

# SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

30 Park Lane, Corsham, SN13 9LG

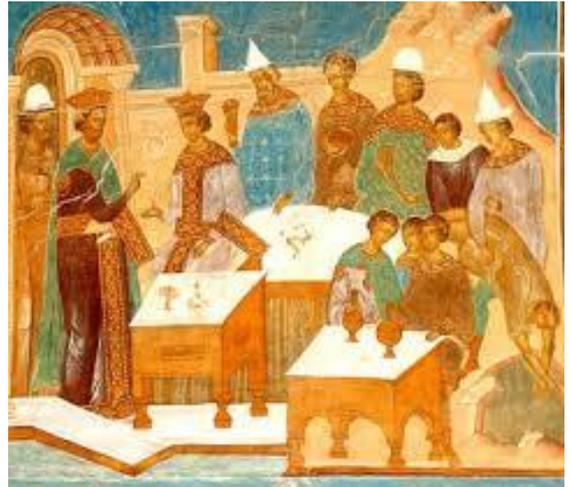
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fountaine Tel 01249 712136

[michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:michael.fountaine@cliftondiocese.com)

[www.stpatricks-corsham.org.uk](http://www.stpatricks-corsham.org.uk)

St Patrick's School Lacock Road, Corsham, SN13 9HS

Tel 01249 713125 [www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk](http://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk)



## LATEST NEWS

15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

**Sadly, all public masses are cancelled until the end of lockdown.**

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Nov - St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Nov - St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Dedication of the Basiclicas of Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles

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

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - Weekday in OT

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Nov - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE  
(Last Sunday in Ordinary Time)

**SECOND LOCKDOWN CONTINUES** Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a second lockdown, the government published its decision that places of worship must close for everything apart from private prayer. The Bishops' Conference has issued a statement, which you can find at [www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-from-the-president-and-the-vice-president-of-the-conference-on-the-prime-ministers-statement/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-from-the-president-and-the-vice-president-of-the-conference-on-the-prime-ministers-statement/), in which they express their anguish at this decision and point out that no evidence has been presented to suggest that the closure of churches will help combat the virus. Please continue to pray that the pandemic may be quickly brought under control, so that we may soon be able to come together again for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Church.

**PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES** In view of the present uncertainty regarding the Covid19 crisis and the celebration of Christmas, we are looking ahead to scheduling masses for Christmas. We are planning to celebrate Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve and at 10.30am on Christmas Day. We can accommodate only 50 people at each Mass. There are presently just seven places still available at the scheduled masses. If you are planning to come to Mass at Christmas, we ask you to book a place now, so that we can ascertain numbers early and plan accordingly. Please note only book one Mass per

person/family. If you know of people without access to the internet, please do assist them as once we have reached our safe capacity we will not be able go beyond that number. Please do book at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644). Thank you.

**YOUTH MINISTRY CONVERSATION** A focus on Youth Ministry in a time of pandemic. This is a series of conversations for anyone interested in any aspect of supporting the young people of our Diocese. The Adult Education department will be running this series of evening talks on Microsoft Teams with a number of national speakers taking the lead, beginning on November 17th. See the diocesan website for further details.



**DAY OF PRAYER** - Saturday 21st November has been designated by the Bishops as a day of special prayer for the ending of the pandemic.

**CELEBRATE BRISTOL** "Are you in need of spiritual renewal and inspiration during these challenging times? If so, then please join us at the Bristol online Celebrate back to basics sessions which are running fortnightly through October and November – leading us perfectly into Advent. There is no pressure to attend all of the sessions – just join when you can. Here is an outline of the sessions which will run from 7:30pm

to 8:30pm: Monday 16th November: Formation The Call to Ever Deeper Discipleship Monday 30th November: Mission Taking Risks and Stepping out in Faith to Pursue God's Mission Register now at: [www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020](http://www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020)

**MAEVE HEFFERMAN** It is with sadness that we learn of the death of Maeve this week. Maeve will be missed by so many and was a faithful member of St Patrick's church family. Maeve was nourished with the sacraments and commended to God shortly before she died. Details of the funeral will follow but sadly in the current pandemic due to government regulations only 30 family and close friends will be able to attend. We will however celebrate a Mass for her as a parish once the pandemic is over. May Maeve rest in peace and rise in glory!

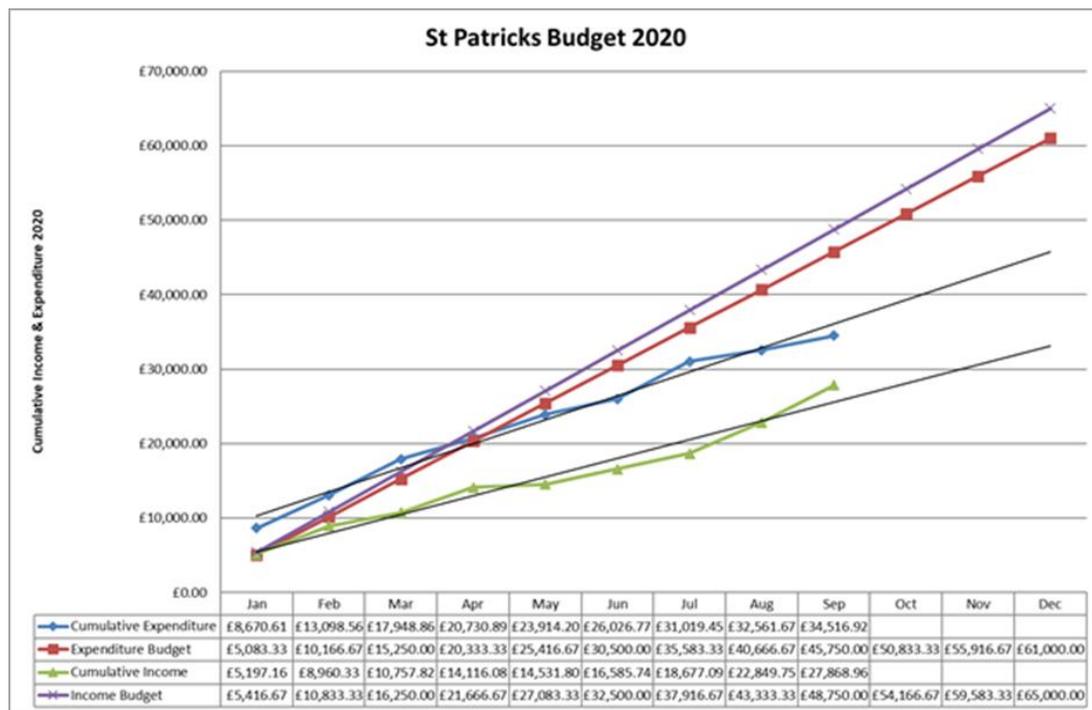
**SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE** last Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our catechesis on prayer, we have seen that Jesus prayed to his Father with perseverance. Three parables in Luke's Gospel emphasize how we too need to be constant in our prayer. The first parable, in which a man asks for help from a friend in the middle of the night and does not give up until his friend responds, teaches us the need to pray with insistence. In the second parable we see in the widow who persists in asking the unrighteous judge for justice, the importance of patience. The third parable, that of the publican and the Pharisee at prayer in the Temple, reveals that God responds to those who pray with humility. We see these three attitudes – insistence, patience and humility – reflected in the saints who persevered in prayer through moments of darkness when God seemed to be silent or absent. May we continue to persevere in prayer conscious that we never pray alone, but with Christ himself, in the power of the Holy Spirit. As Saint Augustine succinctly puts it: Jesus "prays for us as our priest, he prays in us as our Head, and as our God he is the one to whom we pray" Full text can be found on the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

**YEAR OF COMMUNION** 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. A story is told that on one warm summer's morning a hiker was walking along a road when he came upon a sparrow lying on its back in the middle of the road. Slightly concerned he bent down to the little creature and asked: "Why are you lying down like that?" "I heard that the sky is going to fall today," the little bird replied. The hiker began to laugh. "I suppose you think your spindly little legs are going to hold up the big sky?" The determined little sparrow replied simply, "One does what one can." 'One does what one can' is the message that Jesus wants us to learn from today's parable. All of us have talents and it is for us to decide how we will use them. Talents are often associated with successful people. When we hear someone referred to as being 'so talented' it is unlikely that we are referring to someone who spends every night, awake, caring for a sick child or parent. It is unlikely that we are referring to the young person who works in a soup kitchen or talks to the homeless. Yet what these people do stems from a desire to use what God has given them; the capacity for compassion, for gentleness, for concern, for generosity of heart, for their commitment to over-coming injustice and oppression in the lives of others, for not giving into the pain of personal disability. It takes skill to bring healing and hope to others and this can be just as rewarding as the adulation that comes from being a successful superstar performing to the best of their ability.

**A LETTER FROM VIC STEADMAN, CHAIR OF THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE** I am writing to all parishioners of St Patricks to report on the state of our finances in these difficult times and to make an appeal for help. In common with many businesses, families, and individuals across the country, your Parish has been badly hit financially by the effects of the Corona virus. At the start of the year, we anticipated an income of around £65,000 which would have covered our costs for the year with a small surplus. Lockdown wiped out a significant portion of our income overnight as we were forced to close the hall and lost the usual weekly Mass donations in cash. While Mass has restarted, the numbers attending are, understandably, much lower than usual and the income has not recovered to normal levels. Despite relaxations in Covid restrictions we are not able to restart hall rentals because the costs of additional cleaning and sanitising would make it uneconomic.

We thank those who have continued standing order donations or who have made donations in other ways, but the weekly Mass collections have always been a significant proportion of our income. We anticipate (see the attached graph below which compares our budget to the actual income and expenditure) that our annual income will be down to around £35,000, just over half what we had hoped for. We have reduced our expenditure as much as we can but have little control over utility costs, maintenance bills which still have to be paid to maintain our listed church building, and additional sanitising/cleaning costs for the church.

We have been forced to eat into our reserves to fund what we estimate will be a £12-15,000 overspend for the year and have a worrying backlog of repairs that will have to be funded next year. It is therefore, with regret, that we must make an appeal to parishioners who can afford it to increase their regular giving or to make one off donations.



Donations can be made by: • Credit/debit card or PayPal from the Parish website by following the Donate by PayPal” link, you do not need to have a PayPal account • Standing order, • Online/telephone bank transfer (BACS) • Cheque/cash after Mass or cheques in the post (though cash and cheques are more difficult to handle during the Pandemic). Where possible we ask that all donations be Gift Aided as that will increase the value of your gift by 25%. This can be done via the “Donate with PayPal” link or using a separate Gift Aid Declaration form that we will supply. Please email (FinanceChair.corsham.stpatrick@Cliftondiocese.com) for further advice on how to make donations or to arrange Gift Aid.

**THANK YOU** A big thank you to those who responded to the above appeal last week. It is a wonderful beginning to the appeal!

**THE SUNDAY MASS READINGS** During lockdown, the Sunday readings are available at: [www.cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/liturgy-office/](http://www.cliftondiocese.com/departments/adult-education/liturgy-office/) and click on the **Universalis** tab. It will open in a page for the day. On the left-hand side, you may select Readings at Mass, About Today, Morning Prayer etc., and on the right-hand side you may choose a date up to and including the following Sunday.

**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)

## Saint Patrick's Community at Prayer



***'The earnest prayer of a righteous person  
has great power and produces wonderful results.'** James 5:16.*

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**The Sick:** Maeve Heffernan, James Gallagher, Karen Lucas, Rob Jones, 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.

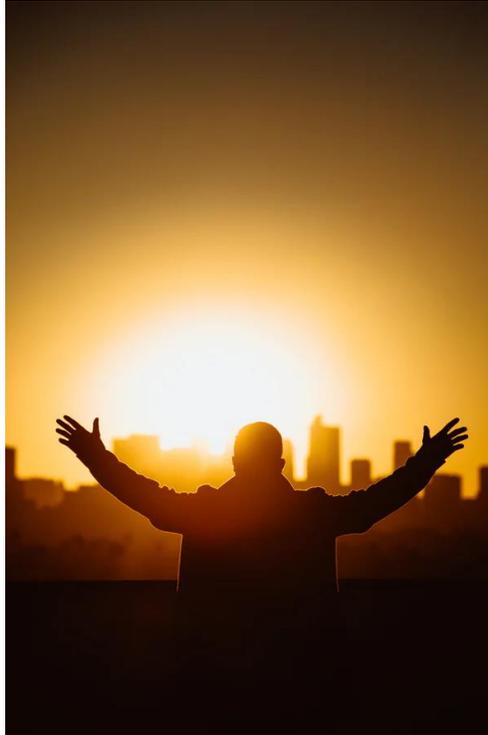
**Recently Departed:** Maeve Heffernan

**Pope Francis November Prayer Intention:** Artificial Intelligence. That the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** All University/ College/ School Chaplaincies in the diocese

**Christians in Corsham Prayer Link:** St Aldhelm's United Reform and Methodist Community

## During Lockdown



### **Prayers for the Pandemic: for a household in lockdown**

God of the indoors,  
who knew the confines of domestic space  
at a time of little comfort,  
help us in this time of confinement,  
help us to see it as an act of love, in solidarity  
with those who care for us and put their own lives  
on the line for the sake of others.

Help us to 'make room' for each other, even if room is scarce,  
help us to find reserves of patience we never knew we had,  
to take offence less easily, to find in our hearts  
an easy apology when we're petulant.  
Help us to be attentive, careful, and thoughtful.  
May we draw deeply from the well  
of our most loving times.

***Raymond Friel***

**One of St Teresa of Avila's most famous teachings is a poem known as "Teresa's Bookmark" that was found in her own prayer book after her death:**

Let nothing disturb you.  
Let nothing upset you.  
Everything changes.  
God alone is unchanging.  
With patience all things are possible.  
Whoever has God lacks nothing.  
God alone is enough.

May Teresa's words will bring us some comfort in this challenging time.

***The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked. (John 20.19)***

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

## Praying for the Faithful Departed



Immortal God, holy Lord,  
Father and Protector of all You have created,  
we raise our hearts to You today for those  
who have passed out of this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father of all,  
be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company,  
and forgive the failings and faults  
they may have done from human frailty.

Your only Son, Christ, our Saviour,  
suffered so cruelly that  
He might deliver them from the second death.  
By his merits may they share in the glory  
of His victory over sin and death.

For all the faithful who have died we pray,  
but in particular for those dear to us,  
parents, relatives and friends.  
nor do we forget all who did good to us while on earth,  
who helped us by their prayers, sacrifice and example.  
We pray also for any who may have done us harm,  
and stand in special need of Your forgiveness.

May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother,  
Mary, and those of all the Angels and Saints,  
speak for us and assist them now.  
This we ask in Christ's name.

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.