

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL The earthquakes in Syria and Turkey and the aftershocks that followed have already killed 22,000 people, injured over 75,000 and destroyed thousands of homes and buildings. The scale of this disaster is unclear but search and rescue for survivors continues in both countries in a desperate bid to save lives. CAFOD is part of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which unites 15 member charities who are experts in humanitarian aid and specialists in different areas of disaster response. Please donate today and help us reach families who have lost everything. The people of Turkey and Syria continue to need your donations and prayers. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>. **There will also be an opportunity to give this weekend when we take an emergency collection for the CAFOD appeal.**

THE SEASON OF LENT begins on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. There will be Mass in Corsham at 12noon and Chippenham at 6pm, both with the giving of ashes. A full Lent/Easter programme will be available next week including details of our Parish Lent Groups and seasonal devotions.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next Baptism preparation session for parents, will take place on Saturday 18th February in St Patrick's Church Hall in Corsham from 10.30am to 12pm. Please could you let Teresa Gosling know (see contact details above) if you are planning to attend so we have an idea of numbers. Both Corsham and Chippenham parishioners are asked to attend a session before submitting a baptismal application to the parishes. Thank you to those who have already said they will be attending. Our next baptisms will be during Eastertide.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION 2023 We are now looking forward to our celebration of First Holy Communion within our Parishes. Prior to enrolling on the First Communion programme, it is important that the family attend Mass each Sunday so that the child understands the Mass and experiences the presence of Christ in the liturgy. Families are invited to sign up using the form on our Parish Website <https://chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk/first-holy-communion/>. The date of the First Holy Communion will be set after registration and the venue and dates of the preparation classes will be announced shortly.

12TH FEBRUARY 2023

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Graham Masters)

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

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

Mon 13th Feb Weekday in OT

No Mass

Tues 14th Feb Feast of Saints Cyril,

Monk, and Methodius, Bishop,

Patrons of Europe

5pm Mass (Ch) *(Jane Kelson)*

Wed 15th Feb Weekday in OT

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Pauline Feeney (Cor)

Thurs 16th Feb

Weekday in OT

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(John McWilliam)*

Fri 17th Feb 12pm Weekday in OT

Mass (Cor) *(Martin Donoghue)*

Sat 18th Feb Weekday in OT

19TH FEBRUARY 2023

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass *(Jane Kelson)*

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK If you are sick/housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion (or the Sacrament of the Sick) at home, please call or ask a member of your family to call Fr Michael or Teresa Gosling our Administrator and we will be very happy to arrange this. If you are going into hospital and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted, please see Fr Michael and we will arrange this for you.

PETITION TO STOP THE INTRODUCTION OF ABORTION UP TO BIRTH In 2021, abortion campaigners brought forward an amendment to a Government Bill that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion). This amendment did not go to a vote and pass, but the abortion lobby is expected to make another attempt to introduce this extreme abortion law change shortly. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would introduce one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Right To Life UK is running a petition to ask the Prime Minister to do everything in his power to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth. Please add your name to the petition here [Sign the petition to stop abortion up to birth being introduced – Right To Life UK](#)

CHIPPENHAM 100 CLUB Unfortunately, only 29 people have signed up for this year's 100 Club. As our income has dropped considerably, we need to restrict the amount we pay out in prize money. For the next three prize draws, until the end of March, we will have a first prize of £20 and two prizes of £5 each. January and February's prizes will be drawn next week. Yet, there is still time to join, so please can we ask new and current members to pay for the **first three months of the year only (£6.50)**. We realise that this will be a disappointment to our loyal members and if you are unhappy about the change then we will gladly refund your monies. If you would like to become a member of the 100 Club, and to be in with a chance to win a prize of £100 or £5 a month, please contact Teresa Gosling. Please make your cheques payable to: *Parish of St Mary, Chippenham*.

ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS During Lent, Corsham area Christian Churches will hold 5 Lent sessions taken from the 'York' course entitled 'On the Third Day'. Sessions will take place at St Aldhelm's Hall on Monday evenings and at St Patrick's Hall on Thursday mornings. The sessions are repeated so you can attend either one. Dates are: St Aldhelm's: 27th Feb, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March, 7.15 for 7.30pm. St Patrick's: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March, 10.15am for 10.30am. Members of both parishes are very welcome to attend. If you would be prepared to lead one of the sessions please email mrs.christine.harvey@gmail.com for further details.

LGBT+ MASS A monthly celebration of the Eucharist for LGBT+ Catholics, families and friends will take place at St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church on Sunday 19th February at 3pm <https://tolentino.org.uk>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Coleen Milne, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price, Derek Keohane. Chippenham: Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Anne Marie Naylor, Chris Rosario, James Carine, Michaela Finn, Eoin O Mahony. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Those suffering as a result of earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Recently Departed: Christine Flannery, Julia Wright (Funeral Tue 14th Feb 11am St Mary's, Bath), Jason Harbour

RIP Anniversaries: Martin Donoghue, Bill Clinton, Nuala Clinton, Fran Canning, Shaun O'Donnell, Alice Hopper, Pat Farrant, John Jones, Iris Rawlings, John McWilliam

The Holy Father's February Prayer Intention: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes and St Joseph, Weston Super Mare

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.

February – The Month of the Holy Family



The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family. The Feast of the Presentation (February 2nd) or Candlemas forms a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17th century. It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: The Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. This devotion soon spread and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this title and himself composed part of the Office. On account of the flight into Egypt this feast has been observed by the Egyptian Copts from early times. The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life. In the words of Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

Not every family is perfect, and after the Christmas season, our dysfunctional families might even be fresh in our minds. We are called practicing Catholics because despite any struggles in our families we still keep *practicing*. Remember that even though Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days, they are still saints. Even if we feel like we've failed, we can still be saints, especially if we ask for the help of the Holy Family. Let's focus on our families and helping each other grow in holiness this month.

The Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

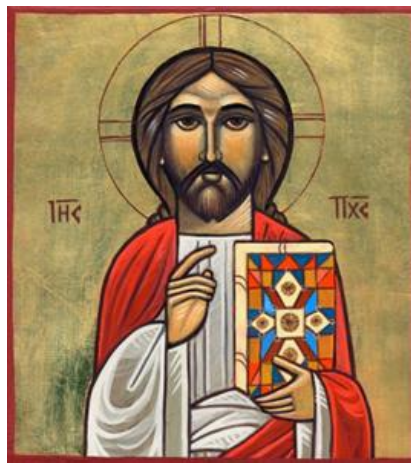
A Prayer for Ukraine



Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A



First reading

Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

They are happy who follow God's law!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord