

# 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

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

**Micah 5:1-4.** Israel's great king David had come from the minor town Bethlehem. So, every king in the line of David was said to come from there. At a time when corrupt leaders had let Jerusalem fall prey to invasion, and its people to exile, Micah prophesies that God will use a new king to turn things back to the good.

**Hebrews 10:5-10.** Early Jewish converts to Christ were cut off from institutions and religious practices that had comforted them. The letter to the Hebrews explains how their new relationship with Christ surpasses everything they had before. In this passage, old sacrifices and sin-offerings are gone, but replaced by our ability to imitate Jesus in doing God's will.

**Luke 1:39-44.** Saint Luke's gospel opens with the story of the elderly Elizabeth miraculously conceiving a child. In the next paragraph Mary conceives. Now the two women meet.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES – BOOKING** Christmas Eve 9pm and Christmas Day 9am and the Sunday of the Feast of the Holy Family 9am. Although we are heavily booked, please do check Eventbrite for cancellations. If you have booked and cannot attend, please cancel your tickets, and make them available to others. **Please do not come to Mass without booking** as you will not be able to enter. Numbers are still limited to keep everyone safe and there will be no extra spaces on the day. People displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in

person. Thank you for your understanding. [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644)

**FR MICHAEL** would like to wish everyone at St Patrick's a happy, holy and blessed Christmas and may God bless your homes and families at this time.



**DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS** Parishioners are invited to assist with decorating of the Church on Thursday 23rd December 10am until lunchtime. We would also be grateful for any donations of greenery, especially anything with red berries, holly and other decorative shrubs. Greenery can be taken to the Presbytery garage in the car park on Monday 21st and/or Tuesday 22nd December for use on Dec 23rd in the church. Thank you for your help.

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS** are heard after midweek masses or by appointment.

**UNABLE TO ATTEND A CHRISTMAS MASS?** You might like to watch the Christmas Masses streamed from Saint Patrick's this year.

**Christmas Eve** 9.00 pm - <https://youtu.be/1og2Zrr9-uI>

**Christmas Day** 9.00 am - <https://youtu.be/7zlxXHzT-D8>

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** The offertory collection at the masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is an offering to the Parish to help to pay a small monthly salary to Fr Michael. Fr Michael does **not** receive this personally. Any Christmas cards to Fr Michael may be posted through the presbytery door. Thank you.

**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.

**STAYING 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. Let's stay safe on the run up to Christmas. Thank you.

**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](mailto:treasurer.corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com)

**CAFOD ARE HIRING** Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? We are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Clifton. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date 9th January.

[www.isw.changeworknow.co.uk/cafod/vms/e/careers/positions/cJA147YonebARldQy7yJZt](http://www.isw.changeworknow.co.uk/cafod/vms/e/careers/positions/cJA147YonebARldQy7yJZt)

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

**A WARM WELCOME** to all who join us for Mass, especially to any visitors. If you are new to the Parish, you too are very welcome. Please introduce yourself to the priest after Mass so that we can properly welcome you!

## 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:** Corpus Christi / Our Lady of Lourdes/ St Josphe's Weston-super-Mare

**Christians in Corsham Prayer Link:** St Aldhelm's Methodist/ United Reformed Community

## December – Month of the Immaculate Conception



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.*

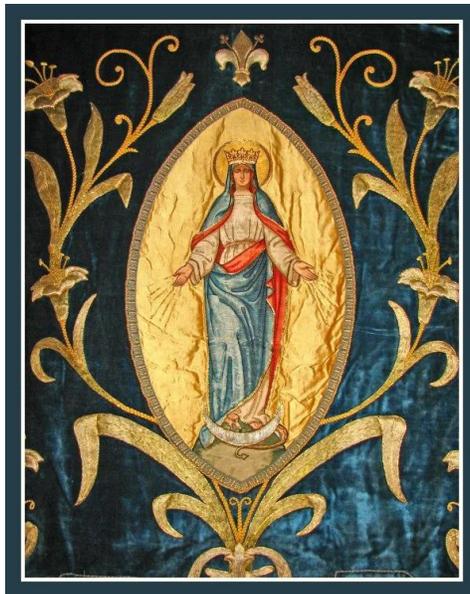
**491.** *Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1844: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the 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

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

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



### First reading

Micah 5:1-4

*A reading from the prophet Micah*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back;*

*let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

### **Second reading**

Hebrews 10:5-10

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

Luke 1:39-44

*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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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