

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Mike Opie*)

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

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

Monday 29th April

Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena,

Virgin, Doctor of the Church,

Patron of Europe

No Mass

Tuesday 30th April

Saint Pius V, Pope

No Mass

Wednesday 1st May

Saint Joseph the Worker

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thursday 2nd May

Saint Athanasius, Bishop

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Friday 3rd May (Cor)

Feast of Saints Philip and James,

Apostles

No Mass

Saturday 4th May

Feast of the English Martyrs

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass

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

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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B

Please note the change to weekday masses this week.

A WARM WELCOME TO Fr Ian McCarthy from Bath who will preside at Masses this weekend.

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. The Confirmation will be on Thursday 11th July at 7pm by Bishop Bosco.

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD We are hoping to commence CLOW at St Mary's twice monthly as in Corsham. Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in becoming CLOW facilitators. There will be a formation session on Thursday 16th May in St Mary's Office at 6pm. CLOW leaders from St Patrick's are also invited to attend this session. This will explain CLOW and the role

of the facilitator.

MYSTAGOGIA The next opportunity for our newly Initiated to reflect on their experience of Easter will be held on Thursday 16th May in St Mary's office at 7pm. All welcome.

CAFOD EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR SUDAN The people of Sudan need our help urgently. CAFOD are launching an emergency appeal for donations to get aid to them on the biggest scale we can muster. The situation has gone from serious to desperate very quickly. The UN is calling it 'the world's worst displacement crisis'. At least 8 million people have had to flee their homes; famine looms. At least 25 million Sudanese need immediate, emergency help. Families are already going hungry and famine is looming. This crisis threatens to become the worst in living memory." You can give on the link below: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal>.

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.

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 cliftonlivingthecommongood.eventbrite.co.uk

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.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – ST MARY'S SUMMER CEILDH There will be a St Mary's Summer Ceilidh on Friday 5th July. Further information and tickets will be available soon -watch this space.

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 [Working for us | Clifton Diocese](#) 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 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 £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 this weekend.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

RIP Anniversaries: John Booker, Mike Opie, Marguerite Lynch, Phoebe Coates, Vincent Millett, Karen Gardner, Rosemary Gartland.

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: University/College/School Chaplaincies.

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.

May – The Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary



(The statue of Our Lady at Saint Mary's Church)

“I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.” Pope Francis

The month of May is traditionally considered the month of Mary, a month especially dedicated to devotion to Our Lady, the Mother of God and the Mother of all of us. We spend a whole month celebrating especially the Mother, who is model of all mothers, the Mother God chose for His own Son.

This is a month to grow in devotion to Mary as Our Mother. At the foot of the cross, Jesus said to His mother, who was standing with the beloved disciple (who represents each one of us), “Woman, behold your son.” And then to the beloved disciple—and to each of us--“Behold your mother.” And then, the Gospel tells us, “From that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:26-27) In the month of May, Jesus invites us in a special way to take Mary into our homes, to show her a special honour, to receive her as our Mother in the spiritual life, and to let her lead us closer to the heart of Jesus.

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
“Protectress of the Roman people”,
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
(Pope Francis)

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

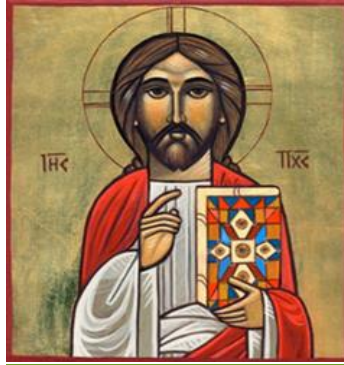
A Prayer for Ukraine



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER B



First reading

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

OR

Alleluia!

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him;
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

Second reading

1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,

but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 15:1-8

Jesus said:

‘I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.’

The Gospel of the Lord.