

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A

Sunday 1st March

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

Monday 2nd March

Weekday of Lent No Mass

Tuesday 3rd March

Weekday of Lent

11.20am Stations of the Cross

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(Laurence and Doris O'Toole)

Wednesday 4th March

Weekday of Lent

12pm Mass (Cor) *(Moyna O'Donnell)*

Thursday 5th March

Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(O'Boyle & Williams Family)*

followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm

Friday 6th March

Weekday of Lent

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

Saturday 7th March

Weekday of Lent

2pm-4.45pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction (Ch)

Sunday 8th March

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch) *(John Dawber)*

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

with Children's Liturgy

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

THE TRANSFIGURATION The Gospel of the second Sunday of Lent always takes us to the mountaintop with Peter, James, and John, where Jesus is transfigured before their eyes. His face shines like the sun, His clothes become dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appear, speaking with Him. This moment is a profound revelation — a glimpse of the divine glory hidden within the humanity of Christ. It is a foretaste of the Resurrection, given to strengthen the disciples for the trials that lie ahead in Jerusalem. The Transfiguration reminds us that our faith journey is not only about enduring the valleys of life but also about seeking and remembering the mountaintop moments when God's presence is unmistakable. These moments may come in prayer, in the beauty of creation, in acts of love, or in the quiet assurance of God's nearness during difficult times. They are gifts meant to sustain us when the road becomes steep.

Lent is our own spiritual ascent. It calls us to step away from the noise and distractions of daily life, to climb the mountain of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and to open our hearts to God's transforming light. Just as the disciples were told to "listen to Him," we too are invited to listen — not only with our ears but with our whole lives. Listening to Jesus means allowing His words to shape our choices, His compassion to guide our relationships, and His mission to inspire our actions.

The glory of the Transfiguration did not erase the reality of the Cross, but it gave the disciples courage to face it. In the same way, God's light in our lives does not remove every challenge, but it changes how we walk through them — with hope, trust, and the assurance that the final word is not suffering, but glory.

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 starting next week. Would you please sign the list in Church if you are able to lead one.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH continues at 7pm on Wed 4th March in St Mary's Office. Please pray for our candidates for the Easter sacraments.

LENTEN ALMS This year's Lenten Alms are being collected for 'Aid to the Church in Need.' ACN is a Catholic charity bringing spiritual and practical help to Catholics and other Christians where they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral

need through prayer, information, and action. For more information see Acnuk.org

CORSHAM PARISH will be collecting and unwanted gold or silver during March to help towards the restoration of fund. Even the smallest amount will help. Envelopes will be provided in the Church.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026 Full details of liturgies for Holy Week and Easter are available in our special leaflet available in Church. The Chrism Mass is celebrated at 11am in Clifton Cathedral on Wed 1st Apr. The Triduum will be celebrated at St Mary's: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday, the Celebration of the Passion at 3pm on Good Friday, (in both Churches) and the Easter Vigil at 8pm on Holy Saturday. Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter Day masses are at the usual times. NB There is no 5pm Mass on Saturday 4th April as the Easter Vigil begins at 8pm.

CHIPPENHAM MISSIO BOXES The Missio magazines are available in the porch for collection. If you would like to have your box emptied or would like to make a donation, Marion will be at the Tuesday and Thursday Masses next week.

LENT LUNCH AT ST MARY'S The SVP invite you to a light Lenten soup lunch on Friday 6th March after Mass. All are welcome. Please find the sign-up sheets by the church entrances.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT ST MARY'S Thursdays after the 12.10pm Mass until 6pm and Saturdays 2pm until 4.45pm concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Do make use of these beautiful opportunities to draw close to the Lord in prayer.

LENT LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION Bishop Bosco invites you to join him to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join him at one of the five venues as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage. Each Liturgy will start at 7pm. Thurs 5th March – Sacred Heart, Tisbury. Tues 10th March – Immaculate Conception, Devizes. Tues 17th March – St Joseph, Tewkesbury. Tues 24th March – Christ the King, Thornbury. Priests are available to hear confessions. You will be most welcome.

TROWBRIDGE MISSION From the 9th -13th March, the Redemptorist Fathers will preach a Parish Mission in Trowbridge. Each night the Mission Service is at St John the Baptist Church (BA14 9EA) and starts at 7pm. They'll look at different aspects of our Catholic Faith (respectively Prayer, Our Lady, Death & Eternal Life, The Eucharist & Healing, Gifts & Service), and it lasts for an hour. Confessions available afterwards. All welcome.

NATIONAL NOVENA OF ST JOSEPH – THE MIGRANT WORKER will take place from 10th to 18th March 2026 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. The masses are at 10am every day of Novena except Sunday when it is at 11am. You can follow the Masses on YouTube, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena.

MOBILE PHONES would people kindly ensure that their phones are on silent during Mass as we have had several phones ringing during Mass in recent weeks.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Confessions are heard in Corsham after weekday mass and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.15-4.45pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Kath McDonald, Linda Scott, Nick King, Mo Brinn, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price, Robert Wilkins. Chippenham: Pauline Fitzgerald, David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, 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: Pauline Fitzgerald, Paul Turner.

RIP Anniversaries: Jean Griffin. Doris O'Toole. Jim Wilson. Jennie Wilson. Ivy Burke. Mary Cadogan. Artemio Alberti. Brian Tuersley.

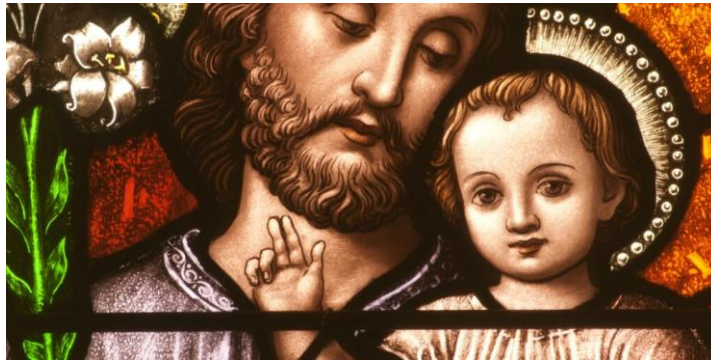
For Peace: in Ukraine, Gaza and all the places of warfare throughout the world.

The Holy Father's March Intention: Let us pray that nations move to an effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Diocesan Prayer Link: 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.

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

First reading

Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So, Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32)

*May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.*

The word of the LORD is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

Second reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the Second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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

Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus,

'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.