

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Bernard RIP*)

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Ben Jones*)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Weekday of Advent No Mass

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Holy Souls*)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Patricia Neville*)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Saint John of the Cross, Priest,

Doctor of the Church

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Tjalling*)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Weekday of Advent

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Maura O'Loan*)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Weekday of Advent

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

Gaudete Sunday

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Naylor RIPs*)

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

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

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

**LET ADVENT BE ADVENT!** In our reading at Mass, John the Baptist calls for repentance and echoes Isaiah's call to prepare the way of the Lord. But Isaiah begins by proclaiming God's comfort for Jerusalem, for her guilt is expiated. Once again, repentance leads to joy. In other strong passages, St Paul proclaims that God is patient with us so that we have time to repent, and Isaiah reminds us of God's gentle love: "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care." Advent is a truly beautiful season. Let us resist the temptation to run forward to Christmas. Let Advent be Advent! We can resist the temptation to use Christmas songs during Advent, even though they are being played on street corners and on the radio and in Christmas concerts throughout December. We cannot control secular society (there is no point in berating people for commercializing Christmas), but we should be faithful to our own tradition in keeping Advent as a time to prepare. Let Advent be Advent! We need the time to prepare for the actual celebration of Christmas, which then continues until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It's more about prolongation of Christmas and less emphasis on anticipating it. Stay with Advent and let the beautiful message of the season transform us and prepare us for the celebration of the Word made Flesh.

**COME LET US ADORE HIM** Please note time changes for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. St Mary's Adoration will also take place at 2pm on Saturdays after Christmas, start date to be advised. There will be Adoration at St Patrick's after Mass on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, and again on 5<sup>th</sup> January for one hour. The response in both parishes has been encouraging. If you could commit to a once-a-week regular time adoration between Thursday 1pm - 6pm and/or Saturday 2pm to 4.45pm at St Mary's it will be appreciated. This can be done by filling in a short form available in Church. Helping to keep our Churches open for prayer would be a wonderful gift to all of us.

**CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS** are now available in both Churches with details of all Masses over the Christmas period. Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve 5pm @ Chippenham. Christmas Day 9am @ Corsham & 11am @ Chippenham.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS** are heard at 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. Pre-Christmas Confessions will also be heard on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11.30am at St Mary's. Everyone should try their best to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation before celebrating Christmas.

**RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH** our next session takes place on Tuesday evening at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming you. Theme: 'THE POWER OF PRAYER', What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? How to pray.

**MINI-ADVENT RETREAT – TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR ‘Shafts of light, Shafts of hope’** will take place online via the links printed next to the dates; on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7-8pm <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bef05e7a-38d9-4349-8c6c-39cod79dda93@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>.

**CHRISTMAS TREES AT ST MARY’S** once again we will be decorating our Christmas trees in preparation for Christmas (day tba). If you still have any silver or gold baubles, then please bring them along to the office. Thank you.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS MATINEE MOVIE** ‘The Star’, will be shown in St Patrick’s Church Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 2pm to 4pm. All are welcome from both parishes.

**CHILDREN’S NATIVITY & CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE** Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5pm in St Patrick’s Church. All are welcome from both parishes.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024** The first **parent’s** meeting for this year’s First Holy Communion group is Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in St Mary’s Hall (in St Mary’s Place, behind the church). The first teaching session for **children** follows quickly on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January. More information will be given at the parents’ meeting.

**2024 DIARIES AND DIRECTORIES** are available in both churches. Diaries: £6.00 each and Liturgical Directories: £6.50 each. Please place your money in the silver box marked ‘papers’ at the back of St Mary’s Church.

**NEW DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISATION NEWSLETTER** has been published and can be accessed via the following link: [Newsletter-volume-9-2023.pdf \(cliftondiocese.com\)](#). Please sign up to the Diocese’s social media accounts to keep up to date with information and events across the Diocese.

**MARY’S MEALS - DOUBLE THE LOVE** - We have incredible news! From today until the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024, every donation made to our Double the Love appeal will be matched, up to £1 million. Thanks to a group of generous supporters, your kindness will go even further. The impacts of rising costs, climate change and conflict have brought fear and uncertainty to many children and right now our life-changing school meals have never been more important. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary’s Meals. Donate today Double the Love | Mary’s Meals UK ([marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk))

**CORSHAM TOWN CAROLS** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.45pm. Meet outside the bookshop before proceeding to St Bartholomew’s Church.

