

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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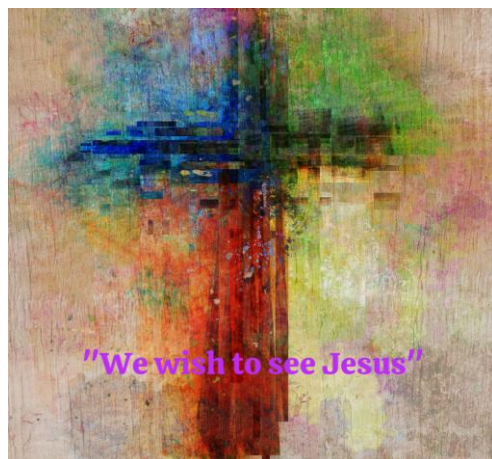
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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

*(Reimin & Roberts)*

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

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

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Solemnity of Saint Joseph,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

11.20am Stations of the Cross (Ch)

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(Bishop Declan)*

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Weekday of Lent

11.15am Stations of the Cross (Cor)

12pm Mass (Cor) *(Derek Keohane)*

1pm Lectio Divina (Ch)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Brian Tuersley (Ch)

Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm (Ch)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Weekday of Lent

12pm Mass (Cor) *(Bishop-Elect Bosco)*

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Weekday of Lent

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm - 4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass *(Holy Souls)*

9am (Cor) Sung Mass

with Procession (begins in the hall)

*(Pro Populo)*

11am (Ch) Sung Mass with

Procession *(Pro Populo)*

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT B

**BISHOP DECLAN** it is with sadness we learn that Bishop Declan is to retire due to health reasons. We were very fortunate to have him with us just last week. He has lovingly served the diocese for twenty-three years. We pray for him in his retirement. Canon Bosco MacDonald, Dean of Clifton Cathedral has been appointed as Bishop-Elect. We keep him in our prayers as he begins his new ministry in the diocese.

**PASSIONTIDE** The last two weeks in the season of Lent are sometimes called Passiontide. This is when the Church shifts her focus from Christ in the desert (the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent) to Christ during his Passion. During Passiontide, the crucifix and other statues and images around the church are veiled with a purple cloth. The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. The veils are hard to miss, and they serve as a reminder to get ready! The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place, and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the crucifix is covered up during Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened, and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing. When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

**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.

**MINISTERS OF WELCOME, HOLY COMMUNION AND READERS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER** Please sign the list if you are available to minister on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday liturgies. Lists are available in both churches.

**LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS** are prayed each Wed at St Patrick's at 11.15am and this week at 11.20am on Tues at St Mary's before the 12.10pm Mass.

**LENT LECTIO DIVINA** St Mary's at 1pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at St Mary's Parish Office after 12.10pm Mass. Do come along and join us and experience this lovely form of prayer.

**THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB** next Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, after the 12noon Mass at St Patrick's. Come along to Mass and stay afterwards for a light lunch and a chat. All very welcome.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Theme: 'How to Pray'. The amazing adventure of prayer. Four basic ways of praying. Prayers and devotions to help you through the day. 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 in the porch table at St Mary's for those of you who like to give cash donations. Thank you also to all who donate through our DONA machine. We managed to help several families within our community with supermarket vouchers for Christmas.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Please could parents and children go to the Church for the Penitential service at 10.30am this Saturday, the service will start at 11am. 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.

**CORSHAM ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS** on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am. Assemble by the cross in the garden by the Co-op. Please could people volunteer to serve refreshments at St Aldhelm's Hall, Pickwick.

**ST PATRICK'S FLOWERS** We would very much welcome new people to take a turn to arrange flowers for the Church. Please see or call Maureen Hibbott (Tel. 01225 704059) or Fr Michael for further details.

**COACH TO CHRISM MASS AT CLIFTON** leaves St Edmund's, Calne at 8.40am, and the King St Car Park, Melksham (SN12 6HB) at 9am. If anyone would like to book a seat, please telephone Anne Doyle on 01225 707486 as soon as possible, please. The cost of a seat is estimated to be about £16 each.

**EASTER PARTY** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**PARISH OFFICE** Please note that the Parish Office is closed until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please contact Fr Michael if there is an emergency on 07552 859147. Teresa will answer admin queries on her return.

**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, Doris Gosling, Sue Sheehan. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

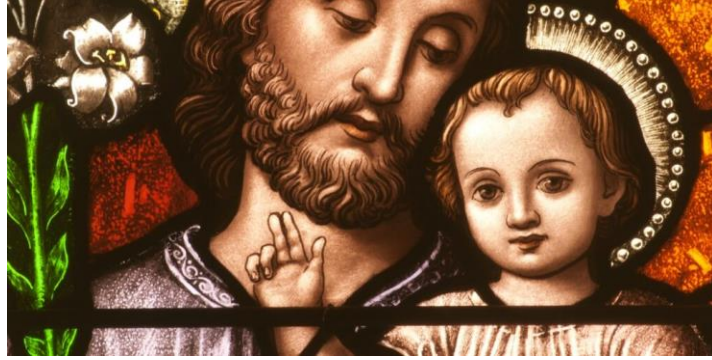
**RIP Anniversaries:** Maria Checchia, Luciana Checchia, Rosie Bamber.

**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:** St John the Baptist, Trowbridge, St Bernadette, Westbury.

*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

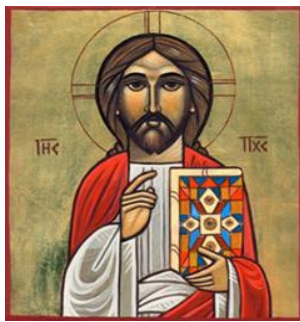
## A Prayer for Ukraine



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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



### First reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 50(51):3-4,12-15

*A pure heart create for me, O God.*

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you.

### Second reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

*A reading from the letter of to the Hebrews*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.



## **Gospel Acclamation**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, there also will my servant be.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

## **Gospel**

**John 12:20-33**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
I tell you, most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.  
Anyone who loves his life loses it;  
anyone who hates his life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.  
If a man serves me, he must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.  
Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;  
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.