

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1st January 2023 (New Year's Day)

5pm (Ch) Vigil Mass

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

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

Mon 2nd Jan SSs Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen No Mass

Tue 3rd Jan The Most Holy Name
of Jesus No Mass

Wed 4th Jan Weekday of Christmas
Time 12.00pm Mass (Cor)

Thurs 5th Jan Weekday of Christmas
Time 12.10pm Mass (Ch)

FRI 6TH JAN THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.
(Holyday of Obligation)

12pm Mass (Cor) 6pm Mass (Ch)
(*Pro Populis*)

Sat 7th Jan
Saturday after the Epiphany

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)
4.20pm - 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)
4.50pm Benediction

8TH JANUARY 2023
THE FEAST OF THE
BAPTISM OF THE LORD.

5pm (Ch) Vigil Mass

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

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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD In 431, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God's plan? In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So, it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God (God bearer or 'Theotokos' in the Greek. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary's relative Elizabeth called her "Mother of my Lord." When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary's great faith in accepting it. For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith. On this beautiful Feast Day, let us pray with Mary, "Let it be done to me according to your word."

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD On Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Church celebrates the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem he is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. With Epiphany, Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled, as can be discerned through the first reading of the Mass: "*Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come*" (Is. 60:1).

THANK YOU to all who helped to prepare our Churches for the celebration of Christmas and served as liturgical ministers. The Churches looked beautiful for the celebrations. We thank Fr Michael Fitzpatrick, Fr Martin Queenan and Fr Bill Watson for helping out during Fr Michael's illness over the Christmas period.

POST CHRISTMAS LUNCH A reminder that the postponed Christmas lunch will take place on Tuesday 17th January in St Mary's parish hall. Please sign up on the sheets at the back and front of the church to book your place again and encourage a friend to come as well. There will be plenty of food, drink and fun! There will be no charge, but donations to the parish are welcome. Parishioners from Corsham are also most welcome to come.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING Fr Michael would like to thank everyone for their generosity over the Christmas period. A big 'thank you' to all who sent cards, gifts and, of course for the traditional Christmas offering to your parish priest. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to you all.

THE PARISH OFFICE reopens on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. There is no paper copy of the newsletter this week.

A PASTORAL LETTER from Bishop Declan is appointed to be read at all masses this weekend on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Copies are available on the notice boards and on the diocesan website.

HELP NEXT WEEKEND PLEASE Next weekend is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the last day of Christmas Time. Could we have some volunteers please to help to undress the Christmas trees at St Mary's and to take them down after the Sunday 11am Mass? More hands will make light work of this. Thank you.

UKRAINE Humanitarian Appeal: Please continue to support CAFOD and CARITAS Ukraine who are on the ground helping people affected by the war. Caritas Ukraine has 19 centres across the country. Whatever you can give today will help us reach more families with urgent assistance. Your support will have a direct impact on the people of Ukraine. You can donate today directly on the CAFOD website. <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis>

THE NEXT PPC meeting takes place at Corsham on 19th January at 7pm.

NEXT FILM NIGHT on 'Catholicism' by Bishop Robert Baron will be held in St Patrick's Hall Corsham, on Thursday 12th January at 7.30pm beginning with drinks and nibbles.

CRIB DONATIONS for Clifton Children's Society can be placed in the money box in Church. Thank you.

A WARM WELCOME TO FR NICHOLAS KING SJ who is visiting family in Chippenham and will celebrate masses this weekend for us.

IT IS GOOD TO WELCOME any visitors over the Christmas Season. If you are new to the Parish, please introduce yourself to the priest or a welcomer after Mass or so that we can properly welcome you and have a chat.

OUR NEWSLETTER Please note the deadline for material for the Newsletter is Wednesday morning. Thank you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR Fr Michael wishes everyone a very happy & blessed New Year with every blessing for peace, safety, health, and happiness. "May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up his countenance toward you and give you peace"

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Pope Emeritus Benedict. Corsham: Julia Wright, Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, Lindsay Price, Derek Keohane. Chippenham: Graham Masters, Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Jane Kelson, Nic Pollastrone, Anne Marie Naylor, Chris Rosario, James Carine. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Recently Departed: Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

RIP Anniversaries: Sr Monica Mary, Ellen Hall, John Dawber, Jim Lynch, Baby Richard Green, Geoff Stevens, Hephzibah Rumbold, Lily Gardener, Daphne Burke, Josie Wilkins, Ruth Hughes, Sadie Harlowe, Tom Ward. Margaret Wilson. Michael Noel de Long.

The Holy Father's January Prayer Intention: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Peter, Swindon and Sacred Heart, Wootton Bassett

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 of any changes to be made to this list.

January– Month of the Holy Name of Jesus



January is the month of the Holy Name of Jesus, and it's an ideal time to strengthen our connection to the beautiful name of our Lord. On 3rd January, we celebrate the memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus at Mass. A name is an emblem of one's dignity, but the name of Jesus in particular should be held in the highest regard; spoken and heard only in a sacred way. The Jews had the highest esteem for the name of God, a holy acclaim that finds continuation in the Our Father: "Hallowed be Thy Name."

"Jesus" means, "God saves", the name conveyed in a dream, to Joseph, together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the Annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel. So, the name of Jesus is not only the name of our Saviour but also, by its meaning, states the purpose of His existence, reminding us of the incredible blessing of salvation. Let us therefore give that name great honour! Also, let us remember that Jesus's name in Aramaic is "Yeshua" So that is what Jesus was called in his own native language (the name Joshua is derived from this name, too).

There continues a lovely custom of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus. Scripture tells us: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). The Council of Lyons in 1274 stated: "Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious Name is recalled, especially during the sacred Mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head."

The Holy Name of Jesus has been venerated since the beginning of Christianity and appears in the earliest Christian manuscripts in Greek. In the second century the final Greek character was added to the IH abbreviation making it IHS. This in turn was transliterated into Latin or English characters as IHS, the monogram later adopted by the Jesuit Order as an abbreviation for Iesus Hominum Salvator which we see today on Pope Francis' coat of arms.

The Collect for the Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

O God, who founded the salvation of the human race
on the Incarnation of your Word,
give your peoples the mercy they implore,
so that all may know there is no other name to be invoked
but the Name of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

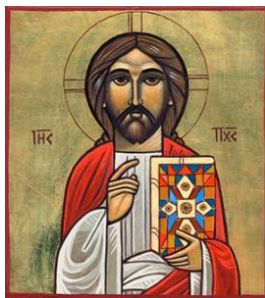
A Prayer for Ukraine



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

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



First reading

A reading from the book of Numbers

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Say this to Aaron and his sons: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.”

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 66(67):2-3,5,6,8

O God, be gracious and bless us.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

Second reading

Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Heb1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

The Gospel of the Lord