

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*N & J Griffin*)

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

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

Monday 28th August (Bank Holiday)

Saint Augustine, Bishop,

Doctor of the Church No Mass

Tuesday 29th August

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

12.10pm (Ch) pm (*Noel and Rosemary Buddle*)

Wednesday 30th August

Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line

and Margaret Ward, Martyrs

12pm Funeral Mass John Doohan (Cor)

Thursday 31st August

St Aidan, Bp, and Saints of Lindisfarne

12.10pm Mass (Ch)

(*Pauline Birthday Thanksgiving*)

Friday 1st September

Weekday in OT

12pm Mass (Cor) (*Pamela Dawson*)

Saturday 2nd September

Our Lady on Saturday

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.20pm – 4.50pm Confessions (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

THE TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*S & T Boyd*)

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

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

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A

THIS WEEKS GOOD NEWS Our Gospel readings this week and next are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about him. They indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe he is. Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends him for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader. Peter's successor, Pope Francis, continues to call all Christians into the unity of faith today.

CALLING POSSIBLE RCIA CATECHISTS an introductory meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st September at 7pm** in St Patrick's Hall for Catechists from both parishes who would like to assist with the 'Journey in Faith' beginning in the autumn. Fr Michael will be outlining the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and will give an overview of the rites and the teaching program. Thank you to those who have volunteered, we have room for more on the team! Please speak to Fr Michael as soon as possible for more details.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION 2023 theme: "Let Justice and Peace Flow". This takes place on Friday 1st September, thus beginning the Ecumenical Season of Creation, which will conclude on 4th October, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. In his [message](#), Pope Francis invites us to "heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation." In this regard, the Holy Father proposes to "transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies." To this end, he recalled that Saint John Paul II urged us to live the "ecological conversion" that consists in renewing "our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator."

CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS from both parishes are warmly invited to a meeting at 7pm on **Wednesday 8th November** in the Parish office in Chippenham to begin planning for the course next year.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024 Bishop Declan will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our parishes on Thursday 11th July next year. Would any young people or adults wishing to be confirmed please contact the parish office to register as soon as possible. Candidates must be 13 or in Year 9 or over at secondary school.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING our next joint parish Council meeting will be held in Corsham on 14th September at 7pm. We would like to thank Frank Harvey for all his wonderful and sterling work as PPC Chair over the past years. Frank is retiring from this post but continues as a member of our Finance and Fabric Committee.

CHARITY CONCERT St Edmund's is hosting a concert, "Notes of Hope", celebrating talent and diversity on 29th September in St Edmund's Church, Calne with a superb line-up of performers from Calne and across the world in aid of The Harbour Project and Calne Welfare Charities. Tickets £12.50 (£5 for under 18s) available online at St Edmunds and include drinks and refreshments.

ST MARY'S NOTICE BOARD has finally given up the ghost after many years in the elements! A beautiful new board will be erected in the garden in the next few weeks, offering a warm welcome to people to join us at St Mary's.

MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available again in Church or through the Parish Office. If you would like to request a Mass intention, please fill one out and enclose any offering and give to Fr Michael or our Administrator. It is also helpful to state in which Church (St Mary's or St Patrick's) you would like the Mass offered. If you do not mind, please mark 'any Church' and often we will be able to schedule the mass a little sooner for you

ALZHEIMER'S CHARITY FUND RAISER Mathew Hendricks-Birtles has asked for donations of used birthday and occasional cards as he is trying to raise his 11th x £1000 before Christmas. Please could you leave the cards at the back of St Mary's Church for him as this would be very much appreciated.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Would you like to be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist? Would you like to enter the communion with the Catholic Church? If so, our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)/Journey in Faith might be an exciting journey of faith for you. Please let Fr Michael or our Administrator know if you or someone you know is interested.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) Chippenham Saturday 4.20pm – 4.50pm and Corsham after Weekday Masses or by arrangement with Fr Michael.

A WARM WELCOME to visitors and holidaymakers who join us for Mass over the summer. If you are new to the Parish, you too are very welcome! Please do introduce yourself to us after Mass so that we can properly welcome you! If you are going on holiday, do remember to check Mass times in advance to ensure that you have details of your holiday Masses. A good site to check is www.catholicclocks.com

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, Anne Marie Naylor, Chris Rosario, James Carine, Michaela Finn, Alan Houghton, Elena Alberti. Adrian Pycroft. Henny Pycroft. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Recently Departed: Eoin O'Mahony.

RIP Anniversaries: Ed Johnstone, Rosemary Buddle, Kath Hewer, Ken Vaz, Claudio Fernandes.

The Holy Father's Prayer August Intention: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Gregory the Great, St Thomas More, Cheltenham.

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.

August – The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



We know that traditionally May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. October to the Holy Rosary, and Our Lady of the Rosary. Now it's time to also remember something little realised or often forgotten. August is the month traditionally dedicated by to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In fact, August once saw the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1944 Venerable Pope Pius XII set this feast to be celebrated on 22nd August as the Octave of the Assumption. Two years earlier he had consecrated the Christian family and whole human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 25th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. Then in 1969, St. Pope Paul VI moved the date to the Saturday after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. August still has three Marian feasts –the Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major (also remembering Our Lady of the Snows) on Aug. 5; the Assumption on Aug. 15; the Queenship of Mary on Aug. 22. The roots of the devotion to Mary's Heart are in Scripture, where on two occasions reference is made to Mary's heart by St Luke. He refers to Luke 2:19 "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart," and Luke 2:51 "His mother (Mary) meanwhile pondered all these things in her heart."

The expression 'Mary's heart' is to be understood in a biblical sense: it denotes the person of the Blessed Virgin herself, her intimate and unique being; the centre and source of her interior life, of her mind and memory, of her will and love; the single-mindedness with which she loved God and the disciples and devoted herself wholeheartedly to the saving work of her Son.

Lord our God, you made the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary the home of your eternal Word and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Give us a heart that is free from sin and attentive to your will, that, faithful to your commandments, we may love you above all things and seek to help others in their need. 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.

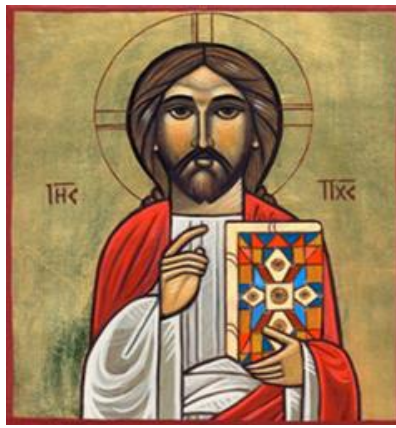
A Prayer for Ukraine



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.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A



First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137(138):1-3,6,8

*Your love, O Lord, is eternal:
discard not the work of your hands.*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord