

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT B

Laetare Sunday

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*All Mothers*)

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

With Children's Liturgy of the Word

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

Monday 11th March

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 12th March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*S & M Lawlor*)

Wednesday 13th March

Weekday of Lent

11.15am Stations of the Cross (Cor)

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

1pm Lectio Divina (Ch)

Thursday 14th March

Weekday of Lent

*11am Mass (Ch) (*Whiting & Jones*)

with St Mary's School Yr 6 present

11.45am Stations of the Cross (Ch)

Eucharistic Adoration until 5pm (Ch)

Friday 15th March

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Private Intention*)

Eucharistic Adoration 5-6pm (Cor)

Saturday 16th March

Weekday of Lent

11am Children's Penitential Liturgy

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm - 4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(*Remin & Roberts*)

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

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT B

LAETARE SUNDAY Today's theme comes from the entrance antiphon of Mass reflecting on Isaiah 66:10-11: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast." *Laetare* is the first word – meaning "rejoice" – in the Latin text. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Rose is an optional liturgical colour for today – this change in colour indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of Passiontide. Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savour and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday – the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

THE SACRED TRIDUUM 2024 Our Parish leaflet detailing all the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter is now available in our Churches.

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER Once again we invite our choirs and music groups from across the two parishes to come together to sing the Triduum. If you would like to join the joint parish Holy Week choir, please do come along to the rehearsals: Saturday 16 March **9.30am** (for Holy Thursday and Good Friday music) Saturday 23 March 10.30am (For Easter Vigil music) at St Mary's. Everyone is very welcome.

READERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER Please sign the readers list if you are available on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services. There are sign-up sheets at both churches.

LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS The Stations of the Cross are prayed each Wednesday at Saint Patrick's at 11.15am and this week on Thursday at St Mary's at 11.45pm.

LENT LECTIO DIVINA During Lent we have the opportunity to experience 'Lectio' again at St Mary's at 1pm on Wednesday 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 12th March at 7pm in the office at St Mary’s Chippenham. Theme: The Social Teaching of the Church. The dignity of the human person and the right to life. Christian teaching about family and society. Speaking the truth and following conscience. Please continue to pray for our candidates for baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church during this final period of preparation.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) The SVP now have their red collection box on the porch table for those of you that like to give cash donations. Thank you to who also donate through DONA. We managed to help several families within our community with supermarket vouchers for Christmas.

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 Please go to the **Rotary Hall for this Saturday’s session at 4pm.** 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. If there is any difficulty here, please speak to Fr Michael. Let us ensure that our children come to know the presence of the Lord in the Mass as they prepare for this wonderful celebration.

ST PATRICK’S FLOWERS We would very much welcome new people to take a turn to arrange flowers for the Church. Please see Maureen Hibbert or Fr Michael for further details.

LGBT+ MASS A monthly celebration of Mass for LGBT+ Catholics, family and friends, Sunday 17th March at 3pm at St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Bristol. All are welcome. A Clifton Diocese initiative.

WORDS OF FAITH: FINDING THE BEST WORDS TO WITNESS TO OUR FAITH AND ANSWER TOUCH QUESTIONS Clifton Diocese in partnership with ‘Light of Truth’ are offering a short online course to find the best words to give an account of our faith and answer the hard questions Catholics can be asked about God, Jesus, the Church, morality and Catholic practices. There are six sessions beginning at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th April. To sign up please go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

EASTER PARTY Monday 1st April at St Patrick’s Church from 11.30am with Easter egg hunt, games, fun and food. All welcome.

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: 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: Brian Tuersley.

RIP Anniversaries: Sue Pollastrone, Ray Brigden, Margaret Sawyer, Margaret Beaven, Arthur Riley, Joe Hart.

The Holy Father’s Prayer March Intention: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Sacred Heart, Tisbury, with Wardour.

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.

March – The Month of Saint Joseph



The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife.

Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honour. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity.

We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing Saint Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Saint Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "*Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)*". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus. *Father John Hardon*

Collect for Solemnity of St Joseph

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
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

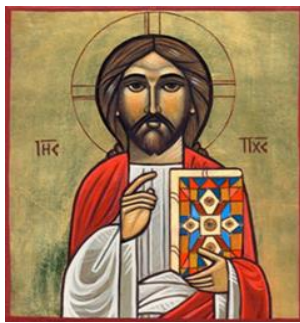
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) LAETARE SUNDAY



First reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.’”

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 136(137):1-6

*O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!*

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
‘Sing to us,’ they said,
‘one of Zion’s songs.’

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Second reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel

John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord