

# SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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## LATEST NEWS

### THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

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

**Numbers 11:25-29:** The people of God have always needed to be organised, and they have complained when the organization doesn't serve them well. That's the context of today's first reading, where God gives the leader Moses some extra help. Moses doesn't mind that the help is somewhat hard to manage.

**James 5:1-6:** In the reading from James three weeks ago, the apostle asked the community to treat its poor as well as it treats its rich members. Last week he ordered the members to be honest about their envy. Today he warns of the fatal consequences of greed, both for the greedy and for the community.

**Mark 9:38-43, 47-48:** Much of Mark's gospel is about Jesus educating his disciples about what it means to be a disciple. Here his disciples show a certain narrow-mindedness that Jesus must correct.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - CLIMATE CRISIS APPEAL** Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. This Family Fast Day, you can donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope or online through the CAFOD website [cafod.org.uk/climate](http://cafod.org.uk/climate) crisis and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our online petition calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis at [www.cafod.org.uk/climate](http://www.cafod.org.uk/climate). Thank you for your generosity for our emergency appeals to support our brothers and sisters in crisis in Afghanistan and Haiti. You can read more about CAFOD's response at

[cafod.org.uk/emergencies](http://cafod.org.uk/emergencies). Please put your offering in one of the envelopes attached to this week's newsletter or available at the back of church. Don't forget to fill in the Gift Aid slip if you pay tax.

**CANON DESMOND MILLETT RIP** It is with sadness that we learn on the death of Fr Millett. He died in his sleep early on Sunday morning. He had recently celebrated his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday with his family and his 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Jubilee. Fr Millett had been parish priest of Chippenham since 1985. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN O.T. (YEAR B)

5pm Eucharistic Adoration

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat)

10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)

Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Sept - S Vincent de Paul, Pr

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Sept - Saint Lawrence Ruiz  
& Companions, Martyrs

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Sept - Feast of Ss Michael,  
Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels  
11.30am Eucharistic Adoration  
12noon Mass

Thur 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - St Jerome, Pr, Dr

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Oct - St Therese of the Child  
Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church  
12noon Mass

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - Holy Guardian Angels

3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2021

27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN O.T. (YEAR B)

(Harvest Thanksgiving)

5pm Eucharistic Adoration

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Sat)

10.30am Sung Mass (Pro Populo)



**MAINTAINING & IMPROVING ST PATRICK'S CHURCH** Our church was built as a Victorian charity school in 1848, is grade 2 listed and has been a church for approximately 75 years. The original building was modified for industrial use (first as a glove factory and then, during the war, producing gas masks) in the 1940s and then into a church between 1950 and 1965. The church originally consisted of the current main part of the church in front of the altar with 2 additional rooms on the carpark side. It was extended in the 1960s by partial opening up of the internal walls and building the extension that is now the flower sacristy beside the car park door. While the church space was increased the internal layout was not changed as the altar has remained directly under the aesthetically attractive gothic style main window. As a result, many parts of the church

have poor sight lines to the altar. These various modifications have, unfortunately, compromised the structural integrity of the original Victorian building. The roof drainage has been disrupted and leaks into the building, the fire escape and associated door are aesthetically disappointing and have caused structural damage to that part of the church, the upper floor is poorly attached to the walls and has been ordered out of use because of structural and fire safety concerns, and the flower sacristy is falling away from the main building and has severe rainwater leaks. There is also a need to increase Mass capacity due to the reduction in weekend masses that will be caused fewer priests in the diocese. The Parish Finance Committee is working with the Diocese to appoint an architect to establish the current state of the building and to identify how it can be improved to increase capacity, improve the liturgical layout, and to prepare it for another 75 years of church use. Tender responses from architects invited to carry out a design study are between £10,000 to £15,000. These early discussions with architects have led to the realisation that the total bill for refurbishment of the church could be in the order of £500,000.

We have been advised that the Diocesan Finance Committee and the trustees would be unlikely to support a request to spend tens of thousands of pounds on a design study without addressing how the full building cost can be met. We would potentially be wasting a large sum of charitable money if the full project could not proceed. We have therefore asked our potential architects to amend their proposals to reduce the level of detail in their plans and to include an investment appraisal looking at the whole of the current church site. In the meantime, we have a legal obligation to preserve this listed building but are struggling to achieve that due to a reduction in our income resulting from the pandemic. There is a backlog of urgent weatherproofing repairs to the roof and the window which need to be funded from our weekly offertory giving which still falls far below pre pandemic levels, partly due to a move away from cash and our inability to hold a cash collection each week. We will therefore be making appeals to you all in forthcoming weeks to recover our level of income using standing orders, card payments in the church, gift aid, and to ask for an increase in the level of giving. (Vic Steadman – Parish Treasurer)

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Father Michael met this week with lead staff from St Patrick's School regarding first Holy Communion. We had hoped to celebrate this on the Solemnity of Christ the King. This would however have necessitated a shortened course and we feel that we will not be able to prepare the children adequately in this time for both the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. As some of the FHC children have not yet had the opportunity to return to Mass, we are now proposing to wait until early January to begin a full course for all children looking to FHC. This also gives us the ideal opportunity to begin a new 18-week course, leading to FHC at Corpus Christi (Sunday 19th June). Please do not hesitate to contact Fr Michael or Mrs Courtney if you have any questions. Application forms for the 2022 FHC are available in Church. Please return asap to Fr Michael.

**NEW HYMN BOOKS** A very big thank you to everyone who has sponsored a new hymnal. The response has been wonderful. There is still time to give a hymn book (£6.25 per copy) These can be given in memory of a departed loved one(s) and RIP memorial plates will be placed in each copy dedicated to that person. We then invite you each week to say a little prayer for the person in whose memory the hymn book you are using was given. Tom Miller will be coordinating the collection for us, and order sheets are now available in Church. You can pay for your hymnals via the parish web site online or with card/cash at Mass.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH CLEANING** We thank the small group of people who have cleaned our Church during lockdown and those who have regularly assisted with the sanitization. We now URGENTLY need people to give a little of their time to assist with the cleaning of the Church. This could be a weekly or even a monthly offering at a time to suit you. Please sign the list on the notice board.

**PRAYER GROUP** sessions are re-starting after the summer break with a slight alteration. On alternate weeks there will be either a Zoom session or a face-to-face session: Thursday mornings on Zoom and Friday mornings at the Church - one session each week. Starting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September, Zoom at 9.30am (please note new time) then on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am a face-to-face meeting in the church. Zoom on Thursdays, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October. Face-to-face Fridays, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November. The same format will be used for both types of meeting. Both meetings are open to anyone but those not already on the lists for the earlier sessions will have to email to get the joining code for Zoom. The email address is [thurs.pray@gmail.com](mailto:thurs.pray@gmail.com) All are welcome. We look forward to praying with you.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY / HARVEST THANKSGIVING** Fast-day this year falls on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October CAFOD Fast Day and envelopes will be available. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October will take on a harvest theme as we give thanks for the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Labour and the Reverent use of Creation. This year, CAFOD is focusing on the poorest communities most affected by the climate crisis. This Harvest Appeal invites us to stand alongside them and help communities who are protecting Our Common Home. Why not give up a meal on fast day and donate the cost to the appeal?

**LOVE CHRISTMAS WEBINAR - 6TH OCTOBER** Looking for a way for your parish to spread love, hope and kindness in your community this Christmas? Love Christmas is a national initiative to do just this. Together we are mobilising volunteers through local churches to sponsor and deliver a million Christmas Boxes to the most vulnerable and isolated. By partnering together, you will be joining thousands of churches from across the UK. It is easy to take part and it is an effective way of reaching out to those around us. Join the Love Christmas webinar on Wednesday 6 October, 11am – 12pm to hear more and to find out how to get involved. Sign up here: [www.tfaforms.com/4917266](http://www.tfaforms.com/4917266)

**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 on Wednesday at 11.30am and Saturday at 5pm. 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.

**RETURNING TO A SUNDAY OBLIGATION** Since Lockdown in the Lent 2020, our Bishops released us from the Sunday Obligation. As we begin to move to more freedom, our Bishops call us to focus on the First Sunday of Advent (28<sup>th</sup> November) as a point where we pick up that 'obligation' once again. How can we view this? The Sunday obligation to attend Mass for Catholics shouldn't be seen as an "imposition," but an invitation to grow deeper in love with God. When a person really understands what's going on at Mass and who it is they have an opportunity to encounter and receive, then they literally build their weekend around Mass. St John Paul II explained this in his apostolic exhortation [Dies Domini](#). 'Even if in the earliest times it was not judged necessary to be prescriptive, the Church has not ceased to confirm this obligation of conscience, which rises from the inner need felt so strongly by the Christians of the first centuries. It was only later, faced with the half-heartedness or negligence of some, that the Church had to make explicit the duty to attend Sunday Mass. (47) So even today, the Catholic who is able to attend Mass must make every reasonable effort to be there. But above all, the obligation should not be seen as an "imposition," but an "invitation" to enter into the love of God, as St John Paul II reiterated. Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life ... "I would strongly urge everyone to rediscover Sunday: Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that he may cast light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity, and he gives us "his day" as an ever-new gift of his love ... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human.' The Sunday obligation is a great gift to humanity, and Catholics are called to fulfil it with a joyful heart.

**SONG GROUP / CANTORS** Psalm 150 proclaims ‘...let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord!’ Music can inspire people to change, to forgive, to live a joyful life, to love more and to pray better. It expresses things that we are unable to express in words alone. We are hoping to re gather singers to assist in singing the Sunday Masses as we move from recorded to live singing. If you would like to join, all you need is a love of singing and be able to give some time to practice. All ages and experiences are welcome. Do you play an instrument such as the organ, keyboard, flute, violin or trumpet and want to contribute? Instruments have been used to praise God since before the scriptures were written. If you play an instrument, you could add beauty to our music and enhance our worship. Please have a word with Fr Michael if you are able to help and we will schedule an initial get together to determine the way forward.

**TIME TO START SCHOOL?** If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, then now is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school in the Diocese, including St Patrick’s School. You must complete an application form (either online or on paper) that is available from the school admissions team of the Wiltshire Council, for admission during the 2022-23 school year. If your child has been baptised, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to your preferred school. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION** We are seeing a gradual rise in enquiries for infant baptism in the parish and would like to form a small parish baptism preparation team. This will involve giving a presentation to parents ahead of the baptism and offering support as they introduce their child to the Mass. All course materials and DVD’s etc will be provide. This ministry might suit younger parishioners with children of their own. Please see Fr Michael if you are interested in helping.

**FIND OUT ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH** Are you interested to know more about the Catholic Faith? Do you wish to be baptized? Do you want to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church? Do you know anyone who would like to know how to become a Catholic? If so, Journey in Faith or RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) might be just the thing. During these sessions we explore different aspects of the Catholic faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We listen to God’s word in Scripture, and we pray together. For more information, please contact us with a view to starting a journey in the autumn.

**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. Communion will be given in one kind only. Thank you.

**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)

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

**The Sick:** Peter Power: 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 Recently Departed:** Canon Desmond Millett: Ellen Donoghue.

**The Holy Father’s September Prayer Intention:** An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** St Dunstan, Somerton, St Joseph, Langport, Holy Ghost, Yeovil with S.Petherton

**Christians in Corsham Prayer Link:** Corsham Baptist Community

## October – Month of the Holy Rosary



**“With the Rosary, the Christian people *sit at the school of Mary* and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.”**  
—Pope Saint John Paul II

The Rosary is a traditional devotion which encourages prayerful meditation, through repetition of the prayers ‘Our Father’, ‘Hail Mary’ and ‘Glory Be’ while at the same time reflecting in turn on different episodes from the life of Christ (known as the ‘mysteries’). Rosary beads are used to count off the prayers. The Rosary brings us closer to Jesus Christ by allowing us to see the events of his life through the eyes of his blessed mother, Mary. It is a simple yet profound form of prayer, accessible to all.

Pope Francis has invited Catholics to rediscover the beauty of the rosary prayer this month, encouraging people to carry a rosary with them in their pockets. “I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries.” “I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations.” The pope said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the rosary in her apparitions, “especially in the face of the threats looming over the world.”

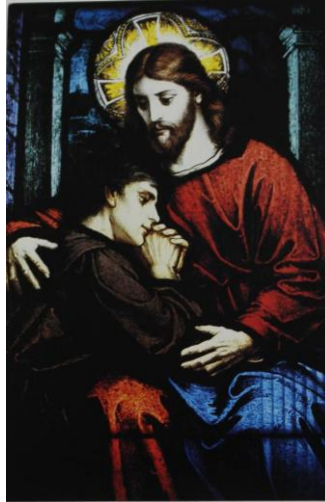
**O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. 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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

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



## First reading

Numbers 11:25-29

*A reading from the book of Numbers*

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 18(19):8,10,12-14

*The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.*

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

So in them your servant finds instruction;  
great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant  
and let it not rule me.  
Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin.

## Second reading

James 5:1-6

*A reading from the letter of St James*

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn17:17**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your word is truth, O Lord:  
consecrate us in the truth.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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