

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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22ND MAY 2022

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch) *(R. Pfister)*

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

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

Mon 23rd May Weekday of Easter

No Mass

Tue 24th May Saint Aldhelm, Bp

No Mass

Wed 25th May Saint Bede the

Venerable, Pr, Dr

THE VIGIL MASS OF THE

ASCENSION 6PM (Cor) *(Pro Populo)*

Thurs 26th THE SOLEMNITY OF

THE ASCENSION MASS 6PM (Ch)

(Pro Populo)

Fri 27th May Feast of Saint

Augustine of Canterbury Bp

No Mass

Sat 28th May Weekday of Easter

29TH MAY 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch) *(M Chacko)*

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

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

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD On the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, we celebrate Christ's bodily ascension into heaven, which occurred in the presence of his apostles. We hear in St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians that Christ took his seat at the right hand of his Father, "far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion." The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord occurs 40 days after Christ's resurrection. It is the important, final piece of the paschal mystery, which includes Christ's Passion and death. Because Christ ascended, we, as members of the body of Christ, also look forward to entering our true homeland of heaven. On the solemnity, we are also reminded of our evangelizing mission. Before Christ ascends, he gives his disciples final instructions, telling them to await the arrival of the Holy Spirit and then "go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). We will celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles on Pentecost Sunday 5th June. During the days between the Solemnity of the Ascension and the Solemnity of Pentecost, we are called to intense prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This time of prayer comprises a [novena](#), nine days of prayer during which we pray that we may receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ascension Vigil Mass 6pm Corsham, Ascension Day Mass 6pm Chippenham.

RETURNING TO MASS AT PENTECOST Since the start of the pandemic the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended. We are pleased to confirm that The Bishops of England and Wales have now removed this suspension with effect from Sunday 5th June 2022 (Pentecost Sunday). We look forward to welcoming those of you that are yet to return to Mass. A statement issued by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales is available. The full text of the resolution can be found on the Clifton Diocesan website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION parents are reminded that bringing children to Mass is the most important part of our preparation for first Holy Communion. Please ensure that your Mass active participation card is completed if you wish your child to celebrate FHC next month.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE Thank you to everyone who very kindly offered to help to paint the Chippenham presbytery. We have had offers of furniture and clothing, for which we are very appreciative, however we are unable to store any items in the Presbytery until we know if we have been successful in our application and what we will need. Please hold onto them until further notice. Thank you.

MARRIAGE CATECHISTS A formation course for married couples and widowers who are interested in becoming a marriage catechist. Your role will be to accompany, support and help prepare the couple for the sacrament of marriage showing the engaged couple that being married is an ongoing action that happens daily. Your own married lives will have seen ups and downs, glorious moments, and difficult ones. Why not think about becoming a marriage catechist and share your experiences of this remarkable vocation. Held over three evenings, 9th, 23rd and 30th June at English Martyrs, Tuffley. We begin with refreshments from 7pm and start the session at 7:15pm. You can register via the Eventbrite link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/marriage-catechistsseries-of-three-sessions-tickets-329642659067 For more information and/or to register your interest please email adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

SEEDS OF FAITH The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation is offering a faith formation course 'Seeds of Faith' for experienced and inexperienced catechists, and anyone interested in learning more about our Catholic faith. The course consists of ten Saturday afternoon sessions, we will journey together, share ideas and grow in this special ministry. The sessions start at 3pm, finishing at 5pm, with refreshments from 2.30pm. This is an in-person, live event, the first session starts on Saturday 18 June at St. George's, Billet Street, Taunton, TA1 3NN. There will be Mass at St George's at 5.30pm each Saturday. The dates of the course are 18 June, 25 June, 9 July, 16 July, 3 September, 17 September, 24 September, 8 October, 15 October & 22 October. The course fee is £40 (or £5 per session), the payment details can be found on the booking form. For more information, a booking form and/or to register your interest, please contact: adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

ST MARY'S 11AM CHOIR is looking for more singers to join them. Have a word with Irene Wilke for details.