**MATHEW HENDRICKS-BIRTLES** continues to raise money for Alzheimer’s. He has achieved his 11<sup>th</sup> £1000 for the charity and is £300 towards his 12<sup>th</sup>. Please leave your used cards, especially Christmas cards, in the porch for him at St Mary’s or on the table at St Patrick’s.

#### **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, James Carine, Elena Alberti, Jenny Coates, Sue Sheehan. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

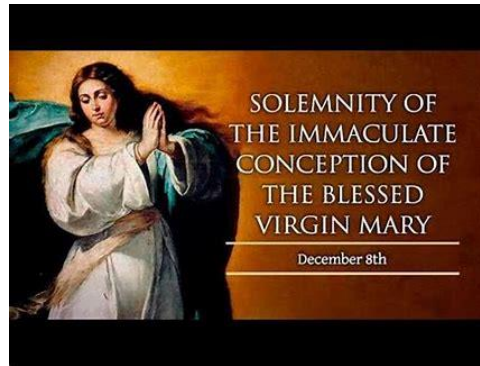
**RIP Anniversaries:** Maria Paluch, Peg Aylmer, David Bourne, Sr Angelus.

**The Holy Father’s Prayer December Intention:** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Matson; English Martyrs, Tuffley, Gloucester.

*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.*

## December – The Month of the Immaculate Conception



December is traditionally the month of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In keeping the Blessed Virgin free from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception, God presents us with a glorious example of what humankind was meant to be. Mary is truly the second Eve, because, like Eve, she entered the world without sin. Unlike Eve, she remained sinless throughout her life—a life that she dedicated fully to the will of God.

The Immaculate Conception was not, as many people mistakenly believe, a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of it. Standing outside of time, God knew that Mary would humbly submit herself to His will and in His love for this perfect servant, He applied to her at the moment of her conception the redemption, won by Christ, that all Christians receive at their Baptism.

It is appropriate, then, that the Church has long declared the month in which the Blessed Virgin not only was conceived but gave birth to the Saviour of the world as the Month of the Immaculate Conception.

### The Prayer of Pope Francis to the Immaculate Mother

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother,  
On your feast day I come to you,  
And I come not alone:  
I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me,  
In this city of Rome and in the entire world,  
That you may bless them and preserve them from harm.  
I bring to you, Mother, children,  
Especially those who are alone, abandoned,  
And for this reason are tricked and exploited.  
I bring to you, Mother, families,  
Who carry forward life and society  
With their daily and hidden efforts;  
In a special way the families who struggle the most  
For their many internal and external problems.  
I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women,  
And I entrust to you especially those who, out of need,  
Are forced to work in an unworthy profession  
And those who have lost work or are unable to find it.  
We are in need of your immaculate gaze,  
To rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things  
With respect and awareness,  
Without egotistical or hypocritical interests.  
We are in need of your immaculate heart,  
To love freely,  
Without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other,  
With simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks.  
We are in need of your immaculate hands,  
To caress with tenderness,

To touch the flesh of Jesus  
In our poor, sick, or despised brethren,  
To raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver.  
We are in need of your immaculate feet,  
To go toward those who know not how to make the first step,  
To walk on the paths of those who are lost,  
To find those who feel alone.  
We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us  
You free us of all stain of sin;  
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,  
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,  
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.  
Let us not give in to discouragement,  
But, trusting in your constant help,  
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,  
Of this city and of the entire world.  
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

## **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

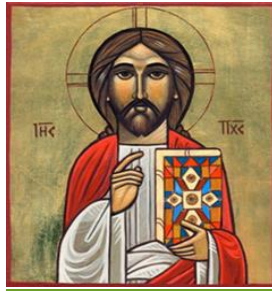
## **A Prayer for Ukraine**



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

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)



#### First reading

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

‘Console my people, console them’  
says your God.  
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.’  
A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’  
Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 84(85):9-14(Advent)

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,  
and give us your saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps.

### **Second reading**

2 Peter 3:8-14

*A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Mark 1:1-8**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.