

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

Website: [www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk](http://www.chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk)

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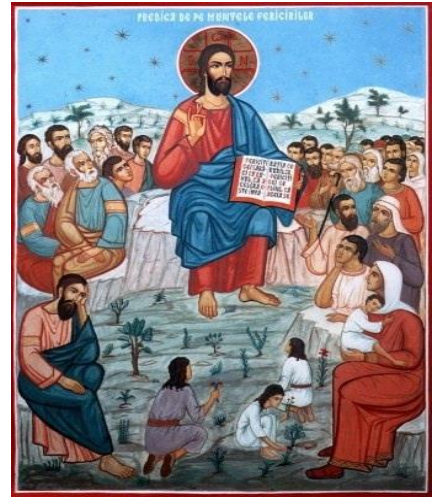
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## THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

29TH JANUARY 2023

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January No Mass

Tue 31<sup>st</sup> January St John Bosco

Priest

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Jane Kelson (Ch)

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> February Weekday in OT

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February Feast of the  
Presentation of the Lord

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (*Graham Masters*)

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> February St Blaise, Bp, Mr

12pm Mass (Cor)

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> February

Our Lady on Saturday

5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (*Pro Populo*)

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**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - CANDLEMAS** On Thursday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is only mentioned in Luke's Gospel, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. Luke's Gospel also shows that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles (non-Jews). Luke recognises Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel. Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Saviour, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfilment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all. The mass on this day begins with a lovely liturgy of light with the blessing of candles.

**PARISH PASTORAL TEAMS** Our vision is to be a church family that shares life together as part of our mission in Christ, where everyone feels loved, valued and respected. We hope that everyone has someone to turn to in times of struggle, whether that's a partner, relative, friend or neighbour but sadly that's not always the case. We hope to extend our pastoral ministry of those who work alongside Fr Michael and those who take communion to the sick and the housebound, to provide friendship and practical support for anyone on their own, recently bereaved or housebound. We hope to develop the ministry of sending out cards at various times, provide printed copies of the weekly bulletin, drop-off any emergency supplies and provide a friendly voice when needed. We would love to expand this ministry in both our parishes. Could you spare a few minutes here and there to help spread the workload? You might be the only face someone sees and could really brighten up their day. If you feel you could help with this important ministry, please email [corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com) or speak to Jane Wragg or for Chippenham contact Teresa Gosling, our Administrator on [chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:chippenham.stmary@cliftondiocese.com) Please note that the usual DBS checks will be required.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** The next Baptism preparation session for parents, will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February in St Patrick's Church Hall in Corsham from 10.30am to 12pm. Please could you let Teresa Gosling know (see contact details above) if you are planning to attend so we have an idea of numbers. Both Corsham and Chippenham parishioners are asked to attend a session before submitting a baptismal application to the parishes.

**"ANSWERING GOD'S CALL"** A vocations discernment retreat for young Catholic adults for Lent – *listening to the 'voice' of Christ, discerning, responding to the call* at Brownhill monastery, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 8AL. Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March 2023. For Catholic men and women aged 18-35. £90 full board. For more information or to book contact: [rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk](mailto:rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk).

**LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION** Bishop Declan is to celebrate a Liturgy of Reconciliation for the Season of Lent on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at St Mary's, Tovey Road, Swindon SN2 1LQ. Building upon the beautiful gatherings during Lent he is, once again, inviting our diocesan community to gather with him in celebration of God's merciful love as part of our Lenten journey. There will be priests available to celebrate sacramental reconciliation (Confession)

**CHIPPENHAM 100 CLUB** As already publicised; we are reviewing the viability of the 100 Club. Therefore, please can we ask current members to pay for the **first three months of the year only (£6.50)** to allow us time to look at the picture in full. Thanks to those who have already paid their annual membership of the 100 Club via direct debit and if a decision is made not to continue then you will be refunded the outstanding amount. 100 Club members will have to increase significantly to enable it to continue. If you would like to become a member of the 100 Club, and to be in with a chance to win a prize of £100 or £5 a month, then please contact Teresa Gosling who will sign you up.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT COURSE** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at The Campanile Hotel, Great Western Way, Delta Business Park, Swindon, SN5 7XG. The marriage enrichment course offers a unique opportunity for couples to rekindle their relationships and focus on what is important to them. More details at <https://wwme.org.uk>.

