

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Gosling Family RIP's)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Monday 27th November

Weekday in OT No Mass

Tuesday 28th November

Weekday in OT

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (Jane Kelson RIP)

Wednesday 29th November

Weekday in OT

12pm Mass (Cor) (Green Family RIP's)

Thursday 30th November

Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(Funeral Mass of Ann-Marie Naylor)

Friday 1st December

Saint Alexander Briant, Martyr

12pm Mass (Cor) (Manoel Braganca RIP)

Saturday 2nd December

Weekday in OT

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Esmerelda Palha)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populis)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

(Sutton/Tierney RIP's)

CHRIST THE KING The last Sunday of each liturgical year concludes on a high note, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* which responded to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever. For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

ADVENT Next Sunday we begin the beautiful season of Advent. Our readings are taken from the cycle of year B, centring on St Mark's Gospel. Our weekday readings are from Year 2.

COME LET US ADORE HIM Thank you to the group from both our parishes who have offered to begin regular opportunities for prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Many parishes have found this to be a wonderful source of grace and renewal. There will be Eucharistic Adoration at St Mary's every Thursday from after the 12.10pm mass to 6pm commencing 7th December. In Corsham there will be Eucharistic Adoration fortnightly on Friday's starting 24th November 5-6pm.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH For those interested in being baptized or becoming a Catholic or those who just want to know a bit more about the Catholic Faith, our 'Journey in Faith' sessions have now begun. They take place on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming you. Theme this week: FINDING TRUE FREEDOM - Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

MISSIO Dave Wheat from Missio wishes to thank everyone in the parish for the response to the Red Box appeal last weekend. If you would like to know more about the work of Missio, please visit www.missio.org.uk There are Missio Calendars in Church to pick up. We are still looking for a Missio volunteer for St Mary's. Please do speak to Fr Michael or Teresa Gosling if

you feel you could give a little time during the year to keep the great tradition of Red Box support going in the parish. If you have a Red Box that needs emptying, please bring it in to the Parish office or you can find different ways to donate at www.missio.org./donate

MASS INTENTIONS November family masses for the Holy Souls will still be scheduled into December. We apologise that we have not always been able to celebrate a mass on the date requested but we have had many requests and only a set number of masses each week in each parish to schedule them. Thank you for your understanding.

CURRENT STANDING ORDER DONATIONS & ST MARY'S PARISHIONERS Fr Michael and the Finance Committee of St Mary's thank all who contribute so generously to support our Parish. We are grateful and appreciative of that ongoing generosity. The way in which Standing Order donations are made is now changing due to a new computer system being used by the Diocese for Gift Aid claims. Donations will be paid directly into the Parish bank account rather than via a diocesan bank account. All new standing orders made in the last 18 months will already be making payments direct to the Parish and are not affected by the change, but most standing orders are currently paid to the Diocese and need to change. The Diocese will shortly be writing to you to complete a new Standing Order mandate payable to the parish and to cancel the existing Standing Order paid to the Diocese. This benefits the Parish as we will receive your donation directly each month without any processing delay. Paul Gosling, our new Gift Aid Officer, will be speaking at both masses at St Mary's this weekend and he will be able to help answer any questions you may have. New standing order donors are welcome to join at any time.

RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS In 2021 abortion campaigners brought forward an amendment to the UK Government's flagship Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion). Thanks to the support from people like you, this amendment did not go to a vote and pass, but we expect the abortion lobby to make another attempt to introduce this extreme abortion law change shortly. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Please sign the petition to the Prime Minister, asking him to ensure that his Government does everything in its power to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth. Sign the petition to stop abortion up to birth being introduced – [Sign the petition to stop abortion up to birth being introduced – Right To Life UK](#)

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.

CHRISTMAS MASSES ADVANCE NOTICE (The Saturday/Sunday masses for Advent 4 are celebrated as usual) Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve 5pm @ Chippenham. Christmas Day 9am @ Corsham & 11am @ Chippenham.

STARTING SCHOOL If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2024 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of Wiltshire Council. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15th January 2024.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS are heard at St Mary's on Saturday between 4.15 pm and 4.45pm and at St Patrick's after the weekday masses or by prior arrangement with Fr Michael.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Corsham: Richard Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Lindsay Price. Chippenham: Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Chris Rosario, James Carine, Michaela Finn, Alan Houghton, Elena Alberti. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

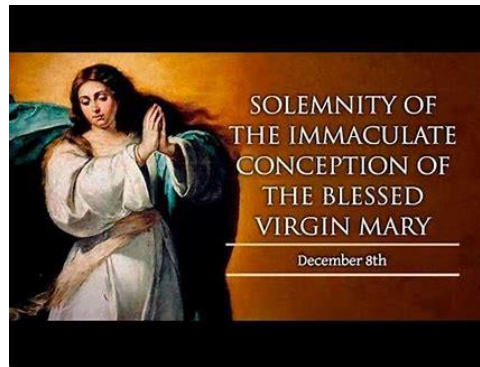
RIP Anniversaries: Liberato Pollastrone, Bill Jennings, Win Channon, Babies Freddie and Alfie Pickford, Maria Villar Garcia, Bernard Cavaciuti, Guiseppa Checchia, Francis Davis, Maria Woropay.

The Holy Father's Prayer December Intention: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Diocesan Prayer Link: Saint Peter, Gloucester.

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.

December – The Month of the Immaculate Conception



December is traditionally the month of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In keeping the Blessed Virgin free from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception, God presents us with a glorious example of what humankind was meant to be. Mary is truly the second Eve, because, like Eve, she entered the world without sin. Unlike Eve, she remained sinless throughout her life—a life that she dedicated fully to the will of God.

The Immaculate Conception was not, as many people mistakenly believe, a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of it. Standing outside of time, God knew that Mary would humbly submit herself to His will and in His love for this perfect servant, He applied to her at the moment of her conception the redemption, won by Christ, that all Christians receive at their Baptism.

It is appropriate, then, that the Church has long declared the month in which the Blessed Virgin not only was conceived but gave birth to the Saviour of the world as the Month of the Immaculate Conception.

The Prayer of Pope Francis to the Immaculate Mother

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother,
On your feast day I come to you,
And I come not alone:
I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me,
In this city of Rome and in the entire world,
That you may bless them and preserve them from harm.
I bring to you, Mother, children,
Especially those who are alone, abandoned,
And for this reason are tricked and exploited.
I bring to you, Mother, families,
Who carry forward life and society
With their daily and hidden efforts;
In a special way the families who struggle the most
For their many internal and external problems.
I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women,
And I entrust to you especially those who, out of need,
Are forced to work in an unworthy profession
And those who have lost work or are unable to find it.
We are in need of your immaculate gaze,
To rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things
With respect and awareness,
Without egotistical or hypocritical interests.
We are in need of your immaculate heart,
To love freely,
Without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other,
With simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks.
We are in need of your immaculate hands,

To caress with tenderness,
To touch the flesh of Jesus
In our poor, sick, or despised brethren,
To raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver.
We are in need of your immaculate feet,
To go toward those who know not how to make the first step,
To walk on the paths of those who are lost,
To find those who feel alone.
We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us
You free us of all stain of sin;
You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God,
The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us,
The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things.
Let us not give in to discouragement,
But, trusting in your constant help,
Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self,
Of this city and of the entire world.
Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

Prayer for Reconciliation and Peace in the Holy Land



God of justice and peace
We bring before you the Israeli and Palestinian people
in all their need, pain and fear.
Bring an end to humiliation and injustice, corruption and violence.
Prosper those who work for peace with justice.
May all peoples enjoy security and prosperity.
We ask this through your Son, the Prince of peace,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

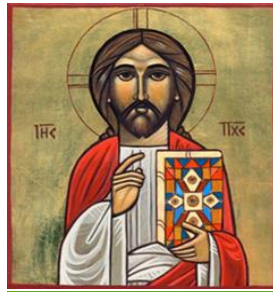
A Prayer for Ukraine



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.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (Last Sunday in Ordinary Time)



First reading

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23):1-3a,5-6

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord