

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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LATEST NEWS

THE WORD THIS SUNDAY

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

Baruch 5:1-9 This reading expresses the loyalty of widely scattered Jews to their homeland and its single temple in Jerusalem. The metaphor is that Jerusalem finally sees its exiled citizens coming home. Led by God, their path is made level and smooth.

Philippians 1:3-6,8-11 Christians in Philippi had received Saint Paul and his gospel eagerly and had helped him on further apostolic missions. Paul loves them and is confident that they'll be ready when Jesus comes again in glory.

Luke 3: 1-6 Today's gospel passage is from Luke's treatment of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. John the Baptist uses the same "smoothed path" image we heard in the first reading. But it is the Lord, not exiles, traveling the path now.

THANK YOU to Guy and Keith for beginning the task of renewing the Church audio system, loudspeakers, and loop. Everything has been moved to the gallery which is much more streamlined for the operators at Mass.

LITURGY - A CALL TO LOVE Our Diocesan Liturgy Office has produced a series of videos, entitled A Call to Love to remind and encourage us of the importance of the Mass in our lives as Catholic Christians. Covid has given us space to re-think, and to recapture, the noble simplicity of our liturgies, reminding us of their true meaning. The videos can be accessed on the diocesan website, www.cliftondiocese.com.

5TH DECEMBER 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am Sung Parish Mass

Mon 6TH Dec - No Mass

Tue 7th Dec - St Ambrose, Bp, Dr
5pm Mass (Chippenham)

Wed 8th Dec - Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of the BVM
11.15am Eucharistic Adoration
& Synod Prayer / Meditation
12noon Mass (Corsham)

Thur 9th Dec - St Juan Diego
Cuahtlatoatzin
12.10pm Mass (Chippenham)

Fri 10th Dec - Our Lady of Loreto
12noon Mass (Corsham)

Sat 11th Dec - Advent Weekday

12TH DECEMBER 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9am Sung Parish Mass

Confessions are heard after weekday
mass or by appointment.

CHRISTMAS MASSES Please see the Christmas Leaflet for masses this Season and details of booking via Eventbrite. Christmas Eve 9pm and Christmas Day 9am and the Sunday of the Feast of the Holy Family 9am.
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644

MASS OBLIGATION In the statement issued last weekend, the Bishops of England and Wales said: ‘At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.’ The obligation to attend mass on Sundays and Holydays remains suspended.

SYNOD 2021/ 2023 Please visit the diocesan website for latest resources and information for the Synodal journey we are all invited to participate in, including videos of the keynote talks. As part of our Advent Journey and our response to the call to prepare for the Synod 2023, there will be a time of prayer and reflection on the Synod themes of Communion, Participation and Mission, on Wednesdays December, 8th, and 15th from 11.15am to 12noon with Eucharistic adoration. Francis invites everyone to participate in the 2023 Synod Process. In prayer we are asked to listen to each other’s hopes, dreams and concerns for the Church in the future. During Advent we will spend time listening to God first. Then we will gather in January to listen to the community and a parish response will be sent to Bishop Declan by the end of February. This process will be guided by Fr Michael and the PPC.

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT THE ABORTION AMENDMENTS Please urgently contact your MP asking them to support proposed law changes to ban sex-selective abortion, reduce the abortion time limit and stop the abortion of babies with disabilities right up to birth. It only takes 30 seconds here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/takeactionabortion>

MARY’S MEALS DOUBLE THE LOVE From November to January, every gift given to Mary’s Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. This means a gift of just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children, a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year! Your kindness brings joy to more than two million children around the world who we serve – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict and the ongoing Covid pandemic. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk.

MISSIO is excited to share opportunities to connect and reflect throughout the Season of Advent. Our online reflections and a mission-focused online Advent Calendar are designed to bring communities across England and Wales together in prayer. Starting on 26 November 2021 and taking place every Friday at 10:30am, the online reflections will be shared from the Missio chapel in Eccleston Square. Each week will feature a guest speaker who will be focusing on how Advent is celebrated around the world, whilst reflecting on the upcoming Sunday readings. Supporters can join in by watching the livestream at www.YouTube.com/MissioUK and the reflections will be available to watch shortly after at www.missio.org.uk/livesstreamed/

TOWN CAROLS on Tuesday 21st December. In Church Square St Bartholomew’s Church/Corsham Court Car Park. This year, in view of the Covid situation, the committee have decided that in the event of rain we will cancel the service. Masks are advised.

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 before midweek mass. 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.

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.

CLEANING JOB VACANCY St Patrick’s Church are seeking to employ a hall cleaner with experience of vacuuming, brushing, mopping, polishing, cleaning toilets and washrooms, etc. 2 hours per week on Thursdays (subject to change depending on bookings) with the flexibility of additional monthly £9.50 per hour, starting ASAP. A full job description is available upon request from treasurer.corsham.stpatrick@cliftondiocese.com

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.chaplainy@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.

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 November Prayer Intention: People Who Suffer from Depression
We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Recently Departed: Fr Nick Tranter

Diocesan Prayer Link: St John the Baptist, Trowbridge & St Bernadette, Westbury

Christians in Corsham Prayer Link: St Patrick's Catholic Church

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:

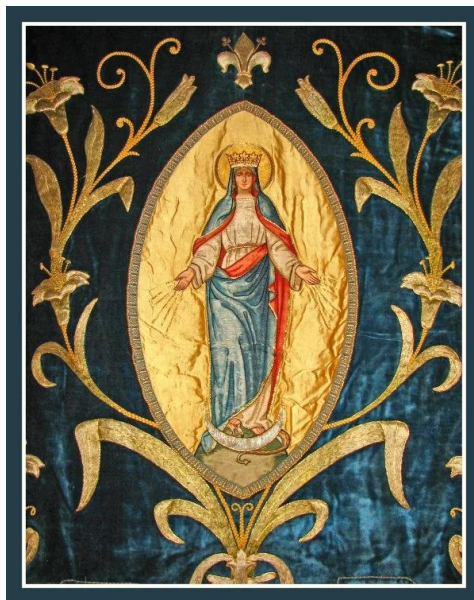
490. *To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role”. The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace”. In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, 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

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

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



First reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,

the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125(126)

*What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.*

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves.

Second reading

Philippians 1:3-6,8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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