

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine

Presbytery: 30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG

Tel: 07552859147

Email: michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Administrator: Teresa Gosling

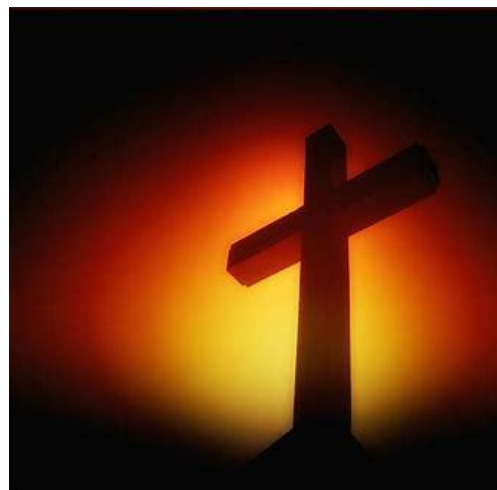
Tel: 07552859160

Parish Administration Emails:

chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com

corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com

Associate Priest: Mgr Keith Newton Tel: 07976585891



THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Sunday 14th September

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch)

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

Monday 15th September

Our Lady of Sorrows No Mass

Tuesday 16th September

Saints Cornelius, Pope,
and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Wednesday 17th September

Saint Edith of Wilton, Virgin

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thursday 18th September

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Bridget Smith*)

followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 19th September

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Canon Millett*)

Saturday 20th September

Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest,
Paul Chong Ha-sang and
Companions, Martyrs

2-4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

21st September

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch)

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

with Children's Liturgy

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

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Our Feast today celebrates two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion. The basilica, named the Martyrium, and the shrine, named the Calvarium, were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre which now stands on the site was built by the crusaders in 1149. However, the feast, more than anything else, is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened. The entrance antiphon for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is: "We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection: through him we are saved and made free."

EDUCATION SUNDAY Today we celebrate Catholic education in all its forms and give thanks to our forebearers for the sacrifices they made to build our schools and colleges, to our lecturers, teachers & governors for their dedication and service. To ensure Catholic education is provided for current & future generations, Bishop Bosco is appealing for more people to answer the call he made in May for new school governors. More volunteers are urgently needed so please consider offering yourself for this important ministry. Contact bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com for further information or if you would like to apply. Let us keep all who are involved in Catholic education in our prayers this weekend.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY is celebrated in our parishes on 21st September (Next Weekend) This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary. It's 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, "I believe..." This is the theme for *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* 2025. You will find resources to help you celebrate this day. The [main reflection](#) comes from Abbot Hugh Allen O'Praem, Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference.

A SECOND COLLECTION will also be taken next week on Evangelii Gaudium Sunday to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Please hold this important work in your prayers.

JOINT PARISHES INTERNATIONAL HARVEST SUPPER Friday 26th September at 7pm at St Patrick's Hall. If you are able to help, or you can contribute a hot or cold dish, please contact Teresa, or put your name down on the volunteer list which will be in both churches. It would be lovely to have food to share from every nationality represented in our parishes!

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH A new programme will start in the Autumn for adults who wish to know Jesus Christ and his Church. This is for those enquiring about the faith leading to the possibility of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (or reception into the full communion of the Church) next Easter. Now is the time to mention this to your family and friends who may wish to join us on this exciting journey in faith. There will be a 'Taste and See' Evening on Wednesday 1st October in the parish office at St Mary's. Please call the office for more details and register your interest.

PARENT HUB Come and listen to a talk about the joys and challenges of family life and meet other parents in the area. The next Parent Hub will take place at 3pm on Saturday 20th September at St Patrick's Hall in Corsham. Parents are most welcome to attend with their children. Tea/coffee and cake will be provided. Any enquiries, contact Sarah & Sam: 07907732997.

MARRIAGE HELP Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983.

CHIPPENHAM DOORWAY is asking for donations for their annual Harvest collection. This food is used to make up the food take-out bags they give out each week and contributes to the hot meals they serve in sessions. Food is central to their services, being both a lifeline and a way of providing consistent welcome, comfort and warmth to our guests. They are always so grateful for the generous donations they receive. Please see the poster in the porch of St Mary's showing what items they want.

CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to [pray for peace](#) in the Middle East.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Corsham after weekday mass. Chippenham on Sat 4.15-4.45pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

Recently departed: Michaela Finn, Francis Pycroft (*Father of Teresa Gosling*).

RIP Anniversaries: Ann Hanratty, Steve Dawber, Ladda Chave, Lyn James, Muriel Cavaciuti, Bridget Smith, Canon Millett, Ann Jones.

For Peace: in Ukraine, Gaza and all the places of warfare throughout the world.

The Holy Father's September Intention: Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Holy Cross, Bedminster.

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.

September – The Month of Our Lady of Sorrows



Over the centuries there grew a custom of devoting certain months of the year to specific spiritual themes. September became known as the month of “Our Lady of Sorrows.” Initially this might seem like a strange designation, as Our Lady of Sorrows is usually connected to Jesus’ crucifixion, which in the Church’s liturgical year is celebrated in March or April. However, early on a feast developed on 14 September named “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.” Originally this feast celebrated the finding of the Holy Cross by St Helena and the consecration, on 14 September, 335, of the basilicas built by Constantine on the sites of the Holy Sepulchre and Calvary at Jerusalem. This brought into September a particular meditation on the cross of Jesus Christ, and by the 17th century there developed a complementary Marian feast on 15 September.

In the 17th century the Servites celebrated a solemn feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, which in 1817 was extended to the whole Church by Pope Pius VII as a memorial of his sufferings in exile and captivity and of his deliverance through the Blessed Virgin’s intercession. Furthermore, Pope St Pius X transferred this feast from the third Sunday of September to this octave-day of Our Lady’s Nativity (8 September), in 1912.” Originally this feast was more concerned with Mary’s sufferings throughout her early life, excluding the Passion of Jesus, her Son, but over time it has come to represent all of Mary’s suffering.

Collect for Our Lady of Sorrows

O God, who willed that, when your Son was lifted high on the Cross,
his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering,
grant that your Church, participating with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ,
may merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE FEAST OF EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

First reading

A reading from the book of Numbers

Numbers 21:4b-9

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.’ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed

for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 78(77)

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;
they were not faithful to his covenant.

Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage.

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia.

Gospel

John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.