

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A

LENT ACTIVITIES Full details of our Lent activities are available in the special Lent/Easter leaflet available in Church or on the web site.

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine Preston from St Mary's Parish who is joining the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham novitiate on Monday. This is a community based in Walsingham following a Carmelite spirituality. Please pray for Kate as she begins this new path on her spiritual journey. More details of the community can be found at walsinghamcommunity.org.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY COLLECTION St Mary's Parish has collected £210 and St Patrick's has collected £115 from its Lent lunch. It is not too late to hand in your donations for CAFOD in the collection. Thank you.

OUR JOINT PARISH LENT & EASTER EVENINGS Venue: Saint Patrick's Hall on Thursdays @ 7pm. Lent & Eastertide is an ideal time for us to grow in the faith. This year we will follow "**Sycamore**", an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. The course is designed to give you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Everyone is invited. Do bring your friends along. The second gathering is on **Who is Jesus – 7pm 16th March**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Our programme continues this weekend, on Saturday 11th March in St Mary's Church Hall for those children enrolled in our first Communion program. Please ensure that the Mass participation record is filled in each week. Weekly participation in Mass is the most important part of a child's preparation for the Sacrament. Thank you.

THE PARISH COUNCIL We thank the members of St Mary's who have agreed to become members of a new Parish Council. This Parish Council is a new joint venture between the two parishes, enabling us to work as 'Partners in Mission' more closely. The Council acts in an advisory committee to the clergy to perform their duties and administer the parishes. The new joint Council met together for the first time this week. The St Mary's members are Richard Bird, Auxilia Cavaciuti, Rodney Fernandez, Teresa Gosling (Administrator), Lynn Salter (Safeguarding) Irene Wilkie. The Corsham members remain the same.

ST PATRICK'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Thursday 11th May at 7pm at St Patrick's Parish Hall. We are all called and gifted by God, so please do come along and share your vision for building our community, feeding our

12TH MARCH 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm-4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*JJ Hickman*)

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

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

Mon 13th March No Mass

Tues 14th March Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Sr Camilla*)

Wed 15th March Weekday of Lent

Mass 12pm (Cor) (*K. Morea*)

Thurs 16th March Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*J & K Smith*)

Fri 17th March Solemnity of Saint

Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

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

Sat 18th March

St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bp

19TH MARCH 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm-4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

(*Intentions of J. Wragg*)

spirituality and sharing the Mission of Jesus. We welcome suggestions in advance of the meeting – there will be boxes available in Church. Refreshments will be provided.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are celebrated Tuesdays @ 11.30am (Chippenham) Fridays @ 11.20am (Corsham). Many thanks to those who have signed up to take a turn to lead the meditation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REP We are looking for someone with health and safety experience to assist us at St Mary's. If you have any knowledge in this area then please contact Teresa Gosling, Parish Administrator.

EASTERTIDE FAMILY MOVIE & EGG HUNT Please join us on Sunday 16th April at 3pm in St Patrick's Hall, Corsham for a matinee showing of 'Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol' on the big screen. Inspired by Dickens' Christmas classic, this film explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. It runs for about 50mins and will be followed by an Easter egg hunt. All ages are welcome, bring the family along! Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) is a central part of our Lent journey. Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.20-4.50pm.

RISE THEATRE, a professional Christian theatre company, who will be performing their original play 'Faithful Companions' at St Edmund's Church, Calne on Wednesday 15th March at 7pm. 'Faithful Companions' explores the inspirational true story of Marie Madeleine d'Houët, foundress of an international Society of Catholic sisters called the Faithful Companions of Jesus www.fcjsisters.org. For tickets, please contact Christine Martin on 07941 617791 or there is a direct link for tickets on the St. Edmund's website or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre

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.

ADULT FORMATION AND EVANGELISATION OFFICER The Diocese has a vacancy for this role and the person appointed will be someone committed to the mission of the Church, a confident communicator, able to promote the Gospel and support parishes to grow in their capacity to be places of mission and outreach. He or she will work closely with the Office for Caritas and Environment on some joint projects, particularly in the area of Youth Ministry. Please send your application form to sarah.adams@cliftondiocese.com, Director for the Department of Adult Education and Evangelisation on tel 0117 902 5595. Further information can be found here <https://cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us/>

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Coleen Milne, Richard 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, Alan Hoghton. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments at Easter

Recently Departed: Teresa Anne Allison (nee Harlowe)

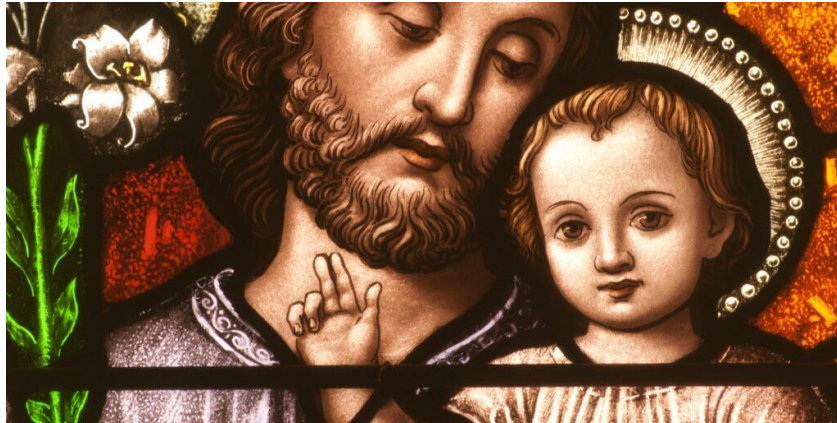
RIP Anniversaries: Malcolm Sawyer, Margaret Beaven, Arthur Riley, Joe Hart, Maria Checchia, Luciana Checchia

The Holy Father's Prayer March Intention: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church, may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and sufferings.

Diocesan Prayer Link: University/College/School 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.

March – The Month of Saint Joseph



The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife.

Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honour. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity.

We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing Saint Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Saint Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "*Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)*". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus.

Father John Hardon

Collect for Solemnity of St Joseph (20th March 2023)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
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.

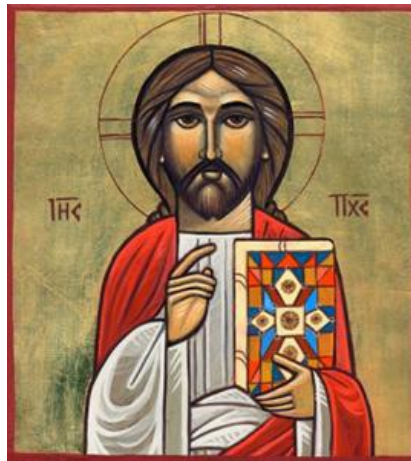
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT A



First reading

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts.'*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second reading

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Jn4:42,15

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world:
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel

John 4:5-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman,
the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know:
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come
– in fact it is here already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to

the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me,
and to complete his work.
Have you not got a saying:
Four months and then the harvest?
Well, I tell you:
Look around you, look at the fields;
already they are white, ready for harvest!
Already the reaper is being paid his wages,
already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life,
and thus sower and reaper rejoice together.
For here the proverb holds good:
one sows, another reaps;
I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for.
Others worked for it;
and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord