

# 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

22ND NOVEMBER

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

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

Mon 23rd Nov - Weekday in OT

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Nov - Ss Andrew Dung-Lac,  
Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Nov - St Catherine of  
Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr

Thur 26<sup>th</sup> Nov - Weekday in OT

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Nov - Weekday in OT

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov - Weekday in OT

29TH NOVEMBER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING.** Today's celebration was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, to be celebrated throughout the universal church, in his letter *Quas Primas*. He connected the increasing denial of Christ as king to the rise of secularism throughout much of Europe. At the time, many Christians (including Catholics) began to doubt Christ's authority and existence, as well as the Church's power to continue Christ's authority. Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian (or nominally Christian) dictatorships throughout Europe, and saw Catholics being persuaded by these earthly leaders. These dictators also often attempted to assert authority over the Church.

Today's feast reminds us that Christ's kingship is one of *humility and service*. Jesus said: You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:42-45). May Christ the King continue to rule our hearts and our lives.

**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 five 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 to 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.



**THE SEASON OF ADVENT** Next Sunday we begin the beautiful four Sunday liturgical season of Advent. This lovely season has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes

for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The Moravian custom of the 'Christingle' has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century in most Christian communities and is widespread within the Catholic Church; The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete/ Rejoice* or 'Rose Sunday') We rejoice since our redemption is near at hand. Let us immerse ourselves in this wonderful season, mindful that although we are living through dark times, we still look to Christ our rising sun, our morning star (*O Oriens*) O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

**THE ADVENT WREATH** Placing four candles (Either four red or 3 purple and one rose) on green fronds has become a symbol of Advent in many Christian homes and Churches, especially in the Germanic countries and in North America. The Advent wreath, with the progressive lighting of its four candles, Sunday after Sunday, until the Solemnity of Christmas, is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of justice (cf. Mt 3,20; Lk 1,78).

**IICSA** (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse) The statement issued on Friday by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales in response to the IICSA report that was published earlier this week is available [www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/11/Statement-on-Safeguarding-201120.pdf](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/11/Statement-on-Safeguarding-201120.pdf)

**MAEVE HEFFERMAN RIP** Maeve's funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm. Sadly due to government regulations only 30 family and invited 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!

**THANK YOU** A big thank you to those who responded to our appeal last week. It is a wonderful beginning to the appeal to assist with day to day running costs of the parish as our income suffers during the pandemic. Next year will also necessitate considerable expenditure on the Church building which has much needing to be done as a matter of urgency (more details to follow). The decline in collections in this period of pandemic has been a serious blow to our church and all churches financially and we appreciate your help at this time.



**ONLINE CHRISTMAS MARKET HOSTED BY RELIGIOUS SISTERS** The joyous Christmas season is approaching! The season that is filled with love, family and, most importantly, God. As you may be aware, Sisters from the St Elisabeth Convent (Minsk, Belarus) are unable to participate in annual Christmas markets in our region due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless, they have found a great way to spread the Christmas joy, love and deeds of mercy. They are launching the very first Online Christmas Market this year, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> Through purchasing beautiful Christmas gifts each one of us will be able to serve

the poor, sick, homeless and lonely people. Because every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries. The Online Christmas Market of St Elisabeth Convent offers a range of unique handmade items that will make memorable Christmas gifts, including: traditional hand painted Christmas ornaments, wooden toys and souvenirs, Santa Claus and Father Frost figures, handcrafted Christmas tree baubles, Nativity scenes and sets, Christmas themed ceramics and glass products, Orthodox Nativity icons, dolls and much more. The Sisters send their prayers and blessings from Minsk.

**NEWS FROM BORDERLANDS** Many parishioners will remember that not, long ago, Borderlands was our Parish Project. During this Covid time work has continued but is adapted to the circumstances. Volunteers make frequent solidarity phone calls to self-isolating members, and the mentoring project continues by phone or meetings in an outside space. Food parcels are prepared and either collected by members or delivered by volunteers and, at this point in time, Borderlands is the only organization in Bristol delivering food. Every Tuesday a hot meal is prepared for take away. English classes are given via Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp. Fresh food that is near its sell by date is donated by various supermarkets and local businesses but store cupboard stocks are getting low and Borderlands would be grateful for donations of tins of tomatoes, kidney beans, chickpeas, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, rice, pasta, cereals, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, onions, garlic, basic toiletries etc. Cath Elms will be in St Patrick's Church carpark on **Friday 4 December, Wednesday 9 December and Friday 11 December from 11am until 12 noon** for anyone who would like to donate. Thank you.

**BEING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CHURCH IN PANDEMIC** Friday 27th November 2020 on Zoom 10.30 - 11.30 During a Webinar will explore the challenges churches are facing at the moment in supporting people living with dementia during the Pandemic; share stories of what churches are doing and explore what more churches might do. Please book your place through Eventbrite by clicking [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-a-dementia-friendly-church-in-a-pandemictickets-128626279665](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/being-a-dementia-friendly-church-in-a-pandemictickets-128626279665) you will be sent a link to access the Webinar. If you are unable to access Eventbrite then please call BDAA on 07741 142701 or email [office@bdaa.org.uk](mailto:office@bdaa.org.uk) to book your place. The Webinar can be accessed via the internet on the Zoom app or by phone.

**SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE** last Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. "Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider our Blessed Lady as a woman of prayer and a model for our own life of prayer. From her youth Mary always prayed with humility, open to wherever the Lord might lead her. We find her at prayer when the angel Gabriel announces that she is to be the Mother of the Son of God. Her simple words, "Let it be done to me", are a model for all prayer, which consists in trusting openness to God's will. Mary remained close to her Son in prayer at the critical moments of his life, even to the foot of the cross. In the joy of the resurrection, she prayerfully accompanied the newborn Church. Through her openness to the power of the Holy Spirit the Mother of God thus became the Mother of the Church. Saint Luke tells us that

Mary “treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart” (2:19). In union with her Immaculate Heart, may our hearts too be open to God’s will through our own meditation on the mysteries of the life and saving work of Jesus Christ.” Full text can be found on the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

**YEAR OF COMMUNION** Solemnity of Christ the King In the film ‘Chocolat’, a small, French, Catholic community follow the rules of the Church to the letter of the law. But it makes them miserable and the villagers are often cruel, unkind, judgmental, and critical of each other. When a young woman arrives in the town and opens a chocolate shop her way of life is frowned upon. However, her desire to bring joy and happiness to the people of the town, brings change in how people relate to one another. Eventually, the young parish priest, himself full of doubt, finally sees the truth. In his homily on Easter Sunday he preaches: “I’m not sure what the theme of my homily, today, should be. Do I want to speak of the miracle of the Lord’s transformation? No, not really, no I don’t want to talk about his divinity. I want to talk about his humanity. I mean, you know, how he lived his life here on earth; his kindness, his tolerance. Listen, here’s what I think. We can’t go round measuring our goodness by what we don’t do, by what we deny ourselves, what we resist and who we exclude. I think we have to measure our goodness by what we embrace, what we create and who we include.” Advent starts next week. We are still living with the pandemic and many people are tired, unsure of what Christmas will bring. But this we do know, Jesus entered our world to live amongst the most vulnerable in society, reaching out in compassion and love and mercy. Today’s gospel encourages us to do the same.

**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/) 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.

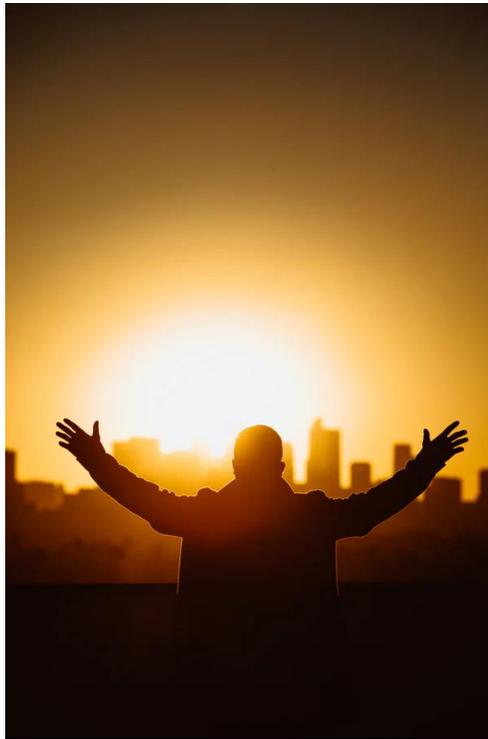
**Recently Departed:** Maeve Heffernan

**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.

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