

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL (Good Shepherd Sunday)

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass

*(Vocations to the Priesthood)*

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Weekday of Easter No Mass

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of John Nel (Ch)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena,

Virgin, Doctor of the Church,

Patron of Europe

12pm (Cor) *(Teresa Green)*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(Mike Opie)*

followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

Saint Joseph the Worker

12.10pm Funeral Mass of Ann Martin (Ch)

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Saint Athanasius, Bishop,

Doctor of the Church

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm–4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

3<sup>RD</sup> MAY

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

11am (Ch) Sung Mass *(Betty Fountaine)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Good Shepherd Sunday

**TODAY IS VOCATIONS SUNDAY** In 1964, Pope Paul VI, launched the Vocations Sunday, which since then we celebrate on the fourth Sunday of Easter, also called as Good Shepherd Sunday. This year marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As Catholics and people of God we all know that God is calling us and has a plan for each of us. He called each of us by name through our Baptism to holiness. He continues to call and cry out to us each day to be his disciples, some to the married life, some to the priesthood or the diaconate, some to religious life or to live as kind single people. Everybody is called! What is God calling you to? We pray for all vocations in the Christian Life but especially this weekend for vocations to the Priesthood. Our second collection is for our Diocesan Clergy Training Fund. This supports our Seminarians in formation for Priestly Ministry and our Permanent Diaconal Programme.

**OUR JOINT PARISH PPC** meets on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in St Mary's Parish Office.

**MARY'S MONTH OF MAY** Next Sunday, at the conclusion of the 11am Mass, in Chippenham, there will be a short traditional devotion to our Blessed Lady for the month of May.

**RCIA – JOURNEY IN FAITH** The last gathering for the newly baptized and those received into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm in St Mary's Parish Office. This is another opportunity to reflect on their experiences and share their joy in receiving the sacraments. Please continue to pray for all the newly baptised and received as they continue to journey in the Faith.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN** Our next session is this Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April and then on 9<sup>th</sup> May, both at 4pm. Parents, please ensure that the Mass children's participation cards are signed each week. Mass and the Catechetical sessions are a prerequisite of completing the course and receiving the Holy Eucharist.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE** On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, the Diocese of Clifton will be observing this day. The theme for this year's Day of Prayer looks at Domestic Abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring. This day invites us to pause as a Diocesan family to: Pray for all survivors and victims of domestic abuse, acknowledge the profound impact of abuse within

families and relationships and commit ourselves anew to listening, safeguarding, and creating safe spaces in our Church communities. We recognise that this day may be especially challenging for some, and we encourage anyone who is affected to seek support. The Clifton Diocese Safeguarding Team is available to listen, offer support, and

respond to safeguarding concerns with care, respect, and confidentiality. Email: [safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com)  
Tel: 01179540993

**'NOW IS THE TIME'** is a Symposium to explore the teachings of Pope Leo in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Dilexi te' (Love for the Poor) at St Brendan's College, Brislington, on Saturday 30 May. Our keynote speakers will be Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Sir John Battle KCSG and Raymond Friel (CSAN). We start the day at 10am (refreshments from 9.30am) and finish at 4pm. You can register for the day through this Eventbrite link: <https://dilexite.eventbrite.co.uk> You will be most welcome.

**ST MARY'S SVP LUNCH** There will be a lunch in the hall hosted by the SVP on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May after the 12.10pm Mass at St Mary's. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet (there is one at each entrance).

**COMMUNION OF THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND** if anyone is sick or housebound in the parishes and would like to receive the sacraments, would you or family member please contact Fr Michael who will happily arrange this for you.

**DIOCESAN DAY: 'JOY OF LOVE'** On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him for the diocesan day at Downside Abbey to celebrate the 'Joy of Love'. In addition to the adult programme there will be a children's and young people's programme. For your free ticket you need to book. Please see the following link: <https://joyoflove.eventbrite.co.uk>

**MISSIO** Our Missio volunteer, Marion Hamilton, will no longer be visiting St Mary's from around the end of May due a change in family circumstances. Therefore, Marion has asked if you could bring in your red boxes for counting, even if they are not full, so she can count them before she leaves us. Please bring your red box to church and leave it in the office, or hand it to Teresa who will pass it on.

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER 11AM MASS AT ST MARY'S** The next refreshments will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SAVE THE DATE:** We are delighted to announce that **Dr Scott Hahn**, Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher is coming to this country in May and will be speaking at St John the Evangelist, Bath, on **Tuesday, 26 May at 7.00pm**. It will be a ticketed event only and details of how to buy a ticket will be available soon. In addition, Dr. Scott will be signing his books which CTS will bring with them. This is a truly great opportunity for our diocese to welcome Dr Hahn - so do keep the date free and come along! You will not want to miss this great speaker.

**THE REGINA CAELI** (Queen of Heaven) replaces the saying of the Angelus during the Easter season.

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April and re-open on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses 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: David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Victoria Kiss, Pamela Naylor, Agnes Tegner, Michael Millard, Frank Hill, Nigel Tolley. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**RIP Anniversaries:** Kathleen Stevens, John Booker, Mike Opie, Marguerite Lynch, Phoebe Coates.

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

**The Holy Father's May Intention:** That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid waste, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Saint Joseph, Stonehouse and the Annunciation, Woodchester.

*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.*

## May – The Month of Mary



“May is Mary’s Month,” began the great poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, in [“The May Magnificat.”](#)

For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasized the month of May as a time of honour and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate with special pilgrimages, devotions, or placing a crown on a statue of Mary, traditionally called a “May Crowning.”

On April 29, 1965, Pope Blessed Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Mense Maio* (“The Month of May”), which promoted May devotions to the Blessed Mother, knowing that, “the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise.” Despite being a lesser-known encyclical, its timing and topic are revealing. Released on the eve of the last session of the Second Vatican Council and amid escalating violence and unrest of the Vietnam War and the 1960’s, the help of Mary was “a matter of top priority” considering “the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace.” The words of Paul VI are just as relevant today amid the instability and turmoil of our world. In our contentious social and political climate, focusing on Mary is not a pious distraction from real issues, but a vital source for grace, truth, and mercy. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us all.

### Prayer to Our Lady of Peace

O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace.

Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world.

Inspire our thoughts, words and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts.

May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing  
so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A Good Shepherd Sunday

### First reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1

*The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The LORD is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me;  
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,  
for the sake of his name.  
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,  
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.  
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the LORD’s own house shall I dwell  
for length of days unending.

**Second reading****1 Peter 2:20b-25***A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.*

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation****John 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia.

**Gospel****John 10:1-10***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'