**CAFOD** The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time (could be as little as 2 minutes short talk twice a year) and join them in their mission in schools or churches. Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information or get in touch with [clifton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:clifton@cafod.org.uk)

**SACRMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** is celebrated in Chippenham on Saturday at 4.20pm to 4.50pm and at Corsham after the midweek mass or by arrangement with Fr Michael.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**The Sick:** Corsham: Julia Wright, Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Lindsay Price, Derek Keohane. Chippenham: Jason Harbour, Brian Tuersley, Lydia Connell, David Lunt, Jon Taylor, Michael Kenny, Mike Merry, Nic Pollastrone, Anne Marie Naylor, Chris Rosario, James Carine, Michaela Finn. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**Recently Departed:** Graham Masters (Funeral Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 11.30am St Mary's)

**RIP Anniversaries:** John Burke, Bob Moran, Queenie Lyons, William Drury, Julie Tonge, Chris Chappell, Anne Keeper, Jimmy Byrne, Saraphina Pons Sanchez, David McGrattan, Hazel Donaldson

**The Holy Father's January Prayer Intention:** We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St John the Baptist, Trowbridge; St Bernadette, Westbury

*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 of any changes to be made to this list.*

## February – The Month of the Holy Family



The month of February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family. Between the events which marked Christmas and the beginning of Christ's public life the Church has seen fit to recall the example of the Holy Family for the emulation of the Christian family. The Feast of the Presentation (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) or Candlemas forms a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

The special devotion which proposes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of virtue of all Christian households began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It started almost simultaneously in Canada and France: The Association of the Holy Family was founded in Montreal in 1663, and by the Daughters of the Holy Family in Paris in 1674. This devotion soon spread and in 1893 Pope Leo XIII expressed his approval of a feast under this title and himself composed part of the Office. On account of the flight into Egypt this feast has been observed by the Egyptian Copts from early times. The feast was welcomed by succeeding Pontiffs as an efficacious means for bringing home to the Christian people the example of the Holy Family at Nazareth, and by the restoration of the true spirit of family life. In the words of Pope Leo XIII, "Nothing truly can be more salutary or efficacious for Christian families to meditate upon than the example of this Holy Family, which embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues."

Not every family is perfect, and after the Christmas season, our dysfunctional families might even be fresh in our minds. We are called practicing Catholics because despite any struggles in our families we still keep *practicing*. Remember that even though Mary and Joseph lost Jesus for three days, they are still saints. Even if we feel like we've failed, we can still be saints, especially if we ask for the help of the Holy Family. Let's focus on our families and helping each other grow in holiness this month.

### The Holy Family Prayer

**JESUS**, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

**MARY**, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

**JOSEPH**, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH**, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

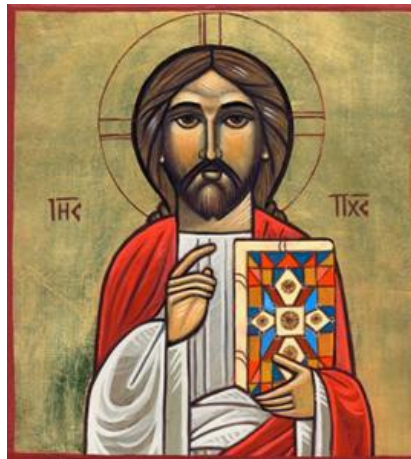
## A Prayer for Ukraine



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.  
Amen.

## THE WORD THIS WEEK

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A



**First reading**

*A reading from the prophet Zephaniah*

Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

Seek the Lord,  
all you, the humble of the earth,  
who obey his commands.  
Seek integrity,  
seek humility:  
you may perhaps find shelter  
on the day of the anger of the Lord.  
In your midst I will leave  
a humble and lowly people,  
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.  
They will do no wrong,  
will tell no lies;  
and the perjured tongue will no longer  
be found in their mouths.  
But they will be able to graze and rest  
with no one to disturb them.

The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm**

*How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Psalm 145(146):6-10

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

**Second reading**

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

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Take yourselves for instance, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: *if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.*

The word of the Lord

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

Matthew 5:1-12

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.  
Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord