

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

16th August

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

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

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

Monday 17th August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

No Mass

Tuesday 18th August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12.10pm Mass (Ch) ()

Wednesday 19th August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thursday 20th August

Saint Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 21st August

Saint Pius X, Pope

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Saturday 22nd August

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.15pm–4.45pm (Sat) Confessions

4.45pm Benediction

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd August

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

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

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is transferred this year from the Saturday. We celebrate that Mary, “having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory” The Assumption highlights the unity of body and soul and prefigures the resurrection promised to all faithful. Mary’s assumption serves as a sign of hope, showing the destiny of those united to Christ in faith and love. It also underscores the dignity of the human body, which, in Mary, is glorified and taken into heaven. The feast invites us all to reflect on God’s mercy, rejoice in divine love, and commit to serving others, especially the vulnerable, in imitation of Mary’s Magnificat. The readings at Mass this Sunday are of the Assumption.

REFRESHMENTS There will be refreshments on Sunday at St Mary’s to celebrate the patronal feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary after the 11am Mass. All are welcome.

SVP LUNCH will be at St Mary’s on Friday 4th September after the 12.10pm Mass.

THIRD WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB There is no Saint Patrick’s lunch club in August, however it will resume on Wednesday 16th September. Thanks to Jane and her team for their hard work.

ADORATION Thanks to those who have signed up for weekly Adoration at St Mary’s. The new rota sheets for August and September are available in the porch. Please sign up to attend.

RCIA – JOURNEY IN FAITH For adults wanting to explore the Catholic faith in more depth, you are invited to take part in ‘The Journey of Faith 2026/7’ (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). This starts on 30th September at 7pm in St Mary’s Chippenham and covers the main teachings of the Catholic faith. The journey is rooted in the Sunday celebration of the Liturgy. For those who wish, this can lead to baptism/ formal reception into the Church and the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Please call the Parish Office to register your interest and we look forward to warmly welcoming you.

TASTE & SEE A prior gathering to our 2026/7 journey in faith will be our ‘taste and see’ session on Wednesday 23rd September in St Mary’s Office, Chippenham at 7pm. Come and ask questions over a glass of wine or a soft drink and nibbles. There is no obligation to

attend the RCIA program. This is just as preliminary introduction. All most welcome.

PARISH CATECHISTS Would you be interested in joining our team of parish catechists? Catechists assist in formation at all levels from the preparation of parents for baptism of children to first communion preparation, children's Sunday Liturgy of the Word and adult formation on our RCIA journey, accompanying and supporting them Sunday by Sunday at the Parish Mass. This is a wonderful and rewarding way to assist in the mission of the Church. Please have a word with Fr Michael if you would like more details.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION The next date for baptismal preparation for parents of children being baptized will be held on September 19th in St Mary's Church Office at 2pm. If you are planning to have your child baptized shortly at St Mary's or St Patrick's, please ensure that you attend this opportunity to prepare for your child's special day. The session is also open to Godparents.

HOSPITAL If you are going into hospital and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before admission, please contact Fr Michael or the Parish Office who will arrange this for you. Receiving the sacrament before admission relieves the pressure on the hospital chaplains.

MARCH FOR LIFE in London on Saturday 5th September. Religious services happening at various places in the morning along with the pro-life family summit at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster (there are children and teen streams). The March starts at 1.30pm with speeches at 3pm in Parliament Square. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event, where we recognise the value of life from conception and help all people understand why abortion is a tragedy and harms every family to its very core. More info: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/2026-event-page>

ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY 'Mary – Mother of the Faithful' on Sunday 6 September from 11am to 4.15pm. There will be the Rosary, Exposition, Confessions, Benediction, a youth procession to the Tor, and an afternoon procession through the town, ending with a Pilgrim Mass, celebrated by Bishop Bosco. The parish office has received a detailed email about arrangements for the day, such as parking and a map etc. If you are going on the pilgrimage, please contact Teresa for the information.

CALLING ALL CATECHISTS 'From seed to plant' - the Theological Life Journey with Sr Hyacinthe Defos du Rau OP. A day for all catechists and those interested in becoming catechists. Bishop Bosco will celebrate Mass. The day will take place on Saturday 17 October and our venue will be St John the Evangelist, Bath. The Church is close to Bath railway station but if coming by car please use the park & ride as parking at the Church is limited. We will have refreshments from 9.30am, for a 10am start. We will finish around 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. To register for the day, please use the Eventbrite <https://fromseedtoplant.eventbrite.co.uk>.

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, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: David Lunt, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Victoria Kiss, Pamela Naylor, Agnes Tegner, Michael Millard, Harry Purdon. Pray for all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversaries: Anne Brigden, Hannah Moynihan, Fred Woropay, Austin Brownrigg, Caroline Fossacecco, Catherine Law, Jessie Kent.

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

The Holy Father's August Intention: Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies.

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

August – Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



We know that traditionally May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, October to the Holy Rosary and Our Lady of the Rosary. Now it's time to also remember something little realised or often forgotten. August is the month traditionally dedicated by to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In fact, August once saw the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1944 Venerable Pope Pius XII set this feast to be celebrated on 22nd Aug as the Octave of the Assumption. Two years earlier he had consecrated the Christian family and whole human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 25th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. Then in 1969, St Pope Paul VI moved the date to the Saturday after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. August still has three Marian celebrations — the Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major (also remembering Our Lady of the Snows) on 5th August, the Assumption on 15th August and the Queenship of Mary on 22nd August. Well before August came to be dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary she was celebrated as such for centuries. In fact the roots of the devotion to Mary's Heart are in Scripture, where on two occasions reference is made to Mary's heart by St Luke. Luke 2:19 "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart," and Luke 2:51 "His mother (Mary) meanwhile kept all these things in memory, meaning in her heart."

Collect of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Lord our God, you made the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary the home of your eternal Word and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Give us a heart that is free from sin and attentive to your will, that, faithful to your commandments, we may love you above all things and seek to help others in their need. 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.



SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

First reading

A reading from the Book of Revelation

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R10b

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For 'God has put all things in subjection under his feet.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.'

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.