

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Lindero*)

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

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

Monday 4th March

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 5th March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Vocations*)

Wednesday 6th March

Weekday of Lent

11.15am Stations of the Cross (Cor)

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

1pm Lectio Divina (Ch)

Thursday 7th March

11.20am Stations of the Cross (Ch)

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Zena Burgin*)

Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm (Ch)

Friday 8th March

Saint John of God

12.10pm Mass (Cor)

(*Peace in the Holy Land*)

Saturday 9th March

Weekday of Lent

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm - 4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

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*)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT B

THIS SUNDAY we extend a warm welcome Bishop Declan who is visiting our parishes. He will preside at the 9am Mass at Corsham & 11am at Chippenham and meet with our joint PPC over lunch.

LENT STATIONS OF THE CROSS The Stations of the Cross are 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 to lead the stations, please sign the list in Church.

LENT LECTIO DIVINA During Lent we have the opportunity to experience 'Lectio' again 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 5th March at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Theme: The Christian Vocation. The meaning of vocation. Marriage and family life. Ordination and consecrated life. Please continue to pray for our candidates for baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church during this final period of preparation.

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND will be observed on Friday the 8th March. Bishop Declan asks all parishioners to pray for peace and an end to the war and tension in the Holy Land.

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. No pasta, thank you. In January the Foodbank gave 67 parcels to the following: 26 single people, 11 couples and 30 families with 55 children in total.

KATE PRESTON Please keep Kate in your prayers as she prepares to enter the novitiate of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham. Kate has spent the last year with the community discerning a vocation to the religious life in the Carmelite tradition. More details of the community can be found at www.walsinghamcommunity.org. Please pray for continued vocations to the religious life in the Church.

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.

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER If you would like to join the joint parish choir for the Easter Triduum please do come along to the rehearsals: Saturday 16 March 10.30 (for Holy Thursday and Good Friday music) Saturday 23 March 10.30 (For Easter Vigil music) at St Mary's. These dates will be confirmed. You will be very welcome.

MARY'S MEALS - SPONSOR A SCHOOL 2024 could be the year you change the lives of hundreds of children. Through our Sponsor A School project, you can put yourself at the heart of a community and play a vital role in transforming the fortunes of a whole school. By sponsoring a school and pledging to cover the cost of feeding every pupil for an entire year, you can help to build a brighter future for children living in Malawi or Zambia. Sponsor A School at Mary's Meals UK www.marysmeals.org.uk

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 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 as they prepare for this wonderful celebration.

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 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.

ST ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CHIPPENHAM, LENTEN TALKS On Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm 'Christianity and the Middle East' by Bronwen Heaton from SAT-7, a Christian TV station based in the Middle East.

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.

RIP Anniversaries: Rene Farrant, Jennie Wilson, Ivy Burke, Mary Cadogan, Artemio Alberti, Kath Dearden.

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: Christ the King, Thornbury, Holy Cross, Wootton-under-Edge.

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

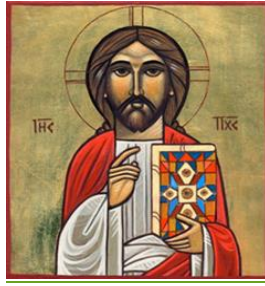
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)



First reading

Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 18(19):8-11

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.