

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

(Gaudete Sunday)

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

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

with Children's Liturgy of the Word

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Viktorija Kiss*)

Monday 16th December

Weekday of Advent

No Mass

Tuesday 17th December

Weekday of Advent II (O Sapientia)

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Pat Booker (Ch)

Wednesday 18th December

Weekday of Advent II (O Adonai)

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Peter Biggins*)

Thursday 19th December

Weekday of Advent II (O Radix)

11.30pm Confessions (Ch)

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Ian MacCallum*)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 20th December

Weekday of Advent II (O Clavis David)

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Peter Biggins*)

Saturday 21st December

Weekday of Advent II (O Oriens)

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15 - 4.45pm (Sat) Confessions (Ch)

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Martin McMahon*)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C-1

GAUDETE SUNDAY On this Third Sunday of Advent, the theme is traditionally one of rejoicing. The first word of the entrance antiphon today is "Rejoice or Gaudete!" In the past, Advent was much more of a penitential season – there were four fast days during this period. The celebrant of the liturgy wears vestments with the penitential colour of purple or violet. The atmosphere was deliberately sombre. Yet, the people also needed to be reminded of what they were preparing for – the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. In the midst of all the penance and fasting, this Sunday was conceived as a window of joy and brightness in anticipation of what was to come. On this day, the violet vestments in many churches give way to a less penitential colour, a toned-down violet usually described as "rose". We rejoice because the celebration of our salvation is near at hand. These final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well. Let us pray with Christians throughout the world, Come, Lord Jesus, come!"

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY 15th December Advent 3. Please remember to bring the image of Jesus from your home cribs for blessing at the 9am & 11am masses this weekend.

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISHES Christmas Eve 5pm @ Chippenham. Christmas Day 9am @ Corsham & 11am @ Chippenham. Our Christmas leaflet is available in Church today with full details of all our Christmas celebrations.

CORSHAM OPEN-AIR CAROL SERVICE Tuesday 17th Dec. Starting at 6:45pm from Corsham High Street, outside Haine & Smith, proceeding to St. Bartholomew's Church/ Corsham Court Car Park (in the event of wet weather, to be held in St. Bartholomew's Church) please bring a lantern or torch. Cash collection for Doorway in Chippenham and Tearfund

CHRISTMAS TREES Once again we will be decorating our Christmas trees in preparation for Christmas on Sunday Advent 4 after the 9am & 11am Masses. All families and children are welcome to help.

ST PATRICK'S THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB takes place on 18th December after Mass in St Patrick's Hall. All are most welcome for a light lunch and a chat.

MESSIAEN AT ST JOHN'S BATH Olivier Messiaen's music is thrilling, seductive and his deep Catholic faith led him to express all aspects of his belief in music. La Nativité du Seigneur (The Birth of the Lord) is performed at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th December with David Bednall on the organ with accompanying readings.

ST MARY'S PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thanks to the SVP for putting on the lunch last Thursday. A good time was had by all.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in both Churches. This offering is the traditional offering to support your parish priest. Thank you.

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!

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 need in our parish. If anyone would like to become a member of our group, please ask Teresa for more details.

FLOWER DONATIONS FOR ST PATRICK'S There will be a collection at Mass today for Christmas flowers and a collection box by the door for later donations. Donations of greenery and berries can be placed in the garage between 20th / 22nd Dec respectively. Gratefully, from the Flower Team.

FOODBANK Thank you to all who have contributed to the Corsham Churches Foodbank. They have given out 110 Christmas Hampers to support agencies. They now need to refill their stores. Bags will be placed by the Foodbank store in the back of the church for the next 2 weeks, please consider buying a couple of items to fill them, such as long-life fruit juice, sugar, coffee, tinned fruit, custard, rice puddings, tinned vegetables etc. no fresh produce please. Many thanks.

RCIA Journey in Faith continues after Christmas on Wednesday 8th January after a Christmas break. Please continue to keep our candidates in your prayers.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES & LITURGICAL DIARIES The Diocesan Directories (£6) and Liturgical Diaries (£6.50) for 2025 are now available.

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.

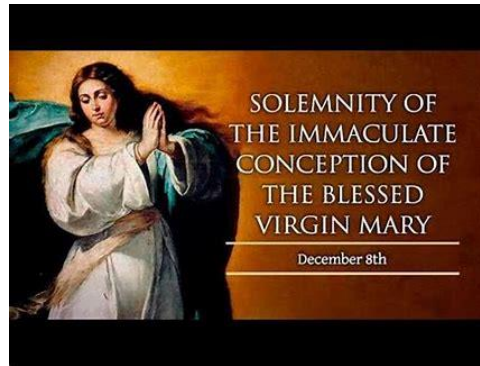
RIP Anniversaries: Peg Aylmer, David Bourne, Sr Angelus, Roy Parker, Stefan Dysak, Marnie Williams, Michael Dermody, Susan Hughes, Ian MacCallum.

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: The Abbey Church, Downside with St Benedict, Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

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

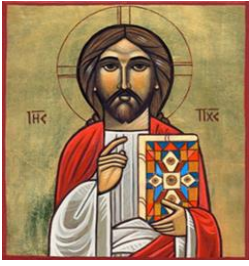


God of justice and peace
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people
in all their need, pain and fear.
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.
We ask this through your 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

Sunday 15 December 2024

First reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter of Sion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgements against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
'Fear not, O Sion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

*Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Behold, God is my salvation!
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD is my strength and my praise,
and he has been my salvation.
With joy you will draw water
from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the peoples his deeds;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;
let this be known through all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia, alleluia.
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The crowds asked John, 'What, then, shall we do?' And he answered them, 'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.' Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him, 'Teacher, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?' And he said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord