

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fontaine

Presbytery: 30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LQ

Tel: 07552859147

Email: michael.fontaine@cliftondiocese.com

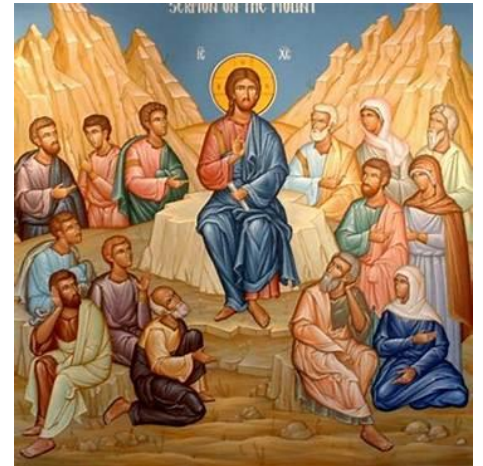
Parish Administrator: Teresa Gosling

Tel: 07552859160

Parish Administration Emails:

chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com

corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

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*)

Mon 20th Feb Weekday in OT

No Mass

Tues 21st Feb Weekday in OT

11.30am Mass Funeral Mass of
Graham Masters (Ch)

Wed 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday

(*Day of Fast & Abstinence*) Mass
12pm (Cor) and 6pm (Ch) with the
giving of ashes.

Thurs 23rd Feb After Ash Wed

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Graham Masters*)

Fri 24th Feb 12pm After Ash Wed

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Madge Abrahams*)

Sat 25th Feb After Ash Wednesday

26TH FEBRUARY 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*N & J Griffin*)

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

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

THE SEASON OF LENT the forty-day season of prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving in preparation for the joyous celebration of Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February. We mark the start of Lent with the traditional rite of distribution of ashes. Ashes –symbolic of penance– are blessed and distributed as a reminder that Lent is a time for repentance and spiritual renewal. Ashes are used to mark the forehead with the Sign of the Cross, with the words: “Repent and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The Church calls for days of abstinence and fasting during Lent: Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays during Lent and Good Friday for those aged 14 and older; Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those aged 18 to 59. Fasting is defined as eating only one full meatless meal. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one’s needs. Those who are not obliged to fast or abstain from meat are encouraged to join in those disciplines to the extent that they are able. Catholics are urged to regard the Lenten season as a time to live with a greater focus on the Christian practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as means for spiritual renewal. There will be Mass in Corsham at 12noon and Chippenham at 6pm, both with the giving of ashes. A full Lent and Easter programme is available in Church this weekend.

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. The focus of these film-based sessions is on knowing God and the salvation he offers in Jesus Christ (Film 2, 4 and 5), and on our response to this offer of salvation in faith, freedom and love (Films, 7, 9 and 10). We will continue our gatherings into Eastertide this year to share our experiences of celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord. Everyone is invited. Do bring your friends along if they would like to join us.

1. **The Existence of God** – 9th March. Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God?
2. **Who is Jesus?** – 16th March. He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.
3. **The Holy Spirit & the Church** – 23rd March. How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.
4. **The Gift of Faith** – 30th March. What is faith? Are Christians just stupid or are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

5. **Finding true Freedom** – 20th April. Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?
6. **The Meaning of Love** – 27th April. What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL A very big thank you to all who contributed to the appeal either directly or through the Parishes. £705 has been sent to CAFOD. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS for Infants and Juniors are available free at the back of the church. **WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS** are available for £1 also at the back of the church. Please put your money in the Papers slot.

“LOVE IN ACTION: AN INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING” A day of prayer and reflection on the social teaching of the Church led by Raymond Friel OBE at St Catharine's Parish Hall, 4 Park Road, Frome on Saturday 18th March from 11am to 3pm (bring your own lunch). You're welcome to join us for Mass at 9.30am, teas and coffee from 10.30am. To let them know you are coming in advance email frome.stcatharine@cliftondiocese.com.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION 2023 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.

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.

CHIPPENHAM 100 CLUB WINNERS January winners: £5 to K & J Coates, A Greaney and £20 T MacCallum. February winners: £5 to M Mollaghan, M&S Merry and £20 to M Opie. There is still time to become a member of the 100 Club, please contact Teresa Gosling. Please make your cheques payable to: *Parish of St Mary, Chippenham*.

CORSHAM ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP based on the 'York' course entitled 'On the Third Day'. Venue: St Aldhelm's Hall on Monday evenings and at St Patrick's Hall on Thursday mornings. 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. All welcome.

BISHOP BARRON FILM NIGHT The last in the present series of the Bishop Barron Film Nights will take place on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30pm in Corsham Hall with drinks and nibbles.

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. Day of Prayer for the Unemployed.

RIP Anniversaries: John McWilliam, Joan Nowak, Nicola Bayly, Kathy McKenna, David Lord, Ann Holland, Margaret Trowbridge, Kathleen Mills, Carmel Purdon, Ann Watkin

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: St Luke and St Teresa, Wincanton with Milbourne Port, Castle Carey and Bruton

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.

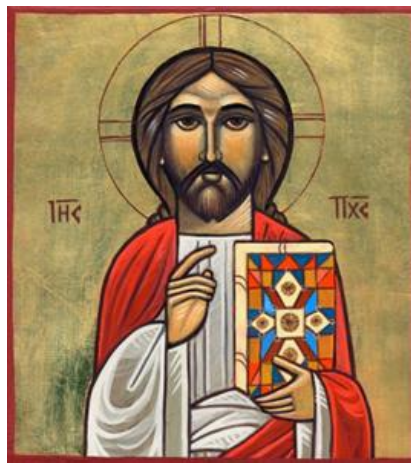
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A



First reading

Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102(103):1-4,8,10,12-13

The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:23

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

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord