

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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20TH DECEMBER

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

10.30am Parish Mass (Please book)

Mon 21st Dec – Weekday Advent II

Tue 22nd Dec - Weekday Advent II

Wed 23d Dec - Weekday Advent II

11.30am Adoration of the Blessed

12noon Mass (Bookings only)

Thur 24th Dec - Weekday Advent II

Christmas Eve SOLEMNITY OF

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

6pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity

(Bookings only)

Fri 25th Dec - Christmas Day

10.30am Mass during the Day

(Bookings only)

Sat 26th Dec - Feast of Saint Stephen,

the First Mrtyr

27TH DECEMBER

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

10.30am Parish Mass (Booking only)

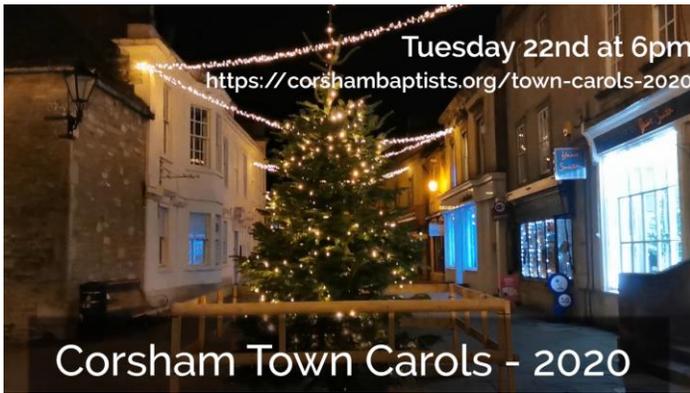
LATEST NEWS

FROM FR MICHAEL This has been such a difficult time for all of us and especially as a community. It has been a time of anxiety and uncertainty for all. Although there is now hope on the horizon with the coming of a vaccine, we are about to celebrate a Christmas that will be totally different from any before. I ask you to put Jesus at the centre of your homes this Christmas. I asked our school children and encourage all our families to have a crib at the centre of your decorations at home. Many will celebrate Christmas in the home this year and this little reminder will put Christ at the centre of your domestic Church. I also ask you to try to attend and celebrate a Christmas Mass, but this will be difficult for some as numbers are limited this year. So, I encourage you to come to Mass within the Octave (8 days) of Christmas. It is necessary to book, as we have limited availability due to social distancing this year, but it will be wonderful to see you. www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644. If you cannot come, then you might watch the Midnight Mass (11.45pm) on TV from our Cathedral Church in Clifton this year celebrated by our Bishop Declan!

As the world faces up to the widespread disruption to life being caused by the pandemic, let us ask for God's help in what lies ahead in the New Year. Let us pray for all those who are working to control the spread of the virus. Let us pray for all those in our NHS who are tasked with caring for those who have the virus. Let us pray for all the sick, all carers and the anxious and lonely. Every one of us wishes we could gather our families as we have for generations, hug our parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren and celebrate this holy time. We simply cannot wish away the reality that the virus is having a major effect on

all our lives. We cannot ignore the growing number of family and friends who are afflicted. God calls every one of us to do our part and make sacrifices to protect the old, the sick and the vulnerable. I'm sure that as a community we will be able reach out and so just that. I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have diligently helped St Patrick's Church to continue its mission since the first lockdown in March. Many of you have given of yourselves sacrificially in so many ways and that self-giving has truly been inspirational. May God bless you all, your homes and families this Christmas as we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Although it is one like no other, let us still make it a Christmas of love, joy and peace!





CHRISTMAS MASSES This Christmas we are limited in the number of people we can accommodate at Masses this year due to government regulations. It is sadly not possible simply to turn up to a Christmas Mass if you have not booked. The Bishops of England and Wales have suggested that the Masses during the Christmas Octave (i.e. Dec 26th until Jan 1st) be considered additional Masses to celebrate Christmas liturgically as churches will not be able to cater for everyone on Christmas Eve/Day. Our Masses therefore on 27th Dec

for The Holy Family/ Wed 30th Dec for the 6th day of the Octave / Fri 1st Jan Solemnity of Mary Mother of God are likely to be popular. Book now at www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644. We have extended ticket numbers to 50 for these masses. Sadly, the 9pm Mass we floated for Christmas eve has not attracted sufficient interest. We will contact those who have expressed an interest if there are cancellations at the scheduled Christmas masses. This makes it even more important that if you have booked and find you cannot come you please cancel to enable others to take your tickets. We remind you that the current suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass also applies to Christmas.

THE GREAT 'O' ANTIPHONS The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer and the Gospel Acclamations from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. The first letters of the titles taken backwards form a Latin acrostic of "Ero Cras" which translates to "Tomorrow, I will be there", mirroring the theme of the antiphons. Wisdom (*Sapientia* in Latin), Ruler of the House of Israel (*Adonai*), Root of Jesse (*Radix*), Key of David (*Clavis*), Rising Dawn (*Oriens*), King of the Gentiles (*Rex*) and Emmanuel. The ancient Advent hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel is based upon these seven Great "O" Antiphons and is therefore more appropriately sung in late Advent (13th – 23rd December)

December 17: O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18: O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19: O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20: O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21: O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!





A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL To Our Friends in the Parish, We hope you are all well and staying safe in these challenging times. Advent 2020 has had to take a very different form to usual for the staff and children at Saint Patrick's, but we have all worked together to ensure that we have still made this time as special as possible for all. The last weeks have seen our staff working tirelessly to support our children in producing their gift to their families – the KS1 Nativity and KS2 Celebrations. These will be premiered to classes this week and shared through the technology of Google Classrooms, with their families. They are absolutely amazing and we hope everyone who sees them loves them as much as we do. December has seen

the whole school completing their Advent Tasks of Hope and Happiness. These have continued on from our November Tasks, which saw our children completing various activities which benefitted others in their family, school community, parish community and even beyond. For every 5 tasks completed the children earned a Footsteps in Faith badge, which is then awarded in our virtual Friday Assembly. It has been lovely to see the growing number of badges appearing throughout the school, one of their acts may have even benefitted you.

Although we have not been allowed to welcome families and visitors into our school at this special time of the year, we have not lost any of our Christmas spirit. Each class has been getting 'crafty' and decorating their classrooms. They look beautiful! From paper chains to bobble hats, papier mâché nativity figures to interactive advent calendars we have been amazed by the creativity and talent displayed. To bring Christmas to all, we have also been decorating the outside of our school. If you can, take a walk or drive past to see our Christmas lights, a 'sudden snowfall' which appeared at the beginning of the month, some beautiful class wreaths, a 'star garden' full of Christmas wishes for the world and our outdoor Nativity scene. This was created by the staff of our school, with a special mention to our talented Site Manager Mr Newstead, who created the amazing stable. It has been admired by many of our school community and reflects our determination that this year, Christmas would not be cancelled at Saint Patricks!

It has been lovely for us all to have seen Father Michael in his virtual assemblies throughout this month and although we haven't seen you all, our friends in the parish, we hope you know that you have been in our prayers throughout this challenging time and we hope to see you all again very soon. We wish you all a happy, healthy and holy Christmas and wonderful New Year, The staff and children of Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

The School newsletter is also available to read at <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/patrickscorsham/UploadedDocument/e47f903cbec04ae7aed535bff4510a6a/saint-patricks-christmas-parent-newsletter-18-12-20.pdf>

CHRISTMAS SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Please call Fr Michael if you wish to celebrate the sacrament before Christmas. There is no better way to prepare for the great feast of our redemption. If you need some help to make your confession, do take a look at our website or take a leaflet from the back of the Church. This is a wonderful sacrament of the love and mercy of the Lord.

ASSISTED SUICIDE Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

ORDINATION Congratulations to Stephen Corrigan, a Clifton student for the priesthood (and one of Fr Michael's former parishioners and Seminary students) who was ordained Deacon on Saturday at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Stephen is due to be ordained Priest next year. Please keep him and all the newly ordained in your prayers and continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Diaconate. Fr Michael has invited Stephen to join us for a Sunday Mass in the New Year to 'deacon' the Mass for us and preach.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Before lockdown we were gathering at 11.30am on Wednesdays for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for an end to the pandemic. We continue with this little time of prayer this Wednesday. If you are coming to the noon Mass (23rd Dec), do join us for these moments of prayer in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

A THANK YOU FROM BORDERLANDS To the congregation of St Patrick's Corsham, I am writing to express our grateful thanks for your generous donations of food, toiletries and money which we received on Tuesday. At Borderlands, we have been continuing to offer practical support and a message of inclusion to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants throughout the pandemic. The consistent support of communities like yours has enabled us to make up 4,306 bags of food since the restrictions closed in around us in March. We have fed an average of 116 people per week. Thank you for making it possible and standing with us and our members during what has been an incredibly difficult year. In solidarity, and with Warmth, Sharing, Dignity and Respect for Everyone, I wish you a very Happy Christmas, Steve Owen, Drop-in Manager.

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

'The earnest prayer of a righteous person

has great power and produces wonderful results.' James 5:16.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Sick: Richard Keat, 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.

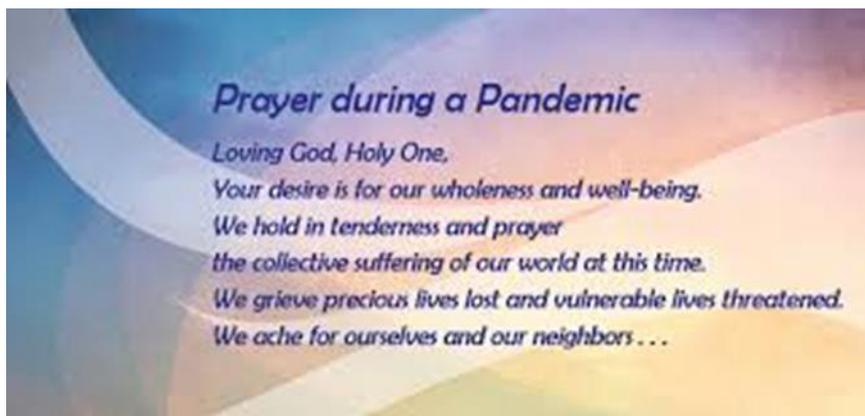
Pope Francis December Prayer Intention: For a life of prayer: That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Recently Ordained: The Revd Stephen Corrigan (Deacon)

Diocesan Prayer Link: Our Lady & St Alphege, Bath / St Joseph, Peasedown St John

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

Prayers in time of Pandemic



Strength for this Challenging Time

We pray for your love and compassion to abound
as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load
of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness
and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable
to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed
that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide,
may we also approach each day in faith and peace,
trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

December - Month of the Immaculate Conception



The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Chosen before time to be the Mother of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, God created Mary perfect and full of grace, preserving her from the stain of Original Sin. Mary Immaculate is the most beautiful fruit of the work of redemption accomplished by her Son, thereby making her the perfect model of holiness for all Christians.

Pope Francis' Prayer for 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 B)



First reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.'

Second reading

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so, the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.