

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

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

with Holy Baptism
and Children's Liturgy of the Word

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Holy Souls*)

Monday 2nd December

Weekday of Advent

No Mass

Tuesday 3rd December

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

12.10pm (Ch) (*Bowden Family*)

Wednesday 4th December

Saint Osmund, Bishop

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Holy Souls*)

Thursday 5th December

Weekday of Advent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Fr Millett*)

followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 6th December

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Joyce & Tony Campbell*)

Saturday 7th December

Saint Ambrose, Bishop,

Doctor of the Church

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15 - 4.45pm (Sat) Confessions (Ch)

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Private Intention*)

with Children's Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C-1

THE SEASON OF ADVENT Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to return. But the Advent scripture readings tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Have a wonderful season of joy and expectancy.

NEW TRANSLATION OF LECTIONARY Today we begin to use the new translation of the Lectionary at Mass (Year C & Midweek Readings Year 1) Would Ministers of the Word please ensure that you have prepared the reading from the new lectionary in advance, as the language will sound somewhat different from our present translation. Preparation is essential to making Christ present in the proclamation of the Word. If you have not yet purchased a new Missal, readings are available at www.universalis.com You may purchase a Missal online via CTS or Redemptorist Publications.

'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS for the Advent Season are available in both churches at a cost of £1.

ST PATRICK'S – CHRISTMAS BAUBLES We need your help! Please could you donate some red or gold baubles for the Christmas tree? Please leave your baubles on the table by the entrance into church. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISHES Christmas Eve 5pm @ Chippenham. Christmas Day 9am @ Corsham & 11am @ Chippenham.

CHIPPENHAM SVP would like to thank all of you that have donated money to us, either in our red box at the back of the Church or through DONA. Your donations will be used this Christmas to go towards food vouchers for those in our parish. If anyone would like to become a member of our group, please ask Teresa for more details.

ST MARY'S PRECHRISTMAS LUNCH We are holding a pre-Christmas lunch hosted by the SVP for members of the parish on Thursday 12th December after Mass in the parish hall. Please sign up on the sheet in the porch, or let Teresa know, if you would like to come along.

BAPTISM PREPARATION We are still looking for a volunteer(s) to take up this ministry. Please have a word with Fr Michael if you feel that you may be able to help or would like more information.

ADVENT RETREAT The Diocese is offering three sessions to prepare for Advent by reflecting from Scripture on the virtue of hope, as we enter into the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope.' The sessions begin at 7.30pm on a Thursday evening on: 5th December 12th December & 19th December. To register click on this link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

RCIA Journey in Faith continues Wednesday 4th December at 7pm in the office at St Mary's. This will be the last session until after Christmas. Please continue to keep our candidates in your prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025 If you would like your child (school year 3 and above) to join the programme, please collect an application form in person from Fr Michael or the Parish Administrator after Mass at either church on Saturday/Sunday and have a chat. A vital part of preparation for this sacrament is the weekly attendance at Mass which should begin now. The closing date for applications to be received is 15th December 2024 (Advent 3).

ADVENT RETREAT 2024 We are offering three sessions to prepare for Advent by reflecting from Scripture on the virtue of hope, as we enter into the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope.' The sessions begin at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings on: 5 December, 12 December & 19 December. To sign up for the series, please click on the Zoom link [here](#).

TRAINING FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD The Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph are offering a training session to equip leaders and helpers of the Children's Liturgy of the Word in their parish. They will look at essential principles, offer models, and recommend resources. The session takes place on 14th December, 9am to 12noon. please sign up at <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/join>

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR At the 11.15am Mass at Clifton Cathedral on 29th December, Bishop Bosco will formally open the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. All are welcome to inaugurate this special year.

ST PATRICK'S – MISSING One dark forest green tall glass vase (Approx 15"/38 cm in height) from the flower sacristy. It is one of a matching pair used most frequently at Christmas time! If it was borrowed, please urgently return it to St Patrick's or to Teresa (Parish Administrator), or if you have any information contact Maureen on 01225 704059.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS are heard at St Mary's on Saturday between 4.15 pm and 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after the weekday masses or by prior arrangement with Fr Michael. Extra pre-Christmas Confessions Thursday 19th December 11.30am at St Mary's.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price, Robert Wilkins. Chippenham: Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, Victoria Kiss, Raymond Johnson, Pamela Naylor, Hyacinth Fernandes, Paul Gosling, Sue Sheehan, Anne Martin. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those caring for them.

Recently Departed: Peter Biggins; Mary Cole.

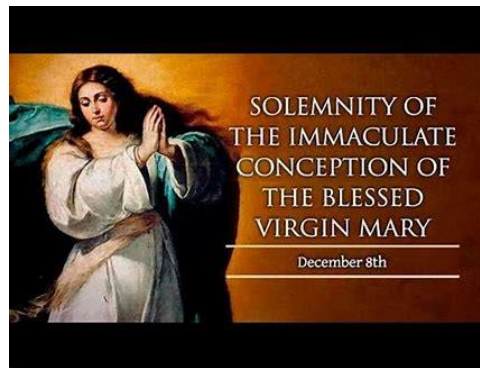
RIP Anniversaries: Lillian O'Donnell, Percival Kent, Mgr James Kelly, Maureen Birch-Kent, Peg Sawyer, Ann Wadeley, Leo Postl.

The Holy Father's Pray December Intention: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Margaret Mary, Coleford, Our Lady of Victories, Cinderford, Our Lady of Lourdes, Newent, with Blaisdon.

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.

December – The Month of the Immaculate Conception



December is traditionally the month of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In keeping the Blessed Virgin free from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception, God presents us with a glorious example of what humankind was meant to be. Mary is truly the second Eve, because, like Eve, she entered the world without sin. Unlike Eve, she remained sinless throughout her life—a life that she dedicated fully to the will of God.

The Immaculate Conception was not, as many people mistakenly believe, a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of it. Standing outside of time, God knew that Mary would humbly submit herself to His will and in His love for this perfect servant, He applied to her at the moment of her conception the redemption, won by Christ, that all Christians receive at their Baptism.

It is appropriate, then, that the Church has long declared the month in which the Blessed Virgin not only was conceived but gave birth to the Saviour of the world as the Month of the Immaculate Conception.

The Prayer of Pope Francis to the Immaculate Mother

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, on your feast day I come to you,
And I come not alone:
I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me,
In this city of Rome and in the entire world,
That you may bless them and preserve them from harm.
I bring to you, Mother, children, especially those who are alone, abandoned,
And for this reason are tricked and exploited.
I bring to you, Mother, families, who carry forward life and society
With their daily and hidden efforts;
In a special way the families who struggle the most
For their many internal and external problems.
I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women,
And I entrust to you especially those who, out of need,
Are forced to work in an unworthy profession
And those who have lost work or are unable to find it.
We are in need of your immaculate gaze,
To rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things
With respect and awareness,
Without egotistical or hypocritical interests.
We are in need of your immaculate heart,
To love freely,
Without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other,
With simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks.
We are in need of your immaculate hands,
To caress with tenderness,
To touch the flesh of Jesus
In our poor, sick, or despised brethren,
To raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver.
We are in need of your immaculate feet,
To go toward those who know not how to make the first step,
To walk on the paths of those who are lost,
To find those who feel alone.

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

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 SUNDAY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

Sunday 1 December 2024

First reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25(24)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O LORD, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way.

All the LORD's paths are mercy and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and commands.
The LORD's secret is for those who fear him;
to them he reveals his covenant.

Second reading

1 Thess 3:12-4:3

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord