

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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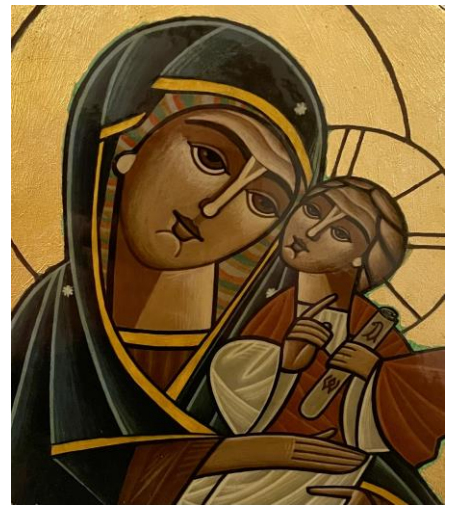
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Julia Zamedics*)

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

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

Monday 23rd December

Weekday of Advent II (O Emmanuel)

No Mass

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

Christmas Eve

5pm (Ch) First Mass of Christmas

(*Pro Populo*)

Christmas Morning

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

11am (Ch) Solemn Mass

(*Private Intention*)

Thursday 26th December

12.10pm Feast of Saint Stephen,

First Martyr

Mass (Ch) (*Zena Burgin*)

No Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 27th December

Feast of Saint John, Ap, Evangelist

No Mass

Nativity and Carol Service

at 5pm at Corsham

Saturday 28th December

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

SUNDAY ADVENT 4 C SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar. The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us. May the Lord bless you, your homes, families and friends as we celebrate this wonder filled feast.

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.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY & CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Fri 27th Dec at 5pm in St Patrick's Church. Children are invited to come dressed as characters from the nativity) All are welcome from both parishes.

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

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH Tuesday 8th January evening at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming you.

CRIB OFFERINGS are invited for the Clifton Children's Society. The society offers a comprehensive adoption service that includes recruiting, assessing and preparing adoptive families for some of the most vulnerable children in the UK, supporting child and family throughout the adoption process and beyond; working with birth parents who may be considering adoption for their child and providing counselling services to adopted people and their relatives.

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 for your help.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parents Meeting Wednesday 8th January at 6pm in St Mary's Church Chippenham. The first session for children is Saturday 11th January. The most important part of preparation for First Holy Communion is the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed over the Christmas period, and it will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2025.

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.

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)
9am (Cor) Sung Mass (*Pro Populo*)
11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Frank Mollaghan*)

Monday 30th December
6th Day with the Octave of Christmas
No Mass

Tuesday 31st December
7th Day with the Octave of Christmas
12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Conor McMeel*)

Wednesday 1st January 2025
(New Year's Day)
Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
12pm Mass (Cor) (*The Peace of the World*)

Thursday 2nd January
Ss Basil the Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bps, Doctors
12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Yvonne Burleton*)
Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 3rd January
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
12pm Mass (Cor) (*John McMeel*)

Saturday 4th January
Weekday of Christmas Time
4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)
4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)
4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY
THE SOLEMNITY OF THE
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Fr Millett*)
9am (Cor) Solemn Mass (*Pro Populo*) with
Childrens' Liturgy
11am (Ch) Solemn Mass (*Pro Populo*)

CHRISTMAS BULLETIN Please note that this is a double bulletin for Advent 4, Christmas and the Holy Family as the office is closed this week.

FATHER MICHAEL WISHES EVERYONE a Happy and Blessed Christmas and a peace filled New Year.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME

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: George Hall, Robert Gough, Pauline Fernandez, Anna Kaplinska, Maureen Rees, David Evans, Tom Conway, Lil Rooney, Emily Hall, Norina Fernandes, Elsie McCarthy, Aaron Wicks, Rob Jones, Ken Beaven, Ann Bower, Sheila Milner, Tom Gartland, Sr Monica Mary, Ellen Hall, John Dawber, Jim Lynch, Baby Richard Green, Geoff Stevens, Hespzibah Rumbold, Lil Gardener, Daphne Burke.

The Holy Father's Prayer January Intention: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Stanislaus, Dulverton; Sacred Heart, Minehead with Watchet. St Thomas of Canterbury, Fairford, with Cricklade

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.

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St Ambrose, North Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol, BS8 3PW*

Prayer for Reconciliation and Peace in the Holy Land

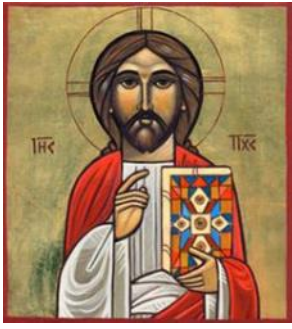


God of justice and peace
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people
in all their need, pain and fear.
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.
We ask this through your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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

First reading

A reading from the prophet Micah

Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

*Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."' '

Micah 5:2-5a

Ps 80(79):2ac, 3b, 15-16. 18-19. R4

Hebrews 10:5-10

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia.
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord

CHRISTMAS DAY

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Sion, 'Your God reigns.'
The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Sion.
Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R3cd

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

O sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The LORD has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise.

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

Second reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
A hallowed day has shone upon us.
Come, O nations, and adore the Lord;
for today a great light has come down to earth.
Alleluia.

Gospel

John 1:1-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness about him, and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."'

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

First reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10. Rcf. 5a

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose heart is set on pilgrim ways.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
look on the face of your anointed.

Second reading

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. Acts 16:14b

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord