

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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LATEST NEWS

11TH APRIL 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Divine Mercy Sunday

10.30am Parish Mass

(The People of the Parish)

Mon 12th April - Easter Weekday

Tue 13th April - Easter Weekday

Wed 14th April - Easter Weekday

12 noon Mass

(Margaret Harvey RIP)

Thur 15th April - Easter Weekday

Fri 16th April - Easter Weekday

Sat 17th April - Easter Weekday

18TH APRIL 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.30am Parish Mass

(The People of the Parish)

Please ensure that you book a place for Mass on Eventbrite.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Established by St Pope John Paul II in the Jubilee Year 2000, Divine Mercy Sunday grew from private revelations to Sr Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun and now a saint, received from Jesus in the 1930s, as World War II approached. In her diary, she records that Jesus told her that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day, when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened". (Diary 699) The diary records Jesus' promise that "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699) He went on to say, "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy." (Diary 1109) Sr Faustina also recounted in her diary the request that the image of the Divine Mercy be venerated. St John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. The Scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Easter lend themselves to linking Easter and Divine Mercy since the texts highlight the forgiveness of sins. The Gospel is of Jesus appearing in the upper room and bestowing the authority to forgive sins, and the responsorial psalm for the day is the great Easter Psalm 117 which sings of the mercy of God enduring forever. The revelations of the Divine Mercy are nothing new. They are a reminder of what has always been taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we too, must show

mercy and forgiveness. They point us to the ordinary channel of God's forgiveness in the Church, the wonderful sacrament of individual penance and reconciliation (Confession). Let us rejoice on this Sunday in the love and mercy offered to the world through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord this Easter.

HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH RIP Cardinal Vincent Nichols has, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Community of England and Wales, extended sympathy and the support of prayer to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and all the Royal Family on the news of the death of her faithful and loyal husband Prince Philip. Cardinal Nichols said, 'How much we will miss Prince Philip's presence and character, so full of life and vigour. He has been an example of steadfast loyalty and duty cheerfully given. May he rest in peace.'

FR MICHAEL would like to thank all who kindly sent Easter cards and gifts. It is very much appreciated. Thank you!



CONFESSION Divine Mercy Sunday is a good time to remind ourselves of the Church's teaching on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One of the most common questions asked by Catholics is, "How often should we go to confession?" The Church teaches that the bare minimum is **once a year**. *After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year. (Canon 989)* However, this requirement is tied to the reception of Holy Communion, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains. *The second precept*

("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness. (CCC 2042) With this in mind, the *Catechism* further explains that in order to properly receive Holy Communion, one must always confess grave sins beforehand.

*The Lord addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive him in the sacrament of the Eucharist: "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you" To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." **Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion.** (CCC 1384-1385)* So, Basically, we are "required" to go to confession once per year, **if** you intend on receiving Holy Communion **once** per year. On the other hand, if you desire to receive Holy Communion on a weekly or daily basis, then you will need to go to confession every time you are "conscious of grave sin." It is recommended, though not required, to confess venial (less serious) sins; this is often the reason why Catholics will go to confession on a weekly or monthly basis. In the end, confession is a beautiful sacrament of God's mercy and should not be looked at as a "requirement," but as an "opportunity" to receive God's love. It gives us the ability to repair our relationship with God and with the Church, opening us up to a shower of God's grace. We should confess because we love God, not because we "have to," though the requirements are there to lead us along the path of eternal life. Fr Michael is available for confession now that lockdown has eased. Please have a word to book a suitable time if you have not been able to celebrate the sacrament during lockdown.

BORDERLANDS Throughout the covid crisis Borderlands have continued their services and would be grateful for food donations e.g., rice, tinned vegetables and fish, lentils, beans (not baked beans, please) pasta, toiletries etc. Cath will be in the church carpark to collect donations on: SUNDAY 11 AND 18 APRIL - before and after 10.30 Mass. WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL - before and after Noon Mass. FRIDAY 16 APRIL - from 12noon – 1-m. See the latest newsletter at [Borderlands Spring Update](#).

MASS BOOKINGS Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 12noon and Sunday at 10.30am. As more people begin to return to Mass and restrictions are lifted, the schedule will be updated. Booking is still required to attend Mass. The booking link is: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644. If you later find that you do not require the place you have booked do please let us know or cancel it through Eventbrite to enable others to come to Mass. Covid regulations mean that sadly we are still not permitted to sing as a congregation. Masks are required (unless medically exempt) and social distancing is in Church. Communion is given in one kind on the hand only. Please observe the one-way system in Church: the car park door is for ENTRANCE only and the Bath Road door for EXIT only. If we all observe these regulations, we help to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

THURSDAY EVENING ZOOM PRAYERS The prayer session organised by Pat Ruffell & Cath Elms is open to everyone. It is approximately 15 minutes long and starts at 6.30pm each Thursday. You can join from 6.20pm. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78423354742?pwd=UXVobWtTL2U3RmJMcTBbbjVYtldTUTo9> Meeting ID: 784 2335 4742 Passcode: zYaD46

THE REGINA CAELI (Queen of Heaven) replaces the recitation of the Angelus for the duration of the Easter season before 12noon Masses. There are copies available at the back of the Church to take away. “Rejoice and be glad, O virgin Mary, Alleluia! For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!”



DARE TO DREAM This inspiring and resource from Clifton Diocese continues throughout this Easter Season. See www.cliftondiocese.com for full details.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER AND ENGAGED ENCOUNTER - New dates for marriage preparation (Engaged Encounter) and Marriage Encounter opportunities are now available. Information and dates regarding events organised by Marriage Encounter can be found by visiting their websites: <https://engaged-encounter.org.uk> & Home - World Wide Marriage Encounter England and Wales (wwme.org.uk) The dates and venues: Marriage Encounter Experiences 15/16 May - online video conference experience. 10/11 July - non-residential weekend - Savio House, Macclesfield. (Covid permitting). Engaged Encounter (marriage preparation) 17 and 24 April - online video conference experience. 19 and 26 June - online video conference experience.

SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE Wednesday 7th April 2021. Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer we now consider the communion of saints. Whenever we pray, we find ourselves immersed in a great stream of past, present and future intercession for the needs of individuals and of the whole world, for we pray together with all the saints in the communion of the Body of Christ which is the Church. The saints – this great “cloud of witnesses” (Heb 12:1) both known and unknown – ceaselessly pray with us and for us in giving glory to God. Our veneration of the saints draws us closer to Jesus, the sole Mediator between man and God. In Christ too, we sense a mysterious solidarity with our loved ones who have died, for whom we continue to pray. We experience this prayerful solidarity also here below, as we pray for one another and for our brothers and sisters who are poor, suffering and most in need. In these challenging times, let us thank the Lord for the great gift of the saints and confidently entrust ourselves to their intercession, for the spread of the Gospel and the salvation of our human family.

PLEASE HELP TO RENOVATE OUR STATUE OF SAINT JOSEPH Please pop your donation in an envelope marked ‘St Joseph’ and post it in the presbytery letter box if you can help. Let’s return our wonderful patron of the universal Church, husband of Our Lady and foster father of Jesus to his rightful place this year dedicated to him. Thank you to those who have kindly contributed so far!

CLIFTON DIOCESEAN TRUSTEES The Diocese is currently looking for a person to join the Board of the Trustees and to chair the new Safeguarding sub-committee. In order to enhance the skills of the Board, the suitable person should have a strong understanding of safeguarding and ideally have experience as a leader in a safeguarding role. The individual should also have experience in finance and financial management, or in charity governance, or in commercial leadership in order to support the full activities of the main Board. The commitment is to one 3-hour meeting per month on a Wednesday from 9.30 am in Bristol along with other work on the Safeguarding sub-committee, and preparation for meetings. It is usual for a Trustee to give somewhere in the region of 6 hours per month plus travelling time. If you would like to be considered for this position, please send your details to the Bishop’s Private Secretary, St Ambrose, North Rd, Leigh Woods, Bristol BS8 3PW by 16th April.

RUH If you or a loved one is going into the Royal United Hospital please let the RUH Chaplaincy know on 01225 428331 or email ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

Saint Patrick's Community at Prayer



Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

The Sick: Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, James Gallagher, Karen Lucas, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, John Hunt, Margaret Brown, Lindsay Price and Christopher. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

The Recently Departed: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Pope Francis April Prayer Intention: Universal Fundamental Rights: for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental right under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Patrick, Brockworth / Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Churchdown.

Christians in Corsham Prayer Link: Corsham area Anglican Communities

April - Month of the Holy Eucharist



Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The Church traditionally encouraged the month of April for increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. "The Church in the course of the centuries has introduced various forms of this Eucharistic worship which are ever increasing in beauty and helpfulness; as, for example, visits of devotion to the tabernacles, even every day; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; solemn processions, especially at the time of Eucharistic Congresses, which pass through cities and villages; and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament publicly exposed . . . These exercises of piety have brought a wonderful increase in faith and supernatural life to the Church militant upon earth and they are re-echoed to a certain extent by the Church triumphant in heaven, which sings continually a hymn of praise to God and to the Lamb 'Who was slain.'"

--Pope Pius XII

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect for Corpus Christ)

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion



“My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot receive you sacramentally now, come at least spiritually into my heart. And, as You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me never be separated from You.”

An Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you: and I detest my sins most sincerely because they displease You, my God, who are so deserving of all my love for Your infinite goodness and most amiable perfections: and I firmly purpose by Your holy grace never more to offend You, to avoid all occasions of sin and amend my life. Amen. I further resolve and promise to go to sacramental confession as soon as practicably possible.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy



First reading

Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117(118):2-4,15-18,22-24

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.*

OR

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let the sons of Israel say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:

‘His love has no end.’

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Second reading

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been begotten by God;
and whoever loves the Father that begot him
loves the child whom he begets.
We can be sure that we love God's children
if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;
this is what loving God is –
keeping his commandments;
and his commandments are not difficult,
because anyone who has been begotten by God
has already overcome the world;
this is the victory over the world –
our faith.
Who can overcome the world?
Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,
not with water only,
but with water and blood;
with the Spirit as another witness –
since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'
Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

