

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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TWENTY- FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

20TH September

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

9am (Cor) Solemn Mass (*Pro Populo*) with Children's Liturgy

11am (Ch) Solemn Mass (*Pro Populo*)

Monday 21st September

Feast of Saint Matthew,

Apostle and Evangelist No Mass

Tuesday 22nd September

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Wednesday 23rd September

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Ellen Donoghue*)

Thursday 24th September

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(*Walsingham Pilgrims*)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 25th September

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(*Family Tree/ departed Souls*)

Saturday 26th September

Our Lady on Saturday

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm–4.45pm (Sat)

Confessions

4.45pm Benediction

TWENTY- SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

27TH September

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Marion Hill*)

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

11am (Ch) Solemn Mass (*Pro Populo*) with Children's Liturgy

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (HOME MISSION SUNDAY) Today we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection. A few years ago, this day was re-named *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation the 'Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name – *Home Mission Sunday*. We are asked to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ as we recognise that we are called to witness to Christ in our homes, at work, in our friendships. Please donate via DONA machines, or by cash collection.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL Thank you to all who took time to lobby their MP on this most important issue. The result is a resounding vote for the dignity of human life. The struggle continues as we continue to fight for better palliative care for the dying.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING Today at 9am and 11am Masses we give thanks to God for the fruits of the harvest. We pray for all farmers and those who produce our food.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM Thursday 24th Sept commemorates the veneration of Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Walsingham. This is linked to a vision experienced in 1061 by Lady Richeldis de Faverches, who was instructed to build a replica of the Holy House of Nazareth in Walsingham, Norfolk. The shrine became a major pilgrimage destination in medieval England yet was destroyed by King Henry VIIIth at the Reformation. The restored shrine once again attracts many pilgrims seeking Mary's prayers in 'England's Nazareth'. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

PARISHES YOUTH GROUP meets in St Patrick's Hall on a Saturday night Saturday 19th September from 7-9pm. Please join for fun, friendship and fellowship.

THE INTERNATIONAL HARVEST SUPPER Friday September 25th in St Patrick's Hall starts at 6.30pm. Contributions of hot and cold food gratefully accepted from all parts of the world. No cost for attending but there will be a collection for the Church restoration fund and Julia's House. Families from both parishes most welcome.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH RESTORATION The latest plans for our renovation will be on display in the church and on the website.

RCIA– JOURNEY IN FAITH For adults wanting to explore the Catholic faith in more depth, you are invited to take part in 'The Journey of Faith 2026/7' (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). This starts on 30th September at 7pm in St Mary's Chippenham and covers the main teachings of the Catholic faith. The journey is rooted in the

Sunday celebration of the Liturgy. For those who wish, this can lead to baptism/ formal reception into the Church and the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. We already have a lot of people contacting us about joining RCIA, but there is always space for more. Please call the Parish Office to register.

TASTE & SEE A prior gathering to our 2026/7 journey in faith will be our 'taste and see' session on Wednesday 23rd September in St Mary's Office, Chippenham at 7pm. Come and ask questions over a glass of wine or a soft drink and nibbles. There is no obligation to attend the RCIA program. This is just as preliminary introduction and an opportunity to ask questions. All most welcome.

SINGING THE MASS We have an array of Mass settings we sing on Sundays in our parishes. It has been suggested that we sing the 'Missa de Angelis' occasionally at Mass. Many will know this setting, but if you wish to listen and learn in at home before we sing it, please go to www.nool.us/missa-de-angelis. We will begin with the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei. Sung in the Latin, you may know it from Lourdes or other international masses and many parishes who sing it.

OUR PARISH CHOIRS We are fortunate to have two choirs (Corsham 9am and Chippenham 11am Choir) also a music group who often sing at the 5pm Mass on Saturday in Chippenham. All would welcome new singers. If you would like to join, have a word with Irene (Chippenham, Guy (Corsham) Stu (Sat Chippenham) or speak to Fr Michael. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses are all needed. We thank all who are involved in our music ministry for the great work they do facilitating our participation in the Mass.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS If you have a child born between 1st Sept 2022 and 31st Aug 2023, now is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school for admission from Sept 2027. You must complete the Common Application Form available from the school admissions team of your Local Authority Council. If your child has been baptised, you should complete a Supplementary Information Form (available from the Catholic school) and provide a copy of the child's baptism certificate. Closing date of 15th Jan 2027.

ST PATRICK'S CAR PARK TOILET is now back in use. It will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays giving access to a toilet when the hall is booked. We thank Fr Bill for all his hard work in restoring this facility.

FATIMA RELICS On Saturday/Sunday September 26th /27th the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of St Jacinta and St Francisco will be visiting Clifton Cathedral. See the Cathedral newsletter for the schedule: 06.09.20266.pdf

CHIPPENHAM DOORWAY asks for donations for their annual Harvest collection to make up the food take-out bags they give out each week and contributes to the hot meals they serve in sessions. They are always so grateful for the generous donations they receive.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.15-4.45pm or by arrangement.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Kath McDonald, Linda Scott, Nick King, Mo Brinn, Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Victoria Kiss, Pamela Naylor, Agnes Tegner, Michael Millard, Harry Purdon. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversaries: Elsie Tovey, Eric Rosario, Helen Cooper, Maria Checchia, Gus Wojtecki, Brian Naylor, Norah English, Ferruccio Fossacecco.

For Peace: in the Middle East, Ukraine, Gaza and all the places of warfare throughout the world.

The Holy Father's September Intention: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Saint Mary's Bath.

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

September – The Month of Our Lady of Sorrows



Over the centuries there grew a custom of devoting certain months of the year to specific spiritual themes. September became known as the month of “Our Lady of Sorrows.” Initially this might seem like a strange designation, as Our Lady of Sorrows is usually connected to Jesus’ crucifixion, which in the Church’s liturgical year is celebrated in March or April. However, early on a feast developed on 14th September named “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.” Originally this feast celebrated the finding of the Holy Cross by St Helena and the consecration, on 14th September, 335, of the basilicas built by Constantine on the sites of the Holy Sepulchre and Calvary in Jerusalem. This brought into September a particular meditation on the cross of Jesus Christ, and by the 17th century there developed a complementary Marian feast on 15th September.

In the 17th century the Servites celebrated a solemn feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, which in 1817 was extended to the whole Church by Pope Pius VII as a memorial of his sufferings in exile and captivity and of his deliverance through the Blessed Virgin’s intercession. Furthermore, Pope St Pius X transferred this feast from the third Sunday of September to this octave-day of Our Lady’s Nativity (8th September), in 1912.” Originally this feast was more concerned with Mary’s sufferings throughout her early life, excluding the Passion of Jesus, her Son, but over time it has come to represent all of Mary’s suffering.

Collect for Our Lady of Sorrows

O God, who willed that, when your Son was lifted high on the Cross,
his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering,
grant that your Church, participating with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ,
may merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Sorrows pray for us



The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First reading

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145(144)

The LORD is close to all who call him

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The LORD is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

The LORD is close to all who call him.
The LORD is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The LORD is close to all who call him.
The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The LORD is close to all who

Second reading

Philippians 1:20-24,27

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and to die is gain. If am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia
Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel of Matthew

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too." And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.