SYNOD REPORT Bishop Declan invites every parish to an evening liturgy at the Cathedral on June 22nd at 7pm when he will also present Clifton's Synod report to each parish. It is hoped that at least two people will be present to receive the report from each parish. Please let Fr Michael know if you would like to represent the parishes.

WORLD YOUTH DAY World Youth Day will next take place in Lisbon in 2023. The Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation is organising an eight-day pilgrimage from July 31 to August 8, 2023 for young adults [18-35] in our diocese. The plan is to spend six nights in Lisbon and two nights in Fatima. If you are interested in learning more about the Clifton Diocese World Youth Day 2023 Pilgrimage please register your interest at World Youth Day 2023 on the Clifton Diocese website.

STAYING SAFE Please continue to look to the common good and protect the clinically vulnerable in our parishes by sanitising your hands on entry and wearing a mask during the Mass. Do not take off your mask before Holy Communion but step aside to remove your mask to consume the body of Christ. It is essential that anyone feeling unwell or displaying any signs of COVID-19 stays at home and does not attend Mass as there are cases of Covid within the congregation at the moment. Thank you.

NOTICES FOR THE NEWS BULLETIN by Wednesday morning please.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, Karen Lucas, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, Margaret Brown, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Mary Hammond, Lydia Connell, John Green, Muriel Cavaciuti, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Jane Kelson, Nic Pollastrone, Anne Marie Naylor, Tom Hughes, Chris Rosario. Colette, Lizzie, Joy, Sid, Dave. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

RIP Anniversary: Sheila Gadsden, Mike Matthews, Ivan Quince, Veronica I'Anson, John Doran, Marian Hayward

For Ukraine & all refugees

The Holy Father's May Prayer Intention: For all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Churches Together: The Baptist Communities

Diocesan Prayer: St Gerard Majella, Knowle. Christ the King, Knowle West, Bristol.

May – The Month of Mary



“May is Mary’s Month,” began the great poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, in “[The May Magnificat](#).”

For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasised the month of May as a time of honour and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate with special pilgrimages, devotions, or placing a crown on a statue of Mary, traditionally called a “May Crowning.”

On April 29, 1965, Pope Blessed Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Mense Maio* (“The Month of May”), which promoted May devotions to the Blessed Mother, knowing that, “the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise” (n. 2). Despite being a lesser-known encyclical, its timing and topic are revealing. Released on the eve of the last session of the Second Vatican Council and amid escalating violence and unrest of the Vietnam War and the 1960’s, the help of Mary was “a matter of top priority” considering “the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace” (n. 3). The words of Paul VI are just as relevant today as the events of Ukraine unfold in Europe. In our contentious social and political climate, focusing on Mary is not a pious distraction from real issues, but a vital source for grace, truth, and mercy.

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray to God for us, alleluia.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot receive you sacramentally now, come at least spiritually into my heart. And, as You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me never be separated from You.

An Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you: and I detest my sins most sincerely because they displease You, my God, who are so deserving of all my love for Your infinite goodness and most amiable perfections: and I firmly purpose by Your holy grace never more to offend You, to avoid all occasions of sin and amend my life. Amen.

I further resolve and promise to go to sacramental confession as soon as practicably possible.

A Prayer for Ukraine

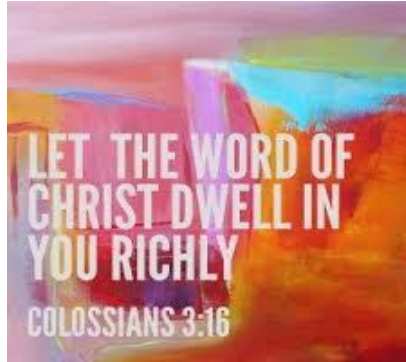


Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Also available to download in 13 different languages at www.virc.at



First reading

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly, we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

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

Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:23

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 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give,
this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord.