

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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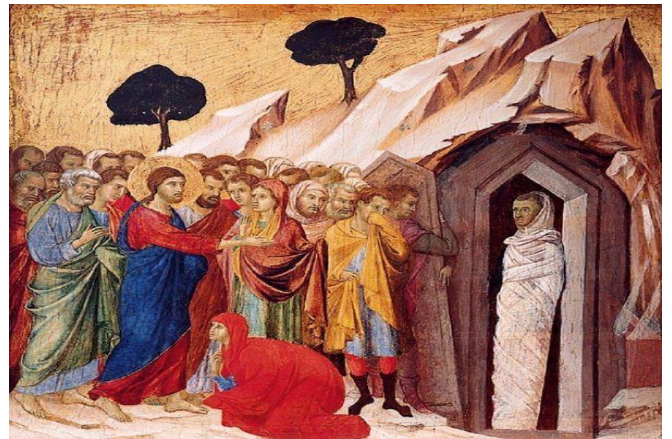
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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A

NEW STATUE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS has now arrived in St Mary's parish from France where it was hand carved by the studio of the sisters of Bethlem and given in memory of Fr Millet. The beautiful statue in the Romanesque style compliments the statue of Our Lady of Pontoise which we received before Christmas. The new statue will be erected in time for the Easter Vigil as all statuary is traditionally veiled this weekend for Passiontide.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES Full details of our Holy Week Celebrations are to be found online and in our Holy Week leaflets available in Church. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Palms will be distributed and blessed at all masses.

OUR JOINT PARISH LENT & EASTER EVENINGS This year we are following the "Sycamore" Lent course, an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. The fourth gathering is on **The Gift of Faith – 7pm on Thurs 30th March** in St Patrick's Hall.

CAFOD SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE The conflict has greatly affected the people of Syria, with 70% of the population in urgent humanitarian need. The recent earthquake has further deteriorated this situation. Thanks to your support, CAFOD have been working with local experts to provide emergency and long-term support, both in Syria, and neighbouring countries. Recently they have been helping to rebuild and repair damaged houses and supporting people to find new ways of making a living. By continuing to stand together as a global family, they ensure that there is always hope. Please keep the people of Syria in your prayers. Syria intercessions www.cafod.org.uk

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING APPLICATIONS Safeguarding/DBS checks need applications or renewals where appropriate. Please collect your envelope from the Sacred Heart altar. Lynn Salter and Teresa Gosling will hold surgeries for ID checks and queries the weekend of 15th and 16th April.

CORSHAM GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS begins by the Cross in the garden by the Co-op in Corsham at 10.30am. This will be followed by drinks and hot cross buns in St. Aldhelm's hall. All are welcome.

LOVE THE STRANGER Presents a Catholic response to refugees and migrants. It is a 2023 document of the Department for International Affairs and is available to download on Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website: www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger

26TH MARCH 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

5pm (Sat) Vigil Mass (*Private Intention*)

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

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

Mon 27th March Weekday of Lent

No Mass

Tues 28th March Weekday of Lent

No Mass (*Clergy Deanery Meeting*)

Wed 29th March Weekday of Lent

Mass 12pm (Cor)

Thurs 30th March Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Fr G. Henwood*)

Fri 31st March Weekday of Lent

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Rev J Loveday*)

Sat 1st April Weekday of Lent

2ND APRIL 2023

PALM SUNDAY

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

5pm (Sat) Mass with Procession (Ch)

9am Sung Mass with Procession

(Cor) (*Pro Populo*) 11am

Sung Mass with Procession (Ch) (*Pro Populo*)

CORSHAM EASTER FLOWERS Please bring spring flowers, blossom and greenery to the presbytery's garage before 2.30pm on Good Friday. We are especially looking for cuttings from shrubs/trees that are in bud and cuttings from the curly willow and eucalyptus trees (2' to 3' long). Thank you for your help to make the church look beautiful for Easter Sunday.

GARDENERS NEEDED Many thanks to St Mary's long-serving gardener, Patrick Rooney, who is retiring after many years. Therefore, we are looking for someone who can cut the hedges and look after the pots at the front of the church. Please contact Teresa Gosling if you are interested.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED! We are in need of more altar servers for Weekday and Weekend masses in Chippenham. Some training will be given. Please speak to Fr Michael if you would like to take up this ministry. It is a ministry open to all.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are celebrated Tuesdays @ 11.30am (Chippenham) Fridays @ 11.20am (Corsham).

HEALTH AND SAFETY REP We are looking for someone with health and safety experience to assist us at St Mary's. If you have any knowledge in this area then please contact Teresa Gosling, Parish Administrator.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (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.

CARD MAKING Matthew Hendricks-Birtles of Chippenham is continuing to make and sell cards for Alzheimer's Research and he would welcome donations of old cards. Please can you leave your old cards at the back of the church. Many thanks.

FLOWER ARRANGERS Our flower arrangers do a wonderful job of decorating our churches and St Mary's is looking for more people to join their team. Please get in touch with Teresa Gosling if you can offer your help.

TUESDAY MASS Please note there is no 12.10pm Mass on Tuesday at St Mary's as Fr Michael is attending a Deanery meeting. Stations of the Cross will take place as usual at 11.30am followed by a Liturgy of the Word and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 12.10pm.

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 Hoghton, Elena Alberti. 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: Derek Keohane, Joan Overy

RIP Anniversaries: Rosario Riccio, Amy Henly, Tom Harlowe, Tony Campbell, Rex Jones, Frances Jones

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: Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies.

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.

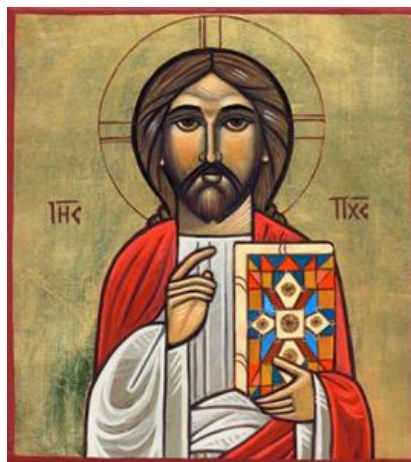
A Prayer for Ukraine



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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT A



First reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 129(130)

*With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

John 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?
A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;
but if he walks at night he stumbles,
because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the

fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.