

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

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(Divine Mercy Sunday)

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Sr Mary Theresa*)

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

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

3pm (Cor) Divine Mercy Chap22let

Monday 8th April

Solemnity of the Annunciation
of the Lord No Mass

Tuesday 9th April

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Brian Tuersley*)

Wednesday 10th April

Weekday of Easter

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Sian Jones*)

Thursday 11th April

Saint Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Elizabeth McGrattan (Ch)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm

Friday 12th April (Cor)

Weekday of Easter

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

Eucharistic Adoration 5pm to 6pm

(Cor)

Saturday 13th April

Weekday of Easter

2-4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass

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

with Holy Baptisms

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

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY In a series of revelations to St Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St John Paul II at the canonization of St Faustina on April 30, 2000. The Lord expressed his will with regard to this feast in his very first revelation to St Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699: My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy. Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.

THANK YOU A very big thank you to all who helped in so many ways to enable such a wonderful celebration of the Easter Triduum. We are fortunate to have such dedicated catechists, musicians, singers, sacristans, readers, servers, flower arrangers and cleaners. Thank you to all who helped in so many ways.

EASTER OFFERING Fr Michael would like to thank parishioners for their very kind Easter gifts and cards and, of course, for the traditional Easter offering which helps to maintain your parish

priest. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to you all for your generosity.

RECITATION OF THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET 7th April at 3pm at St Patrick's. Please join us from both parishes for this lovely devotion.

MYSTAGOGY - CONGRATULATIONS to Rhia Elizabeth and Summer Jane who were baptized at the Easter Vigil, confirmed and received the Eucharist for the first time, also to Samuel Andrew who was received

into the Catholic Church, conformed and received his first Eucharist. Together with their catechists they now enter a period called 'Mystagogia' as they enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery. In order to become progressively aware of mystery, we need to learn (and teach) the art of asking questions of life—questions that do not lead to easy answers but rather to a deeper appreciation of the mystery of life. The practice of mystagogia involves reflecting on the experience of initiation and asking questions such as the following: **What in this experience...was good and beautiful? What caught my attention? What caused me to grow? What revealed God's presence? What provoked fear, sadness, or despair? What brought about a sense of calm, hope, or joy? What might God be saying to me? What might God be calling me to be or do?** The newly initiated meet on Tuesday 9th April to reflect on their experience of Easter. In a real sense, as Christians, we are all in this period of 'mystagogia' and are called to reflect on our experience of the risen Lord.

PARISH FILM NIGHT – THE CHOSEN The next episode of is on Thursday 18th April in St Patrick's Hall.

BLESSING OF STATUES Although our new statues of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart of Jesus have been in situ for a while now, Fr Millett's friends in Ireland have not been well enough to travel to see them. We hope to welcome them to Mass next Sunday at 11am when we will bless the statues given in memory of Fr Millett.

CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher and Jacinta who were married at St Mary's on Thursday.

JOINT PARISH COUNCIL meeting takes place in the office at Chippenham on Thursday 11th April at 7pm.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE The bishop is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 25 May (12 noon) 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.

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS This Thursday sees the start of an online course from Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' offering an introduction to the fundamental aspects of catechesis. The six sessions are on a Thurs evening at 7.30pm. To sign up please click on the Zoom link below:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuqrrzgjGN37LSeebdWnINfmSvURJRVk#/registration>

WORDS OF FAITH: Finding the best 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 and you can register using the link below:
www.uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsde2gpj8pHdy_rbP7SUuDUr2YMMN4yRVn#/registration

"THE EUCHARIST: A BOND OF LOVE WHICH CAN NEVER BE UNDONE" Saturday 8 June at St Bernadette's Secondary School, Whitchurch, Bristol, 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. <https://cliftoneucharist.eventbrite.co.uk/> to register for the day.

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 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: Myra Alford, Sean Hughes, Michael Phipps, Sheila Knighton, Tony Ordano.

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 Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton, with Milbourne Port, Castle Carey and Bruton.

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

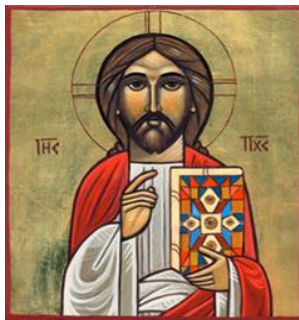
A Prayer for Ukraine



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)



First reading

Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117(118):2-4,13-15,22-24

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.*

OR

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Let the sons of Israel say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:

‘His love has no end.’

I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Second reading

John 5:1-6

A reading from the second letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God’s children
if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;
this is what loving God is –
keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world –
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness –
since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.