THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Good Shepherd Sunday 5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Janet Adams) 9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo) with Childrens' Liturgy 11am (Ch) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Monday 22nd April Weekday of Easter No Mass

Tuesday 23rd April Solemnity of Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England 12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Wednesday 24th April Weekday of Easter 12pm Mass (Cor) *(Denis Cassell)*

Thursday 25th April Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist No Mass (Ch)

Friday 26th April (Cor) Weekday of Easter No Mass (Cor)

Saturday 27th April Weekday of Easter 2- 4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B 5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Mike Opie*) 9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*) 11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Please note the change to weekday masses this week.

TODAY is traditionally 'Good Shepherd Sunday' when we pray for vocations to all the ministries of the Church. We are asked to pray particularly this year for vocations to the Sacred Priesthood and the Diaconate. There will be a second collection for the Clergy Training Fund. The National Office for Vocation has produced prayer cards, reflections and information around different vocations, whether God is calling us to married life, priesthood, diaconate, religious life or single life, we need to listen to what is God calling us to be. Information about Vocations within Clifton Diocese: <u>Vocations | Clifton Diocese</u>

CONGRATULATIONS to Summer and Dominic, married at St Patrick's on Saturday. We wish them every blessing in the married life together.

CANON BOSCO MACDONALD will be ordained as the 10th Bishop of Clifton at Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday the 8th May at 12 noon. Please keep Bishop-Elect Bosco in your prayers as he prepares for his episcopal ordination.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE The bishop is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 25th May (12noon) and is inviting all families to join him to celebrate the joys & challenges of family life. If you engaged or you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 65th, or 70th anniversaries during 2024 then please let Teresa know and she can arrange for you to receive a personal invitation to the Mass.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES There will be a meeting for candidates seeking Confirmation with Fr Michael at 6pm on Tuesday 7th May in the Parish Office. Fr Michael will introduce the confirmation program and set out what is expected of

candidates. Naturally, it is important that our candidates **are practicing** the faith in order to receive the sacrament, that is they are participating in the Mass each Sunday.

FIRST COMMUNION The next session for our First Communion candidates takes place on Saturday 27th April in the Rotary Hall, two doors down the hill from the church.

LIVING FOR THE COMMON GOOD: DISCERNING CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES will take place 18th May from 10am to 4pm at St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol. This is a day of formation and community, bringing people together in prayer to discern the practical ways to live the common good. Please register at <u>cliftonlivingthecommongood.eventbrite.co.uk</u>

ASCENSION DAY the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on Thursday 9th May. Mass at Chippenham at 12.10pm and Corsham at 6pm. This is a holyday of obligation when all Catholics should try to attend Mass.

THE EUCHARIST: A BOND OF LOVE WHICH CAN NEVER BE UNDONE Saturday 8th June at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol. This is an opportunity to deepen our understanding and love for the Eucharist. Leader: Fr Michael McAndrew. The day will include a time of prayerful Adoration with words, music, and silence. Refreshments will be available from 9.30am. Attendees are asked to bring a packed lunch. We will finish by 4pm. Go to https://cliftoneucharist.eventbrite.co.uk/ to register for the day.

WORDS OF FAITH Finding the words to witness to our faith and answer tough questions. Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a short online course to answer questions asked about God, Jesus, the Church, morality and Catholic practices. The six sessions begin at 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening. Please register using the link below: www.uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsde2gpj8pHdy_rbP7SUuDUr2YMMN4yRVn#/registration n

CLIFTON DIOCESE, FINANCE AND PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER The Clifton Diocese Curia offices are currently looking to recruit a Finance and Property Support Officer to strengthen its central finance and property functions. The role is a part-time, 2year fixed term contract, to be worked over 25 hours per week and based at Alexander House, Pennywell Road, Bristol. For further information please go to <u>Working for us | Clifton Diocese</u> or contact Simon Hussey, Head of Finance on 0117 902 5591. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 10th May 2024.

CLIFTON DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING The Diocese Safeguarding team are currently looking for an individual to join the Safeguarding Committee and sit in on the Risk Allegation Review meetings. Suitable volunteers should have in depth knowledge and experience of safeguarding, particularly health/mental health. If you are passionate about safeguarding and would like to volunteer your experience and services to the team, or would like to discuss the role further, please contact the Safeguarding Coordinator Janice Pearson on janice.pearson@cliftondiocese.com or 07887 990385.

APPEAL FOR OCCASIONAL CARDS Mathew Hendricks-Birtles is in great need of some more occasional greetings cards, not Christmas cards, but birthdays, anniversary cards etc. Please leave them at the back of the church. He is nearly halfway through achieving his 13th x \pounds 1000 for Alzheimer's Support.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.15-4.45pm or by arrangement with Fr Michael. Please note there will be no confessions next weekend.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Browl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, Elena Alberti, Victoria Kiss, Sue Sheehan, Richard Jones, Michael Waters. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversaries: Tony Witts, Eddie Porter, Tony Keeper, Sheila Gadsden, Kelly Brock, Francis Elgie, Mary Marshall, Maggie Buchanan, Kathleen Stevens, John Booker.

The Holy Father's Prayer April Intention: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Ambrose/Diocesan Curia/Diocesan Services.

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.

April – The Month of the Blessed Sacrament & the Holy Spirit



The month of April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, and when it does fall in March, the Easter season continues on through all of April. In essence, April is a month of Easter, and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection. This month we might commit ourselves to a period of Eucharistic adoration and pray a Holy Spirit prayer every day. There are periods of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish. The goal is to be able to gaze lovingly and in awe at the Consecrated Host and share that love with others with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. "I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament," J.R.R. Tolkien

Prayer to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist

My Lord Jesus Christ, Your Eucharistic presence teaches me how to love as you have loved me. In your great love for me you continue to give yourself, body, blood, soul, and divinity in this sacrament of your love. As I pray in your Eucharistic presence, enkindle in me the fire of your gospel. Nourish me with your love and compassion, so that I may be sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit to be your living presence to all I meet. Amen.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B



First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. **or** Alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men; it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have answered and you are my saviour. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; You are my God, I thank you. My God, I praise you. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Acts 4:8-12

Psalm 117(118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

1 John 3:1-2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me: I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.