marriages – it can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026, [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) – Tel: 07887296983

**Encounter Revive Day - Clifton Cathedral**, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 9.30am to 4 pm Begin 2026 in the fire of the Holy Spirit by joining us for a Day of Encounter with guest speaker Ros Powell. Let us start the New Year "awake and alert" 1 Thess 5:6. This is a day to renew heart, hope and mission. For more information about the day, email [Encounter@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Encounter@cliftondiocese.com) or contact Ann on 07815 751556. All welcome.