

# 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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## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

**TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** when the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme this year is: *“All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together”*. It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year’s Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis’ visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of ‘Justice, healing and reconciliation’. For more resources see [Racial Justice Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023** We are now looking forward to our celebration of First Holy Communion within our Parishes. Prior to enrolling on the First Communion programme, it is important that the family attend Mass each Sunday so that the child understands the Mass and experiences the presence of Christ in the liturgy. Families who regularly come to Mass at Saint Mary’s and Saint Patrick’s Church are invited to enrol their children for the parish preparation for Reconciliation/Eucharist when they are in Year 3 or above. This year we are running a joint Saint Patrick’s/ Saint Mary’s programme of preparation as part of our Churches in Communion for Mission within the Parishes. (This is different from previous years in Corsham when the preparation has taken place in our primary school.) Parents wishing to register their child to receive First Communion in 2023 are invited to sign up using the form on our Parish Website <https://chippenham-and-corsham-catholics.org.uk/first-holy-communion/>. The date of the First Holy Communion will be set after registration and the venue and dates of the preparation classes will be announced shortly.

**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. Thank you to those who have already said they will be attending.

5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

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

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

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

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

11am (Ch) Sung Mass

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Saints Paul Miki and

Companions No Mass

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Feb Weekday in OT

12.10pm Eucharistic Adoration and

Liturgy of the Word (Ch)

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb St Josephine Bakhita

12pm Mass (Cor)

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Feb Weekday in OT

12.10pm Eucharistic Adoration and

Liturgy of the Word (Ch)

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb St Scholastica, V

12pm Mass (Cor)

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> February

Our Lady of Lourdes

12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

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

4.20pm – 4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(*Graham Masters*)

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

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

**HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND** If you are sick or 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 for you. If you are going into hospital and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted, please see Fr Michael.

**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. Please make your cheques payable to: *Parish of St Mary's, Chippenham*. We will be making the draws for January and February next week so please send in your money to be in with a chance to win the prizes!

**LGBT+ MASS** A monthly celebration of the Eucharist for LGBT+ Catholics, families and friends will take place at St Nicholas of Tolentino RC Church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm <https://tolentino.org.uk>

**PARISH REGISTRATION** If you haven't already done so we encourage you to register your contact details via the registration tab on the parish website homepage.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)** is normally 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 note there are no Confessions before Mass at Chippenham this Saturday.

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

**The Sick:** Corsham: Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, Anne Keat, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, 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, Eoin McCarthy. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February Our Lady of Lourdes:** World Day of Prayer for the Sick and those who care for them.

**Recently Departed:** Julia Wright, Canon Anthony Harding.

**RIP Anniversaries:** Betty O'Neill, Joan Tilbury, Dobs Price, Teodor Stadnyk, Sadie Mossman, Iolanda Dysak, Nico Ruggiero, Joyce Hooper

**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 George, Warminster

*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.*

## 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.

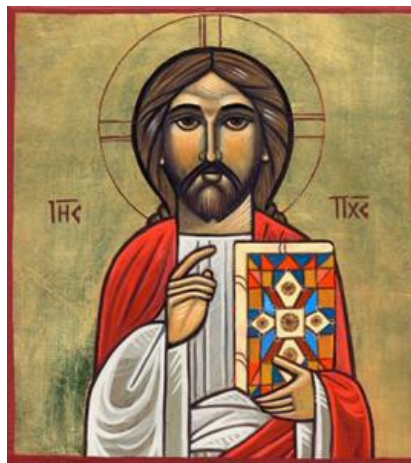
## A Prayer for Ukraine



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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A



## First reading

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,

clothe the man you see to be naked  
and do not turn from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.*

Psalm 111(112):4-9

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour.

The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory.

## Second reading

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

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a

demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn8:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord