

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*N & J Griffin*)

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

with *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

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

Monday 26th February

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 27th February

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm (Ch)

Funeral Mass of Roy Fillingham

Wednesday 28th February

Weekday of Lent

11.20am Stations of the Cross

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

Thursday 29th February

11.20am Stations of the Cross

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Elizabeth Garbett*)

Eucharistic Adoration until 5pm

Friday 1st March

Feast of Saint David, Bishop,

Patron of Wales

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

with children from St Patrick's School

Eucharistic Adoration 12pm to 1pm

Saturday 2nd March

Weekday of Lent

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm - 4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

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

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT B

A LENTEN THOUGHT FROM POPE FRANCIS - I wish everyone a good journey in this Season of Lent. And I recommend a fast, a fast which will not make you hungry: a fast from gossip and slander. It is a special way. This Lent I will not speak ill of others. I will not gossip. And we can all do this, everyone. This is a good fast. And do not forget that it will also be helpful to read a passage of the Gospel every day, to carry a small Gospel in your pocket, in your purse, and pick it up when you can, any passage. This will open the heart to the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY we welcome Bishop Declan who is visiting our parishes and will preside at the 9am Mass at Corsham & 11am at Chippenham.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 23rd February. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the special Cafod envelopes or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

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) If you would like to help lead the stations, please sign the list in Church.

LENT LECTIO DIVINA During Lent we have the opportunity to experience 'Lectio' at St Mary's at 1pm on Wednesday 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 Can Be Serious' every Monday evening at Saint Aldhelm's at 7.30pm and repeated on a Thursday morning at Saint Patrick's at 10am. Chippenham parishioners are warmly invited too.

PARISH LENT FILM NIGHT – THE CHOSEN Do join us on Thursday for Season 1 of 'The Chosen' on the big screen in St Patrick's Hall. Free snacks & drinks. 7.30pm start. Each episode is approx. 60 minutes long.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH Tuesday 27th Feb at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Theme: Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession. Healing and the Sacrament of the Sick. Christian mission and the call to

share our faith. Please continue to pray for our candidates for baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

CHIPPENHAM FOODBANK Thank you for your continued support of the Chippenham Foodbank. Please could you give us donations of Smash (powdered potato), tinned goods i.e. baked beans, soup, veg, meat and packets of microwaveable rice. We are fine for pasta. In January the Foodbank gave 67 parcels to the following: 26 single people, 11 couples and 30 families with 55 children in total.

ST MARY'S PRESBYTERY As previously announced, we are looking for a tenant for the presbytery. 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.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER Clifton Diocese is seeking to strengthen its central finance and property functions. The role is a part-time, 2-year fixed term contract, worked over 25 hours per week at Alexander House, Bristol. The successful applicant will need to have a comprehensive knowledge of Microsoft Office, good communication and organisational skills, to include time management and working on various tasks simultaneously. Previous administrative experience and a can-do flexible attitude are essential. For further information contact Simon Hussey, Head of Finance on 0117 902 5591. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 8th March 2024.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 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 *This Saturday classes will be held at the Rotary Hall, two doors down from the church.* We ask all candidates to participate in Mass each Sunday and to ensure their participation register is signed each week by the priest/catechist. Participation in Mass is the most important aspect of a child's preparation. 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.

SICK LIST We need to update our sick list. If you know people on the list, please could you let Teresa know if they still need our prayers? Please telephone or use the email address above. Please remember that in order to place a name on the sick list, the permission of the person or family must be sought.

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 in both churches. Please put payment in the 'papers' slot at St Mary's.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION St Mary's Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after weekday Mass.

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, 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.

Recently Departed: Jon Taylor.

RIP Anniversaries: Kathleen Mills, Carmel Purdon, Ann Watkin, Peter Robinson, Ellen Hall, Jean Griffin, Doris O'Toole, Jim Wilson.

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: St George/St Teresa of Lisieux, Taunton; St John Fisher, Wellington and Wiveliscombe.

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

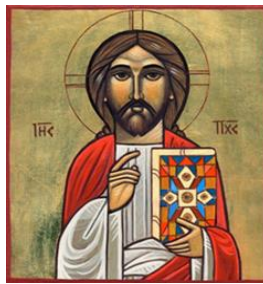
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



First reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 115(116):10,15-19

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Second reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain, he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord