

# 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

27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF  
JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

10.30am Parish Mass (Please book)

Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Dec - Feast of the Holy  
Innocents, Martyrs

Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Dec - Feast of Saint Thomas  
Becket, Bp, Mr

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Dec - 6<sup>th</sup> Day in the Octave  
of Christmas

11.30am Eucharistic Adoration with  
prayer for an end to the pandemic.  
12noon Mass (Bookings only)

Thur 31<sup>st</sup> Dec - 7<sup>th</sup> Day in the Octave  
of Christmas / St Sylvester, Pope

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Jan - Solemnity of Mary, the  
Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)  
12noon Mass (Bookings only)

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan - Ss Basil the Great &  
Gregory Nazianzen, Bps, Drs

3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
10.30am Parish Mass (Booking only)

**CHRISTMASTIDE MASSES** The Bishops of England and Wales have suggested that the Masses during the Christmas Octave (i.e. Dec 26<sup>th</sup> until Jan 1<sup>st</sup>) 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 27<sup>th</sup> Dec for The Holy Family/ Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Dec for the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the Octave / Fri 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644). We have extended ticket numbers to 50 for these masses. We remind you that the current suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass also applies to Christmas.

**THANK BIG YOU** to all who have helped to prepare the Church for the Christmas celebrations. It hasn't been an easy time, but in spite of the need to socially distance the Church is looking very beautiful for Christmas. Thank you to our flower arrangers, tree decorators, cleaners, sacristans, servers and our stewards for all your hard work.

**FR MICHAEL** would like to say a big thank you to parishioners who have sent cards and gifts over the Christmas period. They are very much appreciated!

**BISHOP DECLAN'S PASTORAL LETTER** for the Feast of the Holy Family is available at <https://vimeo.com/494464195> It will also be read at Mass on Sunday.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION** 11.30am on Wednesdays we gather for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for an end to the pandemic. It's good to see many people coming along, so if you are coming to the noon Mass (30<sup>th</sup> Dec), do join us for these moments of prayer in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



**1st JANUARY NEW YEARS DAY- MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD** - St Athanasius wrote 'This was no mere fiction, as some have thought. Far from it! Our Saviour really did become man and this brought about the salvation of the whole man. Our salvation is no illusion, nor is it salvation of the body only: the salvation of the whole man, body and soul, was really brought about in the Word Himself. What was born of Mary was by nature human, the Lord's body was a real one - real, because Mary was our sister, since we are all descended

from Adam.' The Council of Ephesus decreed in 431, that Mary is 'Theotokos' - God-bearer - as her son Jesus is one person who is both God and man, human and divine. Mass of this Solemnity is celebrated on Friday at 12noon. Do join us and come and offer your New Year's resolutions to the Lord.

**YEAR OF COMMUNION**– 27th December - Feast of the Holy Family As we come to the end of 2020, we know that it is a year that most of us will never forget. It has been a year like no other. Family life has been turned upside down in so many ways. For some families the time together has been a rich and rewarding experience. For others, especially those without outside space or space for working at home, it has been exceptionally challenging. For some families, it has meant not being able to see one another for weeks and months at a time. It has brought joys and sorrows for many, especially for those families where elderly relatives in care homes have been inaccessible or family members in hospital unable to have visitors. Whether it has been a positive or a painful experience for us, we are not alone. Mary, Joseph and Jesus experience similar trials in their family life. In their joy, the parents of Jesus as a baby, bring him to the Temple as the Law required. What they did not expect to hear was the painful prophecy of Simeon. In life there are always times of joy and sorrow. Trusting that the Lord is there, present within it all can challenge us but as we enter into 2021, let us take that trust and believe that whatever life may throw at us we are in the loving embrace of the Lord who will never abandon us.

**GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK** - Many Priests and Bishops, including Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham, Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth, Bishop Alan Hopes of East Anglia, Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon of Brentwood, Archbishop Emeritus of Leeds Arthur Roche, Bishop Charles Henderson RIP and Bishop John Hine both of Southwark, have joined pro-life vigils outside abortion centres. The Home Secretary, Priti Patel is thinking of banning Catholics from offering help to the Mums going into the abortion centres. To receive a template of a letter, with more details about why she should not ban these prayerful peaceful vigils, that you can send to The Home Secretary please email [info@goodcounselnetwork.com](mailto:info@goodcounselnetwork.com) or telephone 02077231740.

**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

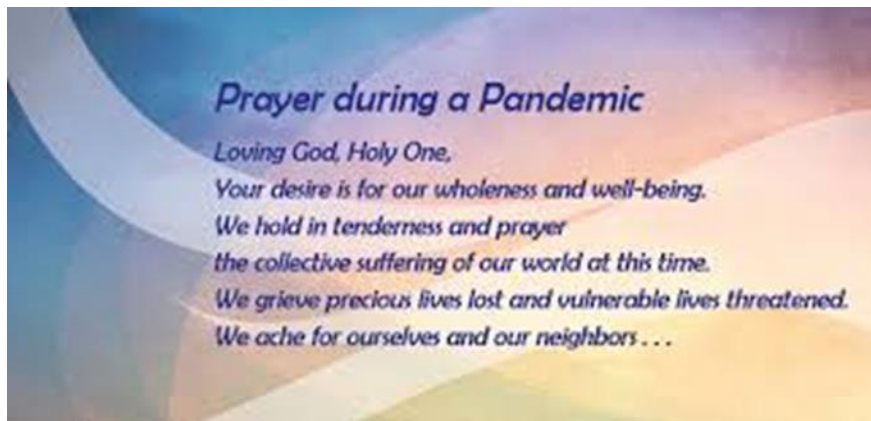
**The Sick:** Richard Keat, James Gallagher, Karen Lucas, Rob Jones, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, John Hunt, Margaret Brown, Lindsay Price and Christopher. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**Pope Francis December Prayer Intention:** Human Fraternity: That the Lord give us grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Ss Peter and Paul, Bath

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

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



**First reading**

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14

*A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus*

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**

Psalm 127(128):1-5

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

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**

Col 3:15,16

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

### **Gospel**

Luke 2:22-40

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.