

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Int G. Varey*)

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass with Baptism

(*Pro Populo*)

Monday 15th May

Weekday of Easter No Mass

Tuesday 16th May Weekday of

Easter 12.10pm Mass (Ch)

Wednesday 17th May Weekday of

Easter 12.00pm (Cor) (*M. Graham*)

Thursday 18th May

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION

OF THE LORD Holyday of Obligation

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

6pm Mass (Ch) (*Pro Populo*)

Friday 19th May Saint Dunstan, Bp

12.00pm Mass (Cor) (*Z. Burgin*)

Saturday 20th May

Saint Bernadine of Siena, Pr

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)

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

9am (Cor) Sung Mass with Baptism

(*Pro Populo*)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER A

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD is celebrated this year on Thursday 18th May. After Jesus' resurrection, the time came for him to return to heaven to prepare a place for us, as his earthly ministry had been fulfilled. The Ascension serves as an ultimate demonstration of Jesus' power over death, inaugurating his reign over heaven and earth as the living King. This is a holyday of obligation when all Catholics should try to attend Mass. Mass for the Ascension will be celebrated at St Patrick's at 12noon and at St Mary's at 6pm.

VOCATIONS - COME FOLLOW ME This Eastertide we continue in Clifton Diocese to pray for vocations to the priesthood for our own diocese. Please watch Fr Stephen Corrigan of St Peter's, Gloucester talk about vocation and his own call to priesthood, about being a seminarian and now being a priest in a parish, as well as the joy and fulfilment in his life and ministry as one of our newer priests: go to www.cliftondiocese.com/vocations.

FIRST RECONCILIATION for our First Communion Candidates is celebrated at St Mary's on Saturday 13th May at 11am. Confessions will be heard within a short children's penitential service. Would parents please bring their children's Mass attendance sheets with them so that we can gauge our children's participation at Mass, as this is the most important aspect of preparation for our children. *Please could parents bring their children to the hall at 10.30am NOT 9.30am as previously asked.*

PENTECOST NOVENA The 2023 Novena to the Holy Spirit begins on Friday May 19th. The Church proposes a liturgical Novena, of biblical derivation, before Pentecost. The Roman Calendar speaks of the days between Ascension and Pentecost as "a preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit," a time to prayerfully consider the role and power of the Holy Spirit in the Church. For the 2023 "Novena to the Holy Spirit," click this link: <https://iccwhb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/novena-to-the-holy-spirit-2023-digital-pdf-2.0.pdf>

CLIFTON EVANGELIST The seventh edition is available via this link [Newsletter-volume-7-2023.pdf \(cliftondiocese.com\)](#) and will tell you what is going on around the Diocese.

CORONATION CELEBRATION Thank you to all who attended the Coronation celebration last Sunday afternoon. A good time was had by all.

GATHERING OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOUSEBOUND

Please note that we have postponed this meeting (Wed 17th May) as some people are unavailable. The meeting will be rescheduled. Meanwhile would all ministers from both parishes who take Communion to the sick and housebound please send to Teresa at the office, names and details of who they take communion to and when, so that we can form a central register for this ministry. Thank you.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL MINISTRY COURSE we are now recruiting for the next course which begins in September 2023. The course is ideal for ANY parishioner who seeks to develop their capacity to serve the parish in any way they believe the Lord is calling them. You are invited to one of our information evenings which will be taking place around the Diocese in June. Information sessions start at 7pm, no need to book, just turn up on Monday 12 June: St George, Warminster; Wednesday 14 June: St John the Evangelist, Bath; Thursday 15 June: St Peter, Swindon.

MARY'S MONTH OF MAY At the end of Mass at St Mary's on Sunday morning we celebrate the rite of crowning of our new statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this month of May, Jesus invites us in a special way to take Mary into our homes, to show her special honour, to receive her as our Mother in the spiritual life, and to let her lead us closer to the heart of Jesus.

CONFIRMATION Please pray for Ilaria Aveta who is to receive the sacrament of Confirmation at St Mary's on Pentecost Sunday in preparation for her wedding in Italy in July. Fr Michael will confirm Ilaria with a faculty granted by Bishop Declan.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) - SUDAN Priests and people endangered by Khartoum chaos - Bishop Tom Neylon, Lead Bishop for Asia for the Bishops' Conference, has recently returned from a week-long trip to Pakistan with Aid to the Church in Need. Visiting from 9-16th March, Bishop Neylon visited a number of projects funded by the charity and met with the faithful, priests and bishops in the major cities of Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Lahore and Faisalabad. Making reference to the fact that Church attendance in Pakistan is very strong, Bishop Neylon received a warm welcome and explained how, at one Friday afternoon Mass in Rawalpindi, there were over 1,000 worshippers in the cathedral with many more outside unable to get in. He also praised the Catholic Church for delivering education and healthcare services that provide for wider society and not just their own community. To read more and to hear the Catholic News interview with Bishop Tom visit Aid to the Church in Need | PAKISTAN: Bishop encounters vibrant Catholic Church punching above its weight (acnuk.org) Please support suffering Christians Aid to the Church in Need Donate (acnuk.org)

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Coleen Milne, Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. 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 Houghton, Elena Alberti. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversaries: Martin O'Donnell, Richard Surawy, Jeremiah McCarthy, Martha Haus, Tallulah Threlfall, Baby Chloe Rooney.

The Holy Father's Prayer May Intention: We pray that the Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Joseph, Bridgwater and Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Burnham-on-Sea.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary



(The new statue of Our Lady at St Mary's Church)

“I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May.”
-Pope Francis

The month of May is traditionally considered the month of Mary, a month especially dedicated to devotion to Our Lady, the Mother of God and the Mother of all of us. We spend a whole month celebrating especially the Mother, who is model of all mothers, the Mother God chose for His own Son.

This is a month to grow in devotion to Mary as Our Mother. At the foot of the cross, Jesus said to His mother, who was standing with the beloved disciple (who represents each one of us), “Woman, behold your son.” And then to the beloved disciple—and to each of us--“Behold your mother.” And then, the Gospel tells us, “From that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:26-27) In the month of May, Jesus invites us in a special way to take Mary into our homes, to show her a special honour, to receive her as our Mother in the spiritual life, and to let her lead us closer to the heart of Jesus.

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
“Protectress of the Roman people”,
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
(Pope Francis)

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

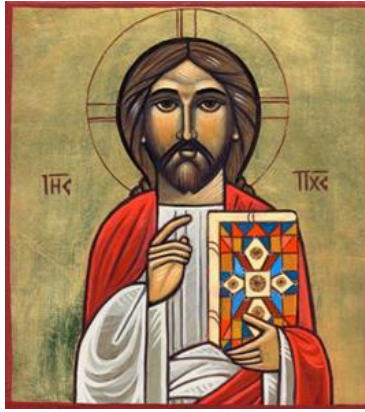
A Prayer for Ukraine



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

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER A



First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65(66):1-7,16,20

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

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 tremendous your deeds!

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
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:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Second reading

1 Peter 3:15-28

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.