

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

(Candidates for Baptism)

with Children's Liturgy

Monday 3rd March

Weekday in Ordinary Time No Mass

Tuesday 4th March

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*J. Newton*)

Wednesday 5th March

ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

12pm Mass (Cor) and 6pm Mass (Ch)

both with giving of ashes

Thursday 6th March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

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

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 7th March

Friday after Ash Wednesday

12pm Mass (Cor)

Saturday 8th March

Weekday of Lent

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT C

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Fr Millett*)

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

THE SEASON OF LENT 2025 begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. Mass at Corsham 12pm and 6pm at Chippenham that day with the Imposition of Ashes. This is a day of fasting and abstinence. This means taking no more than one full meal, and one or two light collations (snacks) in order to sustain strength. Abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. The rules of fasting and abstinence apply to those over 14 years for abstinence, and those between the ages of 18 and 60 for fasting. The only other day of full fast and abstinence is Good Friday.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED This Sunday we are asked to pray for the unemployed: For all seeking work or unable to work through disability and illness, may they place their trust in the God of hope and new beginnings. For politicians and all who work with the economy, may they always remember the poor and those who have least.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER On Friday 7th March St Patrick's Church is hosting this event at 2 pm. Please do come along and join us. This year the material has been produced by women of the Cook Islands where Christianity has been celebrated for over 200 years.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Stations will be prayed during Lent at Chippenham on Tuesdays at 11.20am and at Corsham on Wednesdays at 11.15am. Would you please sign the list in Church if you are able to lead one.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR BOOKLETS are available in Church. These are lovely devotional guides to the main themes of the Jubilee Year.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH As this Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the next meeting is on Wed 12th March, at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Please keep in your prayers those from both our parishes who journey to Baptism at the Easter Vigil, together with those to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

THE RITE OF ELECTION takes place in our Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 8 March. On this first Saturday of Lent, as at the start of every Lent, our diocesan family will gather at the cathedral together with our bishop to celebrate the Rite of Election, where those who are journeying towards becoming part of our Catholic community are presented to Bishop Bosco. Here family and friends, sponsors and godparents, will join with those preparing for Baptism (catechumens) and those preparing to be received

into full communion with the Catholic Church (candidates) as they come to this stage of their journey towards reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The witness that these candidates and catechumens give in

taking this brave step is always an inspiration to those who come to pray for them and to support them in their journey. It is also a reminder of our own call to continual conversion of our hearts and our lives. Please do join our diocesan family as we welcome to our Cathedral both catechumens and candidates. All are most welcome to attend!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CORSHAM & CHIPPENHAM First Reconciliation for the children is taking place in St Mary's Church on Sat 15th March at 11am. The most important part of preparation for the first Holy Communion is the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass each week. Parents, please ensure that the children's participation cards are signed each week as attendance at Mass is naturally a prerequisite of completing the course.

SOUND SYSTEM AT ST MARY'S We apologize that our sound system has not been functioning for the past few weeks. The fully new digital sound system is being installed early in March, so there is a sound at the end of the tunnel. The hearing loop system will be fully working too.

WE BELIEVE FESTIVAL We Believe is a Catholic festival celebrating 'the ultimate adventure of a life lived with God.' With worship, workshops, classes, music, theatre and more it will be a gathering 'unlike anything you've seen before.' Being held in the beautiful Oscott College from 25th – 28th July 2025 early bird tickets are now at a heavily discounted price. Please see www.webelievefestival.com

PARENT HUB Come and listen to a talk about family life and meet other parents in the area. The next Parent Hub will take place at 3pm on Saturday 8th March at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Corsham.

LENT LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION Bishop Bosco will celebrate Liturgies of Reconciliation during Lent at five venues across the diocese. The closest to our parishes is on Thursday 20th March at 7pm at St Peter's, Swindon. Please see the poster for more information. There will be priests available for individual confessions.

LENT RETREAT DAY Reconciliation as the Sacrament of Hope. Saturday 5th April at St Bernadette's Catholic Secondary School, Bristol. Speakers: Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ and Margaret & Barry Mizen. The day will provide conversation & reflection. We finish with a Service of Reconciliation & the opportunity for individual confession with Bishop Bosco & priests from the diocese. Refreshments from 9.30am, please bring a packed lunch, our day will end by 3.30pm. To register, please go to <https://embracingthemeracyofgod.eventbrite.co.uk> All are welcome!

CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING, St John the Evangelist Church, Bath, Saturday 29th March 2025, 10.30am to 12pm. Have you heard about homeschooling and wondered how it works? Come and hear from experienced Catholic mums who will share their insights and answer your questions. Contact: Helen Harrold (07425 154592) or Hannah Grimes (07801 566626)

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

RIP Anniversaries: Jim Wilson, Rene Farrant, Jennie Wilson, Ivy Burke, Mary Cadogan, Artemio Alberti, Brian Tuersley.

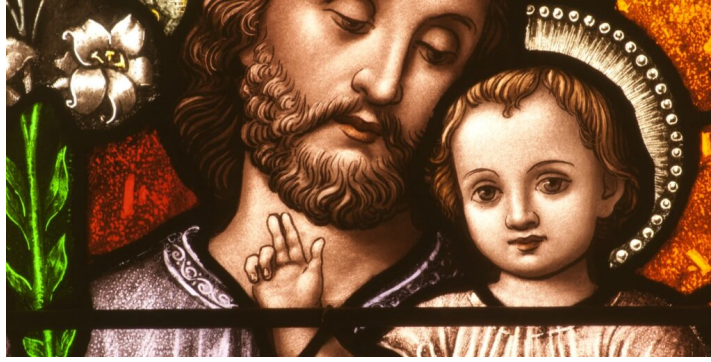
Peace in the Holy Land and in Ukraine

The Holy Father's Prayer March Intention: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Dunstan, Somerton; Holy Ghost, Yeovil with South Petherton.

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.

March – The Month of Saint Joseph



The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife.

Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honour. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity.

We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing Saint Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Saint Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "*Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)*". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus. *Father John Hardon*

Collect for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (C)

First reading

1 Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Sirach

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears, so a person's filth in his thoughts. The kiln tests the potter's vessels; likewise, the test of a person is in his reasoning. The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so, the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a person's mind.

Do not praise a man before you hear him reason, for this is the test of people.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 92(91):2-3. 13-14. 15-16. R cf. 2a

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just one will flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.
Planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the LORD is upright.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Second reading

1 Cor 15:54-58

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

Brothers and Sisters: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.
Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

The Gospel of the Lord.