

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A

THE SEASON OF LENT It was wonderful to see so many people at Mass on Ash Wednesday. What a great start to the Lenten Season! Full details of our Lent activities are available in the special Lent/Easter leaflet available in Church or on the web site.

CAFOD LUNCH Family fast day Friday 3rd March. There will be a simple Lent lunch of some nourishing soup and a roll after the 12noon Mass in Corsham. Proceeds to CAFOD. Everyone welcome.

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. 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. The first gathering is on **The Existence of God – 7pm 9th March**. Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God? Come and find out!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – PARENTS' MEETING for children who are joining the joint Chippenham/Corsham First Holy Communion programme on Tuesday 28th February at 6pm at St Mary's Hall, Chippenham with Fr Michael and the catechists. Please bring your child's baptism certificate with you and kindly let Teresa know if you are able to attend.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY LENT APPEAL Friday 3rd March. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. You are invited to fast this day and give the proceeds to CAFOD. Give today using the envelope or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are celebrated Tuesdays @ 11.30am (Chippenham) Fridays @ 11.20am (Corsham) Please sign the list in the Churches if you would like to take a turn to lead the meditation.

26TH FEBRUARY 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (Ch)

(N & J Griffin)

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

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

Mon 27th Feb St Gregory of Narek,
Abbot, Doctor Church. No Mass

Tues 28th Feb Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(Lawrence and Doris O'Toole)

Wed 1st March Feast of Saint David,
Bishop, Patron of Wales

Mass 12pm (Cor) *(Mark Conroy)*

Thurs 2nd March Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(Joan and Ken Smith)*

Fri 3rd March Weekday of Lent

12pm Mass (Cor)

Sat 4th March St Casimir

5TH MARCH 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Andrea Arguelles Aldamirano)

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

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

DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS for Infants and Juniors are available free at the back of the churches.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS are available for £1 also at the back of the churches.

“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.

CORSHAM ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP based on the 'York' course '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.

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 in the grounds. All ages are welcome, bring the whole family along! Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

CHIPPENHAM FOODBANK would like to thank the parishioners for their continuing support of the foodbank. Items we need are tinned potatoes, rice and long life semi-skimmed milk.

BUILDING OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES Clifton Catholic Charismatic Renewal invite you to participate in online sessions learning how we can use the charisms of Prophecy and Healing to building our parishes. The monthly sessions start on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm via Zoom. These sessions will be interactive and practical. For more information and to book a place, please use the following link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/building-our-catholic-communities-tickets-533468698237>

SACRAMENT OF RECONILIATION (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.

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.

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. 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: Richard Hibberd

RIP Anniversaries: Carmel Purdon, Ann Watkin, Peter Robinson, Ellen Hall, Jean Griffin, Doris O’Toole, Jim Wilson, Rene Farrant, Jennie Wilson, Ivy Burke

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: Religious communities in the diocese.

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.

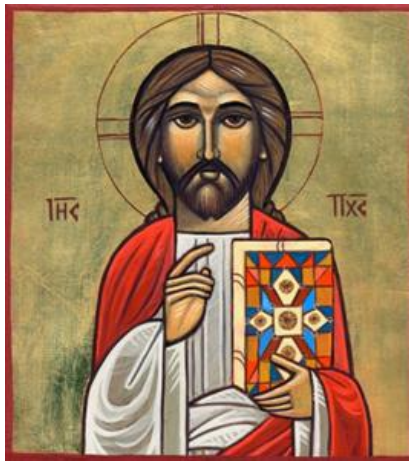
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A



A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Second reading

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single

fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Mt4:4

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord