

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF CHIPPENHAM & CORSHAM

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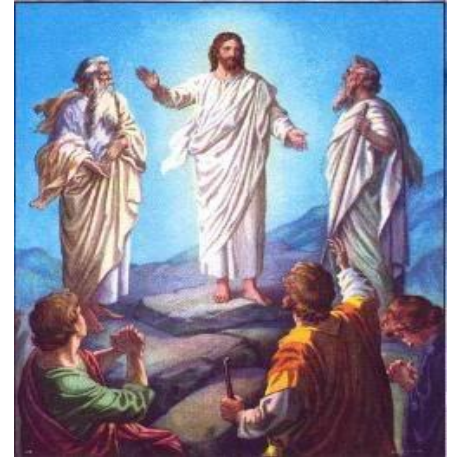
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THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT A

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the wilderness to his Transfiguration. Each year on the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the account of Jesus' Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. The Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection. On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word. The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

LENT ACTIVITIES Full details of our Lent activities are available in the special Lent/Easter leaflet available in Church or on the web site.

CAFOD LUNCH Family fast day was on Friday 3rd March. The CAFOD gift aid envelopes will be collected at mass. Thank you.

OUR JOINT PARISH LENT & EASTER EVENINGS Venue: Saint Patrick's Hall on Thursdays @ 7pm. Lent & Eastertide is an ideal time for us to grow in the faith. This year we will follow "**Sycamore**", an **informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today**. The course is designed to give you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Everyone is invited. Do bring your friends along. The first gathering is on **The Existence of God – 7pm 9th March**. Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God? Come and find out!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Thanks to all the parents of First Communion candidates who attended our parent's meeting. The programme starts this weekend, Saturday 4th March, in St Mary's Church Hall at 4pm. We look forward to welcoming our children at mass. We will arrange another meeting for parents who were unable to make the meeting this week. Please ensure that the Mass participation record is filled in each week. Thank you.

5TH MARCH 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass

(Andrea Arguelles Aldamirano)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Mon 6th March No Mass

Tues 7th March Commemoration of

Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (S. Sheehan)

Wed 8th March Commemoration of

Saint John of God, Religious

Mass 12pm (Cor)

Thurs 9th March Weekday of Lent

12.10pm Mass (Ch) (A Private Intention)

Fri 10th March Weekday of Lent

12pm Mass (Cor)

1.30pm Funeral Liturgy

of Christine Flannery (Cor)

Sat 11th March Weekday of Lent

12TH MARCH 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

4.20pm–4.50pm (Sat) Confessions

4.15pm Eucharistic Adoration (Ch)

4.50pm Benediction

5pm (Sat) (Ch) Vigil Mass (JJ Hickman)

9am (Cor) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

11am (Ch) Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

THE PARISH COUNCIL We thank the members of St Mary's who have agreed to become members of a new Parish Council. This Parish Council is a new joint venture between the two parishes, enabling us to work as 'Partners in Mission' more closely. The Council acts in an advisory committee to the clergy to perform their duties and administer the parishes. The new joint Council met together for the first time this week. The St Mary's members are Richard Bird, Auxilia Cavaciuti, Rodney Fernandez, Teresa Gosling (Administrator), Lynn Salter (Safeguarding) Irene Wilke. The Corsham members remain the same.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are celebrated Tuesdays @ 11.30am (Chippenham) Fridays @ 11.20am (Corsham) Please sign the list in the Churches if you would like to take a turn to lead the meditation.

EASTERTIDE FAMILY MOVIE & EGG HUNT Please join us on Sunday 16th April at 3pm in St Patrick's Hall, Corsham for a matinee showing of 'Veggie Tales: An Easter Carol' on the big screen. Inspired by Dickens' Christmas classic, this film explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. It runs for about 50mins and will be followed by an Easter egg hunt. All ages are welcome, bring the family along! Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession) is a central part of our Lent journey. Confessions are heard in Corsham after the weekday masses and in Chippenham on Saturday 4.20-4.50pm.

RISE THEATRE, a professional Christian theatre company, who will be performing their original play 'Faithful Companions' at St Edmund's Church, Calne on Wednesday 15th March at 7pm. 'Faithful Companions' explores the inspirational true story of Marie Madeleine d'Houët, foundress of an international Society of Catholic sisters called the Faithful Companions of Jesus www.fcjsisters.org. A story of faith, love, loss, discernment, vocation, social justice and missionary zeal. Come and experience this exciting new play for yourself, performed with energy and passion by the RISE Theatre Company. For tickets, please contact Christine Martin on 07941 617791 or there is a direct link for tickets on the St. Edmund's website or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre The performance lasts approximately 75 minutes and is suitable for adults and children 11+.

GODSPELL the musical is performed on 31st March at 7.30pm and 1st April at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon SN3 3HG. Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for children and available from SALOS.org or 07731 183857.

HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK If you are sick/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. If you are going into hospital and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before being admitted, please see Fr Michael and we will arrange this for you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments at Easter

RIP Anniversaries: Ivy Burke, Mary Cadogan, Artemio Alberti, Kath Deardon, Sue Pollastrone, Ray Brigden

The Holy Father's Prayer March Intention: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church, may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and sufferings.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Ambrose/Diocesan Curia/Diocesan Services.

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.

March – The Month of Saint Joseph



The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

In the litany of St Joseph, we say, "*St Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.*" There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Saviour was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of Saint Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife.

Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honour. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity.

We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing Saint Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. Saint Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "*Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)*". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus.

Father John Hardon

Collect for Solemnity of St Joseph (20th March 2023)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
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.

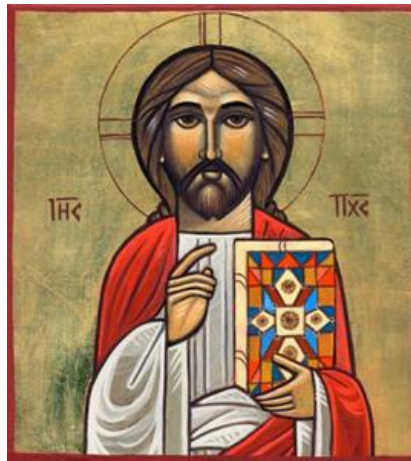
A Prayer for Ukraine



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.
Amen.

THE WORD THIS WEEK

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT A



First reading

Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32(33):4-5,18-20,22

*May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.*

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Mt17:5

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord