

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: [www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk](http://www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fontaine

Presbytery: 30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG

Tel: 07552859147

Email: [michael.fontaine@cliftodiocese.com](mailto:michael.fontaine@cliftodiocese.com)

Parish Administrator: Teresa Gosling

Tel: 07552859160

Parish Administration Emails:

[chippenham.stmary@cliftodiocese.com](mailto:chippenham.stmary@cliftodiocese.com)

[corsham.stpatrick@cliftodiocese.com](mailto:corsham.stpatrick@cliftodiocese.com)

Associate Priest: Mgr Keith Newton Tel: 07976585891



## 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

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Our Lady of Loreto

12.10pm (Ch) (*Tim Naylor*)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Weekday of Advent

12pm Funeral Mass of Peter Biggins  
(Cor)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Tony Sutton*)

No Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Rowena Foulkes*)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Saint John of the Cross, Priest,

Doctor of the Church

2- 4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15 - 4.45pm (Sat) Confessions (Ch)

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

## 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 (*Viktorja Kiss*)

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C-1

**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.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** is celebrated at St Patrick's on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Children will be making their Christingles from 1.30pm in St Patrick's Hall and parishioners are welcome to come have a drink then too. The service starts in Church at 2.30pm. (See the poster in the church). This is a lovely celebration of the light of Christ and is perfect for the young and young at heart.

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR POOR MISSIONS OF THE DIOCESE** This fund enables the bishop to offer small grants to some financially less fortunate parishes. This is one collection that reminds us of the support and encouragement we give to each other as a Diocesan family, and our responsibility to care for our wider family in the diocese.

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY** 15<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3. A blessing of the image of the Christ Child (the Bambino) from home cribs was instituted in Rome by St John-Paul II. Each family is invited to bring the Christ Child from your own Nativity scene, and they will be blessed at the end of Mass. An associated tradition is then to wrap the bambino in Christmas wrapping until Christmas Day, when the youngest in the house unwraps the greatest Christmas present to us, Jesus, and places him in the crib. Please place your images on the table at the front of the Church before Mass begins.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SERVERS CHIPPENHAM** Would servers please sign the list in the sacristy to indicate their availability for Christmas masses. We are still looking for new servers to assist with Sunday Masses. The ministry is open to those who have received their first Holy Communion – men, women, boys and girls.

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

**ST MARY'S PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCH** We are holding a pre-Christmas light lunch hosted by the SVP for members of the parish on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ST PATRICK'S THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB** takes place on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> December with David Bednall on the organ with accompanying readings. This is music for the dark atmosphere of the church rather than the concert hall, and this is an opportunity to have 80 minutes away from the busy outside world to contemplate the true Christmas message.

**'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!

**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 next weekend (Advent 3) for Christmas flowers. Also, please could you bring greenery for decorating the church (only evergreens please, pine branches, holly and other berry plants) These can be left in the garage on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Thank you.

**RCIA** Journey in Faith continues after Christmas on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January after a Christmas break. 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 next week 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Advent 3).

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

**LGBT+ MASS** A monthly celebration of Mass for LGBT+ Catholics, family and friends, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm at St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church, Bristol. All are welcome. A Clifton Diocese initiative.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am at St Mary's.

#### **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, 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.

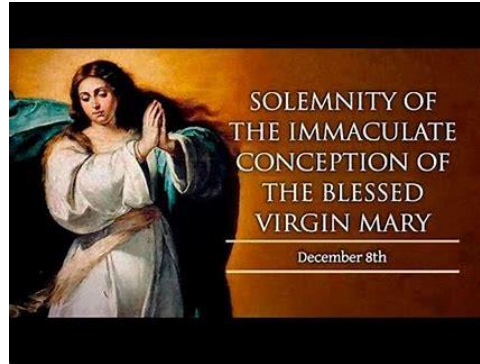
**RIP Anniversaries:** Armando Passerini, Angela Weston, Tim Naylor, Maria Paluch.

**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:** Immaculate Conception, Devizes with Lavington

*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

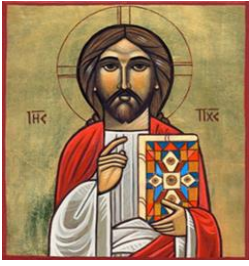


God of justice and peace  
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people  
in all their need, pain and fear.  
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.  
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.  
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.  
We ask this through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

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

Sunday 8 December 2024

#### First reading

Baruch 5:1-9

*A reading from the prophet Baruch*

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,  
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.  
Put on the robe of the righteousness from God;  
put on your head the crown of the glory of the Everlasting.  
For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.  
For your name will for ever be called by God:  
'Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness'.  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height  
and look towards the east  
and see your children gathered from west and east,  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went forth from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain  
and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up to make level ground,  
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
The woods and every fragrant tree  
have shaded Israel at God's command.  
For God will lead Israel with joy  
in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126(125):1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6. R3

*What great deeds the LORD worked for us!  
Indeed, we were glad.*

When the LORD brought back the exiles of Sion,  
we thought we were dreaming.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;  
on our tongues, songs of joy.



Then they said among the nations,  
'What great deeds the LORD worked for them!'  
What great deeds the LORD worked for us!  
Indeed, we were glad.

Bring back our exiles, O LORD,  
as streams in the Negeb.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
bearing seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back with a song,  
bearing their sheaves.

## **Second reading**

## **Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11**

*A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians*

Brothers and sisters: I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;  
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia.

## **Gospel**

## **Luke 3:1-6**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

The Gospel of the Lord