

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 7TH THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*L & J Wilkins*)

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*S & M Molloy*)

Monday 8th January

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

No Mass

Tuesday 9th January

Weekday in OT

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*F Mollaghan*)

Wednesday 10th January

Weekday in OT

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thursday 11th January

Weekday in OT

No Mass (Ch)

Friday 12th January

St Aelred of Rievaulx

No Mass (Cor)

Saturday 13th January

Weekday in OT No Mass

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*P Mollaghan*)

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

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

EPIPHANY in Greek means “manifestation”. In the West, the visit of the Magi is celebrated as the event through which the Lord was “manifested” or shown to the pagans and, therefore, to the world. In the Eastern Church, the emphasis is on the Trinitarian “manifestation” during the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. While what is central on Christmas is the birth of the Child Jesus, on Epiphany, what is highlighted is that this poor and vulnerable Child is King and Messiah, the Lord of all the earth. With Epiphany, Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled, as can be discerned through the first reading: “*Arise, shine out Jerusalem! For your light has come*” (Is. 60). It’s as if the liturgy is saying – don’t cut yourselves off, don’t give up, don’t remain prisoners of your “convictions”, don’t be demoralized, react, “lift up your eyes”! Like the Magi, observe “the star” and you will find “the star, Jesus”. A happy Feast day to everyone.

THANK YOU to all who helped to prepare our churches for the Christmas celebrations: musicians, singers, ministers, sacristans, servers, cleaners, welcomers, flower and tree decorators and indeed everyone who helped in so many ways. After Sunday’s masses, we will be taking down the Christmas trees and decorations as the Christmas season ends on Monday. All help is gratefully received from anyone present.

FR MICHAEL would like to thank everyone for their kindness over the Christmas period in sending cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you.

ORDINARY TIME begins this week on Tuesday 9th January until the beginning of Lent. (Week 1 of the Divine Office, Year B Sunday Readings and Year 2 Weekday readings) Lent begins quite early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on the 14th February with easter falling on 31st March.

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER Pope Francis has named 2024 the Year of Prayer, a year spent in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. There’s a new page on the Clifton Diocese website to share news about the year of prayer, new resources to deepen your prayer life and point towards celebrations that will come in 2025.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH our next session is Tuesday 9th January evening at 7pm in the office at St Mary’s Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming you. Theme: ‘Mary and the Hope of Heaven’, Death, judgment, and our longing for eternal life. Holiness, the saints, and our hope for heaven. What Catholics believe about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CRIB OFFERINGS are invited for the Clifton Children’s Society. Thank you.

COME LET US ADORE HIM The next Eucharistic Adoration at St Patrick’s will be Friday 19th January for one hour from 5pm to 6pm. The response in both parishes has been very encouraging. If you could commit to a once-a-week

regular time adoration between Thursday 1pm - 6pm and/or Saturday 2pm to 4.45pm (from 20th January) at St Mary's it will be appreciated. This can be done by filling in a short form available at the back of the Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 The first meeting for parents for this year's First Holy Communion group *has changed* and is now on Wednesday 31st January at 6pm in St Mary's Hall (in St Mary's Place, behind the church). The first teaching session for children follows on Saturday 3rd February at 4pm. More information will be given at the parents' meeting. The most important part of preparation for first Holy Communion is the weekly celebration of weekly Sunday Mass.

SPUC ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL There will be a collection for the White Flower Appeal at next weekend's masses. The White Flower Appeal is the largest single fundraising event for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children and ensures that they can carry on our vital work throughout the year. In similar vein, your support is also needed to end the government's deadly pills-by-post abortion policy. Send an urgent message to the Health Secretary by visiting www.spuc.org.uk for more details. Please act now to end this policy

CHOIRS IN OUR PARISHES We thank our choirs and musicians for the great work they do in leading our worship in both parishes. As we now move towards Easter, we are looking for more singers to swell the ranks. If you like to sing, then please do join us. You will receive a warm welcome.

SR MARY & POOR SERVANTS OF THE MOTHER OF GOD Our long-term parishioners of St Mary's will remember the work carried out by Sr Mary setting up convents in Kenya and Tanzania. The sisters have sent us a full-colour leaflet about their work which continues in Africa, following on from Sr Mary setting up convents. The leaflets are available on both noticeboards.

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. Please note that there will be no Confessions on 13th January.

PEACE SUNDAY Every year on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pax Christi promotes Peace Sunday with the support of the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference, England and Wales. Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade. This year, Peace Sunday falls on the 14th January and the theme is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace: *'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'*. It is a highly relevant theme as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict. You can make donations to: www.paxchristi.org.uk.

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: Ruth Hughes, Sadie Harlowe, Tom Ward, Hugh Rooney, Baby Georgina Morea, Yvonne Miles, Madeleine Ordano, Moyra O'Donnell, Margaret T Comport, Jane Kelson.

The Holy Father's Prayer January Intention: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Salisbury Parishes.

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.

January – The Month of the Holy Name of Jesus



January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, and it's an ideal time to strengthen our connection to the beautiful name of our Lord. In fact, all names are to be treated with respect. Do you know the meaning of your own name? It's interesting to discover. A name is an emblem of one's dignity but the name of Jesus in particular should be held in the highest regard; spoken and heard only in a sacred way. The beautiful name "Jesus" means, "God saves." So the name of Jesus is not only the name of our Saviour but also, by its meaning, states the purpose of His existence, reminding us of the incredible blessing of salvation. Let us therefore give that name great honour! Also, let us remember that Jesus's name in Aramaic is "Yeshua" So that is what Jesus was called in his own native language (the name Joshua is derived from this name, too).

You may wish to adopt the pious practice (that used to be more widely practiced and is so meaningful and fitting) of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus. Scripture tells us: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). The Council of Lyons in 1274 stated: "Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious Name is recalled, especially during the sacred Mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head."

Collect of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten 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

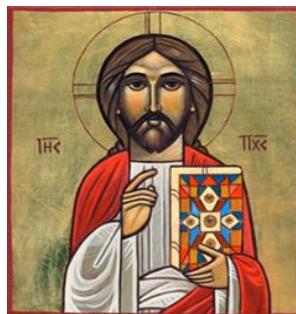
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.