

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*John McWilliam*)

Monday 19th February

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 20th February

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm (Ch)

Funeral Mass of Tony Cassell

Wednesday 21st February

Weekday of Lent

12pm (Cor) Mass (*Frank Harvey*)

Thursday 22nd February

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter

the Apostle (*Anthony Cassell*)

11am Mass (Ch)

with children from St Mary's School

Adoration after Mass until 5pm

Friday 23rd February

Weekday of Lent

11am Mass (Cor) (*Frank Harvey*)

with children from St Patrick's School

Adoration 5pm to 6pm after Mass

Saturday 24th February

Weekday of Lent

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm - 4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

with Children's Liturgy of the Word

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Elizabeth Garbett*)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT B

THE SEASON OF LENT is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil.

LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Wednesday at Saint Patrick's at 11.15am and on Thursdays at St Mary's at 11.20pm (except when a funeral is scheduled) This will begin on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February. If you would like to help lead the stations, please sign the list in Church.

LENT LECTIO DIVINA "divine reading." Lectio Divina is a method for praying with the Scriptures. As we read and invite the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, we can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day. The method of lectio divina follows four steps: lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation), contemplatio (contemplation), and oratio (prayer). During Lent we have the opportunity to experience 'Lectio' at St Mary's at 1pm on three Wednesdays, 21st February, 6th March and 20th March at St Mary's Parish Office after 12.10pm mass. Do come along and join us and experience this lovely form of prayer.

LENT COURSE with Corsham Churches Together 'You Cannot Be Serious' every Monday evening at St Aldhelm's at 7.30pm and repeated on a Thursday morning at St Patrick's beginning the week of 19th February at 10am. Chippenham parishioners are warmly invited too.

PARISH LENT FILM NIGHT – THE CHOSEN Do join us on Thursday 22nd February to start watching Season 1 of 'The Chosen' on the big screen in St Patrick's Parish Hall. Free snacks & drinks provided. 7.30pm start. Each episode is approx. 60mins long. E1: I Have Called You By Name.

THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB AT ST PATRICK'S You are invited to attend a new lunch club next Wed 21st February following 12noon Mass at Saint Patrick's. Anyone who has been to Mass is welcome to join us.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH Tuesday 20th Feb at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Theme: 'The Holy Eucharist', The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

ADORATION We are very fortunate to have weekly opportunities for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. These are times of prayer which bring us into the peace of the presence of Christ. Adoration brings a stillness to our hearts and brings peace that comes from being before the Lord. We are also looking for people who would willingly give time to the Lord and cover some of our free slots to ensure our churches can remain open for this lovely time of prayer.

LENTEN RETREAT 'TRANSFORMED BY LOVE' Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' is offering a [Lenten retreat: 'Transformed by Love'](#) in six online sessions, contemplating God's grace at work in the lives of six people, through scripture and artworks: 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening: 20 Feb, 27 Feb, 5 March, 12 March, 19 March, 26 March. To sign up, they just need to click on the Zoom link: [Meeting Registration](#) or go to the [diocesan website](#).

ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY We have for some time been trying to let St Mary's Presbytery to Ukrainian refugees. Unfortunately, even though we have been in touch with charities that house refugees, we have been unsuccessful, and we are now starting to look for a commercial tenant instead. The large size of the house makes it unsuitable for most refugee families unless they use it as a house of multiple occupation, but sadly this would require significant building modification and licensing by the local authority. Also, the lack of parking is putting off tenants too. Some parishioners have kindly donated furnishings and furniture yet the Diocese has told us to let the Presbytery empty. Please get in touch with Teresa (telephone number above) if you would like to take back your items **by Thursday 29th Feb**. We know that this is a disappointing outcome, but the parish costs of the upkeep of having the presbytery unoccupied is increasing, and the Diocese has recommended this course of action.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES Thank you to those who have asked to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. As we move towards our formal preparation sessions, we look forward to seeing our candidates at Mass each week as they prepare to begin their formation. Naturally, it is important that our candidates **are practicing** the faith in order to receive the sacrament.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 We ask all candidates to participate in Mass each Sunday and to ensure their participation register is signed each week by the priest or a catechist. Participation in Mass is the most important aspect of a child's preparation for the sacraments. We would expect children to attend a minimum of two thirds of Sunday masses as part of this preparation, taking into account illness and holidays. Let us ensure that our children come to know the presence of the Lord in the Mass.

LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION Bishop Declan will celebrate a liturgy of Reconciliation on Wed 21st Feb at St Anthony's Melksham at 7pm. There will be priests available to celebrate sacramental reconciliation.

LENT READING Copies of 'Walk with Me' (£1.10) and 'Day by Day' (£1.15) publications for Lent for adults and children (60p) are available at the both churches. Please put your money in the 'papers' slot at St Mary's.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS St Mary's on Saturday between 4.15 pm and 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after the weekday masses or by prior arrangement with Fr Michael.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, Elena Alberti, Victoria Kiss. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversaries: John McWilliam, Iris Rawlings, Joan Nowak, Nicola Bayly, Kathy McKenna, David Lord, Ann Holland, Margaret Trowbridge.

The Holy Father's Prayer February Intention: We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Saint Mary, Swindon.

In compliance with the requirements of GDPR permission must be sought from an individual (or next of kin) before their name can be added to a list of those who are sick. Do please advise us of any changes to be made to this list.

February – The Month of the Holy Family



February is dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. On 2nd Feb we see the Holy Family go to the Temple for the Presentation of Jesus. The family is together. The Holy Family. This month-dedication traces back to the 17th century. But how much do we remember or hear that today? This February we should restore that devotion. It would both honour the Holy Family and at the same time becomes a reminder to strengthen family life. After all, the Church has taught how the Holy Family is the model, the example, for all families. So said St John Paul II in a 2001 Angelus address, as he called “the family of Nazareth a model for every home.” These are perfect reasons to start honoring the Holy Family this month. “The Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families,” John Paul II said earlier in his *Letter to Families*. He stressed, “The history of mankind, the history of salvation, passes by way of the family.” In fact, the saintly pope made it plain that he was trying “to show how the family is placed at the center of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between love and all that is opposed to love.”

Collect for the Feast of the Holy Family

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Prayer for Reconciliation and Peace in the Holy Land



God of justice and peace
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people
in all their need, pain and fear.
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.
We ask this through your Son, the Prince of peace,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

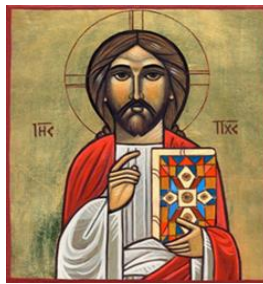
A Prayer for Ukraine



Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (B)



First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, ‘See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.’

God said, ‘Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.’

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9

*Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.*

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

Second reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord