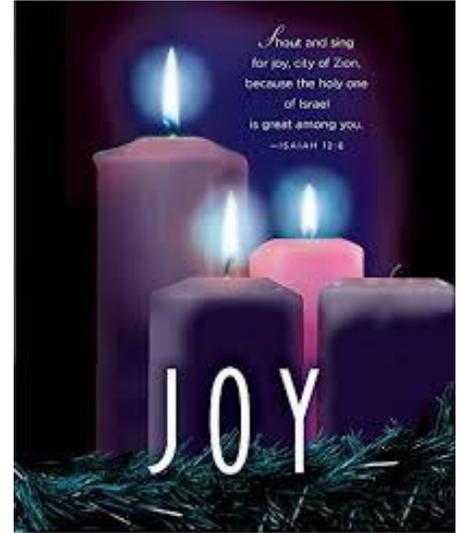


SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine
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michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com
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LATEST NEWS

12TH DECEMBER 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am Sung Parish Mass

Mon 13th Dec - No Mass

Tue 14th Dec - St John of the Cross,
Priest, Doctor of the Church
5pm Mass (Chippenham)

Wed 15th Dec - Advent Weekday
11.15am Eucharistic Adoration
& Synod Prayer / Meditation
12noon Mass (Corsham)

Thur 16th Dec - Advent Weekday
12.10pm Mass (Chippenham)

Fri 17th Dec - O Sapientia
2.30pm Funeral Mass of Rita
Johnson RIP (Chippenham)

Sat 18th Dec - O Sapientia

19TH DECEMBER 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am Sung Parish Mass

Confessions are heard after weekday
mass or by appointment.

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

(Sunday Readings are available at the end of this bulletin)

Zephaniah 3:14-18. Most of the short prophecy of Zephaniah is about gloom and doom for faithless, corrupt people and their leaders. But these encouraging words are for a faithful **remnant** among them. Note the interesting final image of the LORD singing joyfully because of the good people.

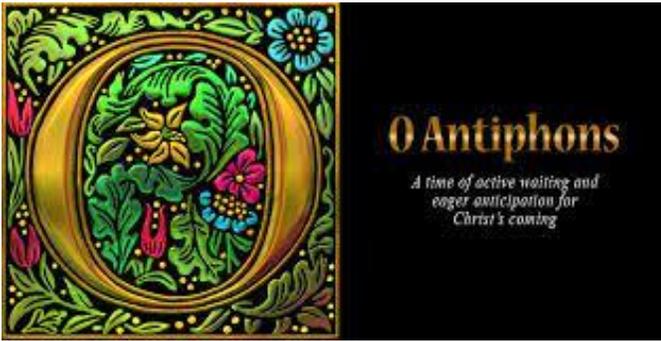
Philippians 4: 4-7. When Saint Paul wrote to the good Christians at Philippi, he and they believed Jesus was soon to come again. Paul is confident that the Philippians are ready. He urges them to let their virtue be an example for others.

Luke 3: 10-18. The preaching of John the Baptist stirred up expectation that the Messiah had come. People ask John how to be ready to meet the Messiah. His answers are demanding and divisive.

CHRISTMAS MASSES Please see the Christmas Leaflet for masses this Season and details of booking via Eventbrite. Christmas Eve 9pm (Church now fully booked, some hall availability) and Christmas Day 9am and the Sunday of the Feast of the Holy Family 9am. Please do not come to Mass without making a booking as numbers are still limited to keep everyone safe and there will be no extra spaces.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS Beginning on 17th December of each Advent season, and for the next seven days, a special antiphon known as an O

Antiphon is read before the Magnificat during evening prayer or before the gospel at Mass. These antiphons differ from the daily antiphons because they herald the coming birth of Christ. Originally written in Latin around the seventh or eighth centuries, these special verses extracted from the Old Testament prophets — namely, Isaiah — and express the longing for the coming of the Christ. In fact, the word “come” is used in every O Antiphon. Each of the seven antiphons begins by addressing Jesus using an Old Testament title for the Messiah. These seven names or titles are:



Dec. 17, **O Sapientia** (meaning O Wisdom), from Isaiah 11:2-3. Dec. 18, **O Adonai** (O Lord or Ruler), 11:4-5 and 33:22. Dec. 19, **O Radix** (O Root of Jesse), 11:1. Dec. 20, **O Clavis** (O Key of David), 22:22. Dec. 21, **O Oriens** (O Radiant Dawn), 9:1. Dec. 22, **O Rex Gentium** (O King of the Nations), 2:4. Dec. 23, **O Emmanuel** (O God with Us), 7:14. If you take the first letter of each Latin name and reverse the order — that is, begin with E from Emmanuel, then Rex Gentium and so on you will spell the word EROCRAS, which in Latin means “I shall come

tomorrow.” In the 19th century, the Latin version of the hymn was translated into the English “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Thus this becomes a lovely hymn to sing during late Advent after 17th December.

GAUDETE SUNDAY The third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete Sunday.” In the readings, we hear of miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. Why Gaudete Sunday? Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. This is a quotation from [Philippians 4:4-5](#), and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is *gaudete* (Latin, “rejoice”) Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near.” In this mass the liturgical colour rose may be used.

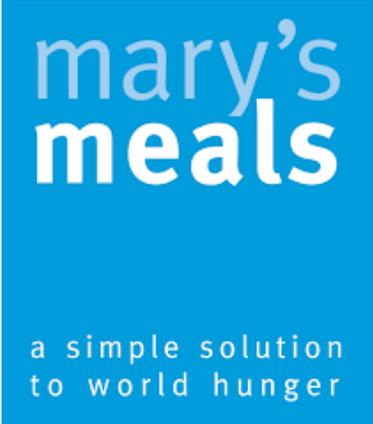
FACE MASKS As of 10th December 2021, the law states that all people attending church **MUST** wear a face mask, unless exempt. Face coverings must also be worn properly, that is, covering both mouth and nose. If we do not comply with this law, a church may be closed. Let us continue to keep everyone safe as we see a rise in the Omicron variant of Covid.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 2022 Only a few spaces remaining! - Bishop Declan is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2022 (Monday 26 September to Tuesday 4 October 2022) staying three nights in Galilee, two nights in Bethlehem, and three nights in Jerusalem. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Adams at adult.education@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY A Call to Love: Our Diocesan Liturgy Office has produced a series of videos, entitled A Call to Love to remind and encourage us of the importance of the Mass in our lives as Catholic Christians. The videos can be accessed on the diocesan website, www.cliftondiocese.com.

SYNOD 2021/ 2023 Please visit the diocesan website for latest resources and information for the Synodal journey we are all invited to participate in, including videos of the keynote talks. As part of our Advent Journey and our response to the call to prepare for the Synod 2023, there will be a time of prayer and reflection on the Synod themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. The final meditation is Wednesday December 15th from 11.15am to 12noon with Eucharistic adoration. Francis invites everyone to participate in the 2023 Synod Process. In prayer we are asked to listen to each other’s hopes, dreams and concerns for the Church in the future. During Advent we will spend time listening to God first. Then we will gather in January to listen to the community and a parish response will be sent to Bishop Declan by the end of February. This process will be guided by Fr Michael and the PPC.

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT THE ABORTION AMENDMENTS Please urgently contact your MP asking them to support proposed law changes to ban sex-selective abortion, reduce the abortion time limit and stop the abortion of babies with disabilities right up to birth. It only takes 30 seconds here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/takeactionabortion>

The logo for Mary's Meals, featuring the text "mary's meals" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

a simple solution
to world hunger

MARY'S MEALS DOUBLE THE LOVE From November to January, every gift given to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. This means a gift of just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children, a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year! Your kindness brings joy to more than two million children around the world who we serve – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict and the ongoing Covid pandemic. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

MISSIO is excited to share opportunities to connect and reflect throughout the Season of Advent. Our online reflections and a mission-focused online Advent Calendar are designed to bring communities across England and Wales together in prayer. Starting on 26 November 2021 and taking place every Friday at 10:30am, the online reflections will be shared from the Missio chapel in Eccleston Square. Each week will feature a guest speaker who will be focusing on how Advent is celebrated around the world, whilst reflecting on the upcoming Sunday readings. Supporters can join in by watching the livestream at www.YouTube.com/MissioUK and the reflections will be available to watch shortly after at www.missio.org.uk/livesstreamed/

TOWN CAROLS on Tuesday 21st December. In Church Square St Bartholomew's Church/Corsham Court Car Park. This year, in view of the Covid situation, the committee have decided that in the event of rain we will cancel the service. Masks are advised.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Each week, we have a wonderful opportunity to come into Our Lord's presence in the Holy Eucharist. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and quiet prayer before midweek mass. Come into the peace and stillness of the Lord. Come and rest with the Lord a while in his healing presence. The gift of the Eucharist is at the very heart of our Catholic faith.

CLEANING JOB VACANCY St Patrick's Church are seeking to employ a hall cleaner with experience of vacuuming, brushing, mopping, polishing, cleaning toilets and washrooms, etc. 2 hours per week on Thursdays (subject to change depending on bookings) with the flexibility of additional monthly £9.50 per hour, starting ASAP. A full job description is available upon request from treasurer.corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com

HOSPITALS 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.chaplainy@nhs.net. If you are going into hospital and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, please see Fr Michael before being admitted. This does help to take the pressure of the hospital chaplains at this difficult time.

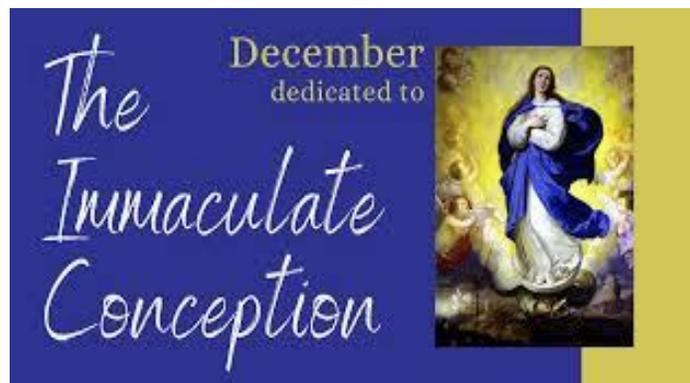
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

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

The Holy Father's December Prayer Intention: Evangelisation: Catechesis. For catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God, that they may be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit

Diocesan Prayer Link: Saint George, Warminster

Christians in Corsham Prayer Link: Anglican Communities



The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8. From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity. St Thomas teaches that through her intimacy with Christ, the principle of grace, she possessed beyond all creatures a fullness of divine life.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says of the Immaculate Conception of Mary:

490. *To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role”. The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace”. In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God’s grace.*

491. *Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1844: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.” (Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, 1854.)*

492. *The “splendour of an entirely unique holiness” by which Mary is “enriched from the first instant of her conception” comes wholly from Christ – she is “redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son.” The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” and chose her “in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love.”*

493. *The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God “the All-Holy” (Panagia) and celebrate her as “free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature*

Prayer of Pope Francis to the Immaculate Conception

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!

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

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

Also available to download in 13 different languages at www.virc.at



First reading

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12

*Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy

Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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