

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT C

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

(*Mervyn Hollamby-Jones*)

(with Children's Liturgy)

Monday 17th March

Parish Solemnity of Saint Patrick,

Bishop, Patron of Ireland

Mass 12pm (Cor) (*Pro Populo*)

Tuesday 18th March

Weekday of Lent

No Mass (Ch)

Wednesday 19th March

Solemnity of Saint Joseph,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thursday 20th March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Eucharistic Adoration following Mass

Friday 21st March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass * (Ch)*

Saturday 22nd March

Weekday of Lent

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT C

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*Pamela Freeman*)

(with Children's Liturgy)

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT PATRICK We celebrate the Feast of Title as a Solemnity in Corsham. Do come along to Mass on MONDAY at noon on St Patrick's Day to honour our heavenly patron.

MASSES THIS WEEK Please note the change to Mass times this week. After discussion with the PPC and Friday Mass attenders, from next week, the Friday Mass will be celebrated at Chippenham. This is because most of the people at Friday Mass at Corsham and exercising ministries are from Chippenham and the number of people wishing to have a Friday Mass in Chippenham is significantly higher. The weekly Wednesday Mass at Corsham will continue with lunch club continuing monthly for parishioners.

THIRD WEDNESDAY CORSHAM CLUB There will be a light lunch following the noon Mass on Wednesday 19th March – The Solemnity of Saint Joseph. Everyone most welcome.

ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP AT ST PATRICK'S is held on a Thursday from 10am to 12pm. All are welcome.

DIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATION Bishop Bosco invites you to join him on Sat 19th July for our Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope at Downside School & Abbey. In addition to three keynote speakers, prayer, and reflections there will be an exciting and joyful programme for children & young people. Arrivals/refreshments from 10am. In addition, a free hot lunch will be provided (a lunch box is provided for children under 11). A Jubilee Celebration of Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 3pm. There will be a maximum of 300 tickets. If you would like to attend, booking through Eventbrite is essential. Please register via this link: <https://jubileedayofhope.eventbrite.co.uk> for your ticket. For the catering, a printed/mobile ticket from Eventbrite is required. If you have difficulty accessing Eventbrite, contact us at adult.education@cliftondiocese.com. The closing date for tickets is 7th July.

SPECIAL COLLECTION CAFOD LENT APPEAL Please donate today after Friday's Lent Fast Day. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CORSHAM & CHIPPENHAM Congratulations to our young children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday in preparation for their first Holy Communion. 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. Parents who cannot bring children to the Saturday preparation sessions or to Sunday Mass will be asked to defer for a year until their children are able to do so. Our children must receive catechesis before celebrating the sacraments.

LENTEN LUNCH AT ST MARY'S The SVP are kindly hosting a Lenten Lunch for people of the parish on Tuesday 8th April. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the porch to attend. If you would like to help on the day, please contact Teresa in the office.

WALK WITH ME booklets for Lent are now available in our Churches. They cost £1 each. They are a lovely guide through the Lenten season.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH The next meeting is Wed 19th March, at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. Please keep in your prayers the four newly elect from our parishes who journey to Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

JOIN CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK IN THE JUBILEE YEAR You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE We are inviting passionate and dedicated parishioners to consider becoming a Foundation governor at St Augustine's Catholic College, Trowbridge. As a governor, you will play a crucial role in guiding the mission and vision of the school, ensuring that it remains rooted in our Catholic values while fostering academic excellence and personal growth for our students. If you feel called to serve and support Catholic education, please contact the Chair of Governors, Jo Birkett-Wendes for further details (birkettj@st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk)

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.

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: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Corsham: Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Browl, 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: Joe Hart, Maria Checcia, Luicana Checchia, Elizabeth McGrattan, Rosie Bamber.

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: Immaculate Conception, Stroud, with Brownshill, Painswick, and More Hall.

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.

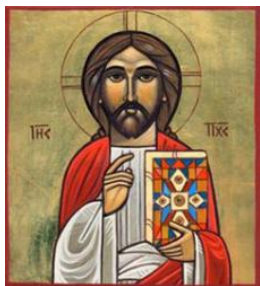
In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has 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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

First reading

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26)

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

Second reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.