

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

10<sup>TH</sup> MAY

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

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

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

with Children's liturgy

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Weekday of Easter No Mass

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Francis and Isabel Pycroft*)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Our Lady of Fatima

12pm (Cor)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION  
OF THE LORD (Holyday of Obligation)

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

7pm Mass (Ch) (*Pro Populo*)

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Our Lady on Saturday

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm-4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (*James McGrath*)

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, which the Father will send to us once Jesus goes back to the Father. It was an assurance of Jesus constant presence. Jesus reminded the apostles to continue following the commandments for that is the sign of their right journey to where He was going. It will be an experience of true peace. Jesus has fulfilled His mission. The time of the Holy Spirit had come. We will celebrate it on Pentecost Sunday (May 24<sup>th</sup>). Meanwhile we reflect on its mission. Jesus refers to it as an Advocate as a Counsellor, Defender. This, as Jesus had commanded, we must take heed of His teachings. The Holy Spirit will be our light and guide to always be aware of Jesus' teachings. From the Friday after Ascension Thursday to the Saturday before Pentecost we traditionally pray the Pentecost Novena, nine days of prayer asking for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As the oldest novena (rooted in Acts 1:14), it prepares believers for the gifts of the Spirit, focusing on wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

For the Novena booklet go to [www.cbcew.org.uk/wcontent/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/pentecost-novena-booklet.pdf](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcontent/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/pentecost-novena-booklet.pdf)

### SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION – THURSDAY 14 MAY

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, celebrated 40 days after Easter, commemorates Jesus bodily ascending into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. It marks the completion of his earthly mission and the inauguration of the Church's mission, serving as a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be two masses for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord; 12pm at St Patrick's and 7pm at St Mary's.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN** The next session on 16<sup>th</sup> May is for parents to attend with their children when the festive first communion albs will be distributed to candidates and there will also be a music rehearsal for First Communion Day.

### EVANGELISATION AND DISCIPLESHIP NEWSLETTER

The latest version of the newsletter, Volume 18, is available via the following link <https://cliftondiocese.com/clifton-evangelist/>.

**DISCOVER THE ROSARY** Light of Truth is running an online session on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 called 'Discover the Rosary' from 7pm to 8pm where we will discover the prayer of the rosary and how to pray it. To register click on the zoom link on the Light of Truth website [www.lightoftruth.uk/join](http://www.lightoftruth.uk/join).

**GIFT AID- NEW TAX YEAR REMINDER** As we enter a new tax year, parishioners who donate by Standing Order or envelopes are asked to review their tax status. With frozen personal allowances and rising pension income, some may now be paying tax and could help the parish by joining the Gift Aid scheme at no

extra cost. A simple form allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated from HMRC. A general guide is that Gift Aid donations should not exceed four times the tax paid. Higher-rate taxpayers may claim additional relief through their tax return. For Gift Aid forms, please contact the Parish Office. There are several ways you can help to fund the mission of the parishes and contribute to the upkeep of our churches: with a monthly standing order (forms available from parish office, or on the noticeboard), by using the Dona Card Reader in the churches or on line or by a cash donation during the collections. Thank you for your generosity.

**CAFOD: STAND WITH SUDAN** On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, CAFOD asks for your help: "So many in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger and disease. That is why we are asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence." Donate at [www.cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/stand-with-sudan](http://www.cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/stand-with-sudan)

**THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (CCN)** is the official media office for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, responsible for promoting the Gospel through media, supporting bishops, and managing church public relations. It is funded by an annual second collection, typically held around World Communications Day. World Communications Day: Celebrated annually (Sunday, May 17, 2026, for the 60th event), focusing on themes like AI, digital communication, and "Preserving Human Voices and Faces". This collection will be taken next weekend.

**'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** The next SVP lunch at St Mary's will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**DR SCOTT HANN VISIT** We are delighted that Dr Scott Hahn, well known American Catholic convert, writer, biblical scholar, 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 - more than two thirds of the tickets have already been purchased - so please don't delay if you haven't booked already. In addition, Dr Hahn will be signing his books which CTS will bring with them. This is a truly great opportunity for our diocese to welcome Dr Hahn; you will not want to miss this great speaker. There will be 350 tickets at £20 per person. To book your ticket please click on the following link: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/oicym1qd>

**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.

**Recently Departed:** Jean Harte.

**RIP Anniversaries:** Joe Walsh, Alan Hince, John Bullock, Martin O'Donnell.

**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:** Holy Family, Swindon; Saint Joseph, Wroughton.

*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

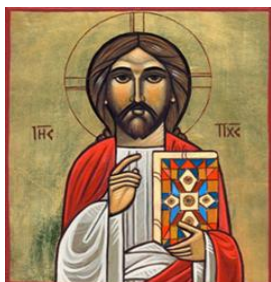
O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace.

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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

**First reading**  
*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

**Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 66(65)**

*Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.  
or: Alleluia.*

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'  
'Before you all the earth shall bow down,  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'  
Come and see the works of God:  
his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.  
He turned the sea into dry land;  
they passed through the river on foot.  
Let our joy, then, be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might.  
Come and hear, all who fear God;  
I will tell what he did for my soul.  
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,  
nor withhold from me his merciful lover.

### **Second reading**

**1 Peter 3:15-18**

*A reading for the First Letter of Saint Peter.*

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.  
Alleluia.

### **Gospel**

**John 14:15-21**

*A reading from the holy Gospel of John.*

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.