

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Esmerelda Palha)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass with Children's

Liturgy of the Word *(Pro Populis)*

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

(Sutton/Tierney RIP's)

Monday 4th December

Saint Osmund, Bishop No Mass

Tuesday 5th December

Weekday of Advent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) *(F. M & B McWilliams)*

Wednesday 6th December

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

12pm Mass (Cor) *(Rowena Folkes RIP)*

Thursday 7th December

Saint Ambrose, Bishop

12.10pm Funeral Mass

of Maria Stadnyk (Ch)

Friday 8th December

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BVM

12pm Mass (Cor) *(McWilliam Family RIP)*

Saturday 9th December

Weekday of Advent

4.15pm-4.45pm Confessions (Ch)

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction (Ch)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass *(Bernard RIP)*

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

THE SEASON OF ADVENT Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our readings are taken from year B, centring on St Mark's Gospel. Our weekday readings are from Year 2. Have a wonderful season of joy and expectancy.

COME LET US ADORE HIM The next opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration in Corsham will be on Friday 8th December from 5pm to 6pm and at St Mary's every Thursday from after the 12.10pm mass to 6pm. Please note that as we have a funeral on Thursday 7th December, so adoration will begin at the later time of 2pm.

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.

RCIA - JOURNEY IN FAITH our next session takes place on Tuesday evening at 7pm in the office at St Mary's Chippenham. We look forward to welcoming you. Theme: 'THE GIFT OF FAITH', What is faith? Are Christians stupid or are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

MINI-ADVENT RETREAT – TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR 'Shafts of light, Shafts of hope' will take place online via the links printed next to the dates; on Thursday 14th December from 7-8pm
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bef05e7a-38d9-4349-8c6c-39cod79dda93@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>.

NEW DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISATION NEWSLETTER has been published and can be accessed via the following link: [Newsletter-volume-9-2023.pdf \(cliftondiocese.com\)](#). Please sign up to the Diocese's social media accounts to keep up to date with information and events across the Diocese.

MARY'S MEALS - DOUBLE THE LOVE - We have incredible news! From today until the 22nd January 2024, every donation made to our Double the Love appeal will be matched, up to £1 million. Thanks to a group of generous supporters, your kindness will go even further. The impacts of rising costs, climate change and conflict have brought

fear and uncertainty to many children and right now our life-changing school meals have never been more important. Together, through Double the Love, we can transform the lives of many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. Donate today Double the Love | Mary's Meals UK (marysmeals.org.uk)

CHRISTMAS TREES AT ST MARY'S once again we will be decorating our Christmas trees before Christmas (date tba) If you still have any silver or gold baubles, then please bring them along to the office. Thank you.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Part-time – 21 hours per week (Wednesday to Friday) The Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton is committed to safeguarding and this vacancy provides an opportunity for a skilled and experienced professional to join the Safeguarding team at Alexander House, Pennywell Road, Bristol. The Safeguarding Officer role supports the ongoing development of safeguarding across the Diocese and the management of cases. The successful applicant will need to have comprehensive knowledge and experience of safeguarding legislation, policy procedure and best practice guidance and come from a background of either Social Work, Policing, Health or Probation. For further information about this role please visit contact Janice Pearson or Tracey Holford, Clifton Diocese on 0117 954 0993. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 5th January 2024 with the intention of interviewing on Thursday 18th January 2024.

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. New standing order donors are welcome to join at any time.

MATHEW HENDRICKS-BIRTLES continues to raise money for Alzheimer's. He has achieved his 11th £1000 for the charity and is £300 towards his 12th. Please leave your occasional and birthday cards in the porch for him.

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. Pre-Christmas Confessions will also be heard on Thursday 21st December at 11.30am at St Mary's. Everyone should try their best to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation before celebrating Christmas.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON Please note that the Chippenham Christmas Lights Switch-on is at 5pm on Saturday, so the town will be very busy when making your way to the 5pm Vigil Mass.

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, Elena Alberti, Jenny Coates. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

Recently Departed: Maria Stadnyk (Funeral Thursday 7th December 12.10pm, St Mary's).

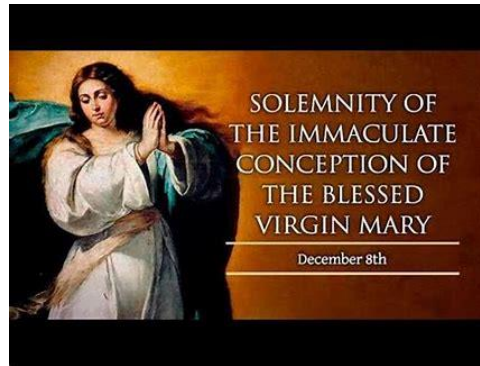
RIP Anniversaries: Percival Kent, Mgr James Kelly, Maureen Birch-Kent, Peg Sawyer, Ann Wadeley, Leo Posti.

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

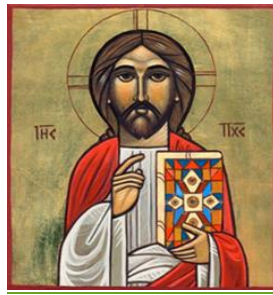
A Prayer for Ukraine



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)



First reading

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.