

# SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG  
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine  
Tel 01249 712136  
[michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com)  
[www.stpatricks-corsham.org.uk](http://www.stpatricks-corsham.org.uk)

Saint Patrick's School Lacock Road, Corsham,  
SN13 9HS Tel 01249 713125  
[www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk](http://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk)



## LATEST NEWS

### THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

**Apocalypse 11:19, 12: 1-6, 10** The book of Revelation (Apocalypse) was written to encourage persecuted Christians to keep the faith. Its language is highly symbolic, partly to disguise its meanings from the persecutors. The "ark of God's covenant" mentioned in the first sentence refers to the ornate box in which ancient Israel had carried the stone tablets of their covenant with the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15: 20-26** All of chapter 15 of First Corinthians is about Christ's resurrection and our own. Some in Corinth had denied that believers are destined to rise from the dead, so Paul makes a long argument, of which today's reading is the kernel. In this passage, Paul connects the resurrection of all the dead with God's final judgment of the world.

**Luke 1: 39-56** In Saint Luke's gospel, women are typically models of faith. In this passage from early in the gospel, both Mary and her kinswoman Elizabeth are surprisingly with child. The elder woman affirms the younger's faith.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** Today, we celebrate the greatest Feast of Mary, her Assumption into heaven, when the Mother of God, "having completed her course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". Although defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius XII just over half a century ago, the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven has been accepted from the earliest of Christian times. The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her

return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. While the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven, there is a difference between the Assumption and the Resurrection. Whereas Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son. For this reason, we use different words to describe each event. One is the Ascension of Christ and the other, the Assumption of Mary. "It was fitting," St John of Damascus (b.675) wrote in a sermon on the Assumption, "that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death," and "that she, who had carried the creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles." Our Lady, assumed into heaven, pray that we may also share in the glory of Christ's Resurrection.

15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2021 SOLEMNITY  
OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
5pm Eucharistic Adoration  
5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat.)  
10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Aug - Weekday in OT

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Aug - Weekday in OT

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Aug - Weekday in OT  
11.30am am Eucharistic Adoration.  
12noon Mass

Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Aug - Weekday in OT

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Aug - Saint Bernard, Abbot,  
Doctor of the Church

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Aug - Saint Pius X, Pope

22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2021  
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME (B)  
5pm Eucharistic Adoration  
5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat.)  
10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)



**VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** Unfortunately, the diocese is unable to travel to Lourdes once again this year, but we shall all be at the Sanctuary spiritually. During the week from 20th August to 27th August we shall be joined together virtually on the diocesan website with various events. The Grotto of the apparitions is the heart of the Sanctuary and is a place of prayer, hope, peace, respect, unity and silence. The spring and the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes within it are the centre of prayer for all pilgrims. Prayer Petitions: Amongst other events, we shall be joining the Lourdes Chaplains in the Grotto, as they pray the Rosary in English on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 3:00 pm. There will be a special candle lit for

the Clifton Diocese and the pilgrims at this time. If anyone would like their intentions to be prayed for during this Rosary, please send your petitions and I will pass them to the Grotto for inclusion on the altar. Please send any prayer requests to [paul.thompson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:paul.thompson@cliftondiocese.com)

**SPONSOR A 'MEMORIAL' HYMN BOOK** We are looking forward to singing from our hymn books again soon. Our hymnals, however, have seen better days and are rather dirty and many of the spines are broken. Also, the present hymn books do not reflect the changes made to the translation of the Mass made in 2010. We are hoping to purchase the updated version of 'Laudate' our present hymn book. We are inviting parishioners to 'sponsor' a hymn book at the cost of £6.25 per copy. These may be given in memory of a departed loved one(s) and RIP memorial plates will be placed in each copy dedicated to that person. We then invite you each week to say a little prayer for the person in whose memory the hymn book you are using was given. Tom Miller will be coordinating the collection for us, and order sheets will be available in Church. We are hoping to purchase 100 copies and some music editions too.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** Lead Bishop for the Environment, Bishop John Arnold of Salford, has responded to a new report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. Bishop Arnold stressed that the time has come to act for the common good, not with self-interest or self-serving politics: "The grim and disturbing findings of the AR6 report only reinforce the message of Pope Francis' Laudato Si – we must do everything we can, and now, to protect and defend Our Common Home. "World leaders must come together with urgency for the common good and commit to making real progress, on a global level, not just pay lip service to the facts and figures of which we are all too aware. "This is a time to be acting for the common good, not self-interest or self-serving politics." See the news tab on [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) for more details and for a link to the report

**HALL BOOKINGS** We are now beginning to resume hall bookings. Please see the Parish Web site for full booking details.

**CONTACTLESS GIVING REMINDER** The use of cash has been in decline for many years and, since the pandemic began and the use of cash was discouraged, many of us no longer carry cash. We rely instead on contactless payment in shops, on public transport and many other places. Because of this, we have set up a contactless card reader for donations at St Patrick's Church. This is located to the left of the entrance to the church. The new card machine has the ability to add Gift Aid to your donation (if you are an eligible taxpayer and wish to do so). The first time you use the machine and wish to add Gift Aid, you will need to input your details but thereafter, once your payment card is registered, the card reader will recognise it the next time you make a payment. Please do make use of it as it also puts less pressure on our weekly cash counters.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** We are seeing a gradual rise in enquiries for infant baptism in the parish and would like to form a small parish baptism preparation team. This will involve giving a presentation to parents ahead of the baptism and offering support as they introduce their child to the Mass. All course materials and DVD's etc will be provide. This ministry might suit younger parishioners with children of their own. Please see Fr Michael if you are interested in helping.



**CATECHISTS DAY** On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September Clifton Diocese Adult Education Dept is looking to draw together catechists from around our diocese, as well as those involved in parish formation and evangelisation, as a way of offering an opportunity for conversation and formation, focusing on family catechesis. David Wells and Ingrid La Trobe will help us to reflect on the role of parents in catechesis and give catechists the confidence to enable them to be the first teachers of their children's faith. The day will take place at St John the Baptist parish centre, Trowbridge, and will start at 11.00am and finish around 4.00pm. Refreshments will be provided from 10.30am, we ask for catechists to bring a packed lunch. Numbers will be limited for the day so please register early. You can register for the day at the Adult Education email: [adult.education@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:adult.education@cliftondiocese.com).

**SERVING AT MASS** As we move towards restoring our serving teams at Mass, we welcome any who might like to take up this ministry - men, women and children, all are welcome. Please have a word with Fr Michael, Frank Harvey or Christine Haggerty.

**SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS WEEKLY GENERAL AUDIENCE** Wednesday 11th August 2021 Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we have seen the Apostle insist on the newness of the Christian life, thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Against those who urged the Galatians to obey the precepts of the Law of Moses, Paul replies that the Law was always in the service of God's Covenant with his people. The Covenant was itself based not on the observance of the Law but on faith in the fulfilment of God's promises. Now that God has definitively fulfilled those promises in the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, those who believe in the Gospel are set free from the demands of the Law. The newness of the Christian life, then, is born of our response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who brings the Law to fulfilment in the new commandment of love.

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER** - Bishop Declan is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 2 October (12 noon) and is inviting all married couples to join him. He sends a personal invitation to those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2021 or those who will marry this year. If there are any marriages in our parish this year or any couple celebrating significant anniversaries ie 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> or 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries during 2021. The names of these couples – engaged and anniversaries – need to be sent to this email: (adult.education@cliftondiocese.com) so that personal invitations can be sent to them.

**SINGING AT MASS** is gradually being reintroduced, albeit through our masks. We begin with the most important parts of the Mass, the Gloria, Psalm, Holy, holy, Lamb of God and acclamations. Thus, we sing the Mass, not simply sing at Mass. Hymns which may take the place of the Antiphons within the Roman rite, will be reintroduced after the summer break.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** (Confession) As we gradually make a return to the Sacraments, we may wish to celebrate this sacrament of God's mercy. Confessions are heard after each Mass or by appointment. It is good to see people returning to this beautiful sacrament of God's love. If you haven't been for some time and have forgotten the words, don't worry. There are some cards at the entrance to assist you or the priest will gently guide you through. There is great rejoicing in heaven when we return to this amazing sacrament!

**PIANIST/ORGANIST NEEDED** As we return gradually to a sung liturgy, we are in need of someone to lead our song, accompanying the Mass setting, Psalm and Hymns at Sunday Mass. Please see Fr Michael for more details. As with many parishes today this may need to become a salaried post. We will also begin to regather our group of Cantors to lead worship. If you sing and would like to help, please do come forward. Other musical instrumentalists are also very welcome. We need your talents!

**FIND OUT ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH** Are you interested to know more about the Catholic Faith? Do you wish to be baptized? Do you want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church? Do you know anyone who would like to know how to become a Catholic? If so, Journey in Faith or RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) might be just the thing. During these sessions we explore different aspects of the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We listen to God's word in Scripture, and we pray together. For more information, please contact Fr Michael with a view to starting a journey in the autumn.



**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** It is a very hopeful sign of the new “springtime of holiness” for the Church that, in ever more places, people are participating in regular adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Early in his pontificate, St John Paul II established adoration chapels in the major patriarchal basilicas in Rome, realising that the holy Eucharist is the source and summit of life in the Church. Pope Francis has also continued to encourage us in Eucharistic Adoration. When there is faith, devotion and reverence for the Eucharist, the faithful grow in charity and holiness, and the community is blessed with a variety of vocations that serve the Church and all souls with joy and simplicity. The Eucharist is the source of life for the Church. We now have the wonderful opportunity to come before the Lord in quietness and in peace twice a week, Wednesday at 11.30am and Saturday at 5pm before Mass. Come and rest with the Lord a while in his healing presence in the Eucharist.

**KEEPING SAFE** As we have several clinically extremely vulnerable people in our Church family, we ask that you continue to sanitise your hands on entering the Church, wear a mask, socially distance and observe our one-way system. Thank you.

**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](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net)

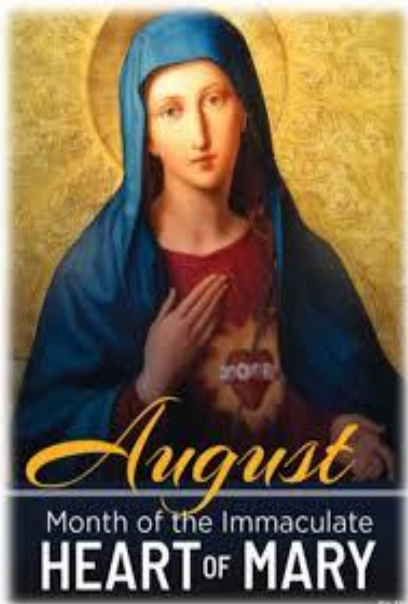
### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

**The Sick:** Peter Power: 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 August Prayer Intention:** Evangelisation: For the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Peter, Gloucester

**Christians in Corsham Prayer Link:** St Aldhelm URC & Methodist Community



## August - Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1984, St Pope John Paul II also made the solemn act of consecration of the world, particularly Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us remember this devotion year-round, but particularly through the month of August. We entrust to the intercession of Mary our hopes, fears, and the challenges of our daily lives.

## **Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

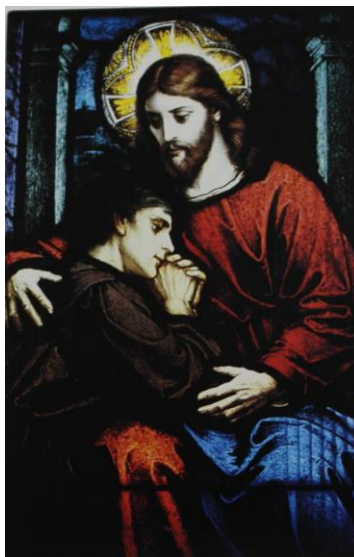
O Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
full of goodness,  
show your love towards us.  
Let the flame of your heart,  
O Mary, descend on all people.  
We love you immensely.  
Impress true love in our hearts  
so that we have a continuous desire for you.  
O Mary, gentle and humble of heart, remember us when we are in sin.  
You know that all men sin.  
Give us, by means of your Immaculate Heart, spiritual health.  
Let us always see the goodness of your motherly heart  
and may we be converted by means of the flame of your heart.  
Amen.

## **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

### The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Also available to download in 13 different languages at [www.virc.at](http://www.virc.at)



#### First reading

*A reading from the book of the Apocalypse*

Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

The word of the Lord.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

*On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:  
He is your lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.

## **Second reading**

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

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

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

The word of the Lord.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Mary has been taken up to heaven;  
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

Luke 1:39-56

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.

Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones  
and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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