

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

3RD MAY

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

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

Monday 4th May

Feast of the English Martyrs No Mass

Tuesday 5th May

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(*Survivors of Domestic Abuse*)

Wednesday 6th May

Weekday of Easter

12pm (Cor) (*James Schwarz*)

Thursday 7th May

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Holy Souls*)

followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 8th May

Weekday of Easter

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Healing of family tree*)

Saturday 9th May

Our Lady on Saturday

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm–4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

10TH MAY

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

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

with Children's Liturgy

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

with Children's liturgy

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.” (John 14:6) As the Easter season continues, today's readings strengthen our Easter faith and our trust in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus reassures his disciples that, even though he will soon return to the Father, he remains their sure guide. He alone is the Way, leading us to the Father; the Truth, revealing God's love; and the Life, giving us eternal hope. In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the early Church responding to new needs with wisdom and cooperation. The appointment of the first deacons reminds us that the Church grows when each member serves according to their calling, united in prayer and mission. St Peter, in the Second Reading, invites us to recognise our dignity as “living stones”, built upon Christ, the cornerstone. Through Baptism, we share in Christ's priestly mission and are called to proclaim God's light in our daily lives. During this Easter season, we are encouraged to trust more deeply in the Lord, to serve generously, and to live as joyful witnesses to the Risen Christ in our homes, our parishes, and the wider world.

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY This 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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION – THURSDAY 14 MAY 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. This is a Holyday of Obligation when we should attend Mass if possible.

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 6th 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 The next session is on Saturday 9th May 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 Tuesday 5th May. 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

'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 8th 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).

DIOCESAN DAY 'JOY OF LOVE' This event on Saturday 4th July has now sold out.

MISSIO Thanks to those who have brought in their Missio boxes for counting. There is still time before Marion leaves us for your box to be counted. Please bring your red box to church and leave it in the office, or hand it to Teresa who will pass it on. If you collect on behalf of others, then please could you collect the money early so that it can be banked by Marion. Many thanks.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9AM MASS AT ST PATRICK'S AND 11AM MASS AT ST MARY'S The next refreshments at St Mary's will be this Sunday, 3rd May. Refreshments are served in the hall at St Patrick's every Sunday. Do come along for a chat and something to drink.

DR SCOTT HANN VISIT Scott Hann is a Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher. He is coming to this country in May and will be speaking at St John the Evangelist in Bath on Tuesday 26th May at 7.00pm (doors from 6pm). It will be a ticketed event only at £20 per person. This is a truly great opportunity for our diocese to welcome Dr Hahn -You will not want to miss this great speaker. To buy a ticket please see: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/oicym1qd>

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.

PARISH GIVING 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.

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: Vincent Millett, Karen Gardner, Rosemary Gartland, John Delaney, Josef Nowak.

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: Immaculate Conception, Stroud, with Brownhill, 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.

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

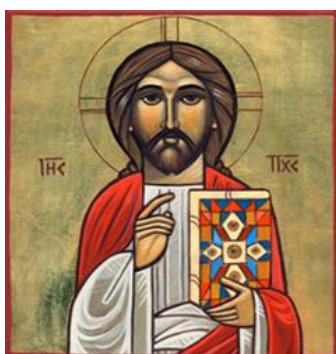
O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace.

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

First reading**Acts 6:1-7***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 33(32)**

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

or: Alleluia.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

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.

Second reading**1 Peter 2:4-9***A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.*

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel**John 14:1-12***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one

comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.