

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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LATEST NEWS

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER

THE HOLY FAMILY

9am Sung Parish Mass (*Pro Populo*)

Mon 27th Dec Feast of St John Ap Ev

No Mass

Tue 28th Dec

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12.10pm Mass (Chippenhams)

Wed 29th Dec (*P & D McDonald*)

Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bp, Mr,

12noon Mass (Corsham)

Thurs 30th Dec

6th Day in the Octave of Christmas

12.10pm Mass (Chippenhams)

Fri 31st Dec (*Peter Power RIP*)

7th Day in the Octave of Christmas

12noon Mass (Corsham)

SAT 1ST DEC MARY, THE HOLY

MOTHER OF GOD

SUNDAY 2ND JANUARY

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9am Sung Parish Mass (*Pro Populo*)

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

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

Ecclesiasticus 3. 2-6, 12-14: Writing less than 200 years before Jesus, Sirach defended Judaism's wisdom against pressure from dominant Greek ideas. Here he names care for elders as a cultural and spiritual treasure.

Colossians 3. 12-21: Earlier chapters of this letter explain how baptism makes Christians into a new creation in Christ. This chapter explains how the recreated person should now live.

Luke 2. 41-52: The gospel reading stresses the holy family's strict obedience to the Law of Moses. Luke 2:21 says "When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." The requirement for circumcision is found in Genesis 17:12. Circumcision is the sign of the covenant between Abraham and God, a mark which designates that they belong to God's chosen people.

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but his last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church. In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as his children,

"chosen ones, holy and beloved." The family advice we hear in today's readings—for mothers, fathers, and children—is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth. Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasised only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that



earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God. In what Jesus calls “my Father’s house,” every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God’s house, his dwelling. But it’s also an image of the family of God, the Church. In our families we’re to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God—until He reveals his new dwelling among us and says of every person: “I shall be his God and he will be my son.”

THANK YOU - A very big thank you to all who have worked so hard to make the Church look so beautiful for the Christmas feasts and to all who have exercised ministries over these lovely days. Thank you to Sacristans, Welcomers, Musicians, Singers, Servers, Cleaners and those who prepare the Church and to all our liturgical ministers.

CHRISTMAS EVE LIVE STREAM MASS from Corsham can be viewed on Christmas Eve 9.00 pm <https://youtu.be/1og2Zrr9-uI>.

FR MICHAEL would like to thank all who have sent such lovely cards and gifts over the Christmas period. They are very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone!

CAFOD AFGHANISTAN Appeal -The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating. Hundreds of thousands have fled their homes, compounding an existing crisis following drought and decades of conflict. As winter approaches, millions of people face hunger and extreme poverty. To support: www.cafod.org.uk/News/Emergenciesnews/Afghanistan-crisis

BBC1 MIDNIGHT MASS comes this year from St Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham and begins at 11:45 pm on Fri 24th

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.

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

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. 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: St Luke & St Teresa, Wincanton with Milbourne Port & Castle Carey

Christians in Corsham Prayer Link: The Baptist 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.*

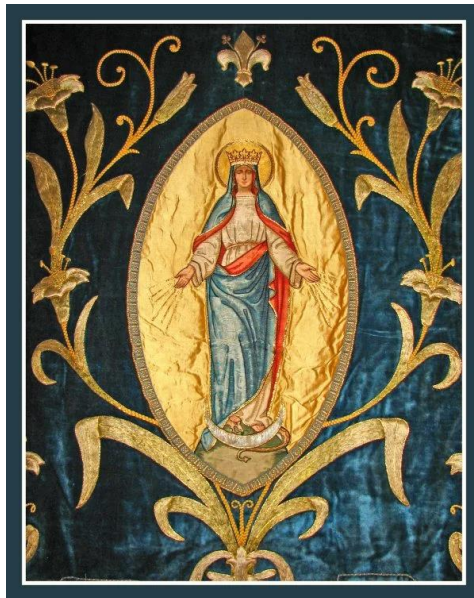
491. *Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1844: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first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

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Also available to download in 13 different languages at www.virc.at



First reading

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

*O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!*

Psalm 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.