

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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LATEST NEWS

3RD JANUARY 2021

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
THE NATIVITY

10.30am Parish Mass (Please book)

Mon 4th Jan - Weekday of Christmas

Tue 5th - Weekday of Christmas

Wed 6th - THE SOLEMNITY OF
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

11.30am Eucharistic Adoration with
prayer for an end to the pandemic.

12noon Mass (Bookings only)

Thur 7th - Thursday after Epiphany
St Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Fri 8th - Friday after Epiphany

Sat 9th Jan - Saturday after Epiphany

10TH JANUARY 2021

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM
OF THE LORD

10.30am Parish Mass (Booking only)

CHRISTMASTIDE We continue this week to celebrate Christmastide and the Epiphany of the Lord. When the secular world is perhaps 'Christmased-out', the liturgy of the Church celebrates a prolongation as well as an anticipation of Christmas. We continue to celebrate Christmas until 10th January, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. After that we move into Ordinary Time which continues until the Season of Lent.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD The Western Church began to celebrate the Epiphany in the 4th century where it was, and still is, associated with the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus when God revealed himself to the world through the wonder of the incarnation of Jesus. The Magi (traditionally named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) found Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem. In the gospel of Matthew, they offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing, frankincense his divinity and myrrh his human mortality. The word *Epiphany* means 'to show' or 'to reveal' and the feast is celebrated on 6th January. The Epiphany is seen as a continuation of the Christmas season, a season of manifesting/showing the Christ to the world. The

three great manifestations of this part of Christmastide are the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus and Jesus' first miracle at the marriage at Cana. Traditionally after the gospel of the day the deacon or cantor may sing the dates of the moveable feasts for the coming year (see the missal p.1505) We celebrate the beautiful Solemnity of the Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January at 12noon.

MASS BOOKINGS Please remember to continue to reserve a place at Mass during the pandemic. Book now at www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644. During this time seats are very limited due to the ongoing need for social distancing. It was good to see many people returning to Mass over Christmas.



THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES A tradition associated with the Epiphany is the blessing of homes. Using blessed chalk, a person may mark the lintel of the main door of the house with the initials of the Magi and a code of the current year. The text of the blessing can be found at the end of this bulletin if you wish to use it.

THANK 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.

STAYING SAFE As a result of the recent government announcement, all parishes within our diocese are now in either Tier 3 or Tier 4. In Corsham, we are now in **Tier 3**. The Vicar General of the Diocese has provided the following table to help us understand the guidelines. We ask all parishioners to follow them closely to keep everyone safe.

ACTIVITY	TIER 3 – VERY HIGH	TIER 4 – STAY AT HOME
Mass/public acts of worship	Mass, communal worship or prayer can be attended by as many people as the place of worship can safely accommodate, in a way which complies with COVID-19 secure guidance which includes the requirements of social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and cleaning requirements.	Mass, communal worship or prayer can be attended by as many people as the place of worship can safely accommodate, in a way which complies with COVID-19 secure guidance which includes the requirements of social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and cleaning requirements.
Mixing with Parishioners	Clergy must not mix socially with parishioners before or after mass.	Clergy must not mix socially with parishioners before or after mass.
Attending Mass	People must not attend Mass in groups of more than 6 nor with people from outside of their household or support bubble. Those attending mass must not mix with people, even family members and friends, from outside of their household or support bubble while inside or outside the church building.	People must not attend Mass in groups of more than 6 nor with people from outside of their household or support bubble. Those attending mass must not mix with people, even family members and friends, from outside of their household or support bubble while inside or outside the church building.
Singing in Church	There is to be no congregational singing. A cantor or a choir may sing during mass. When there is a choir, singers are to be spaced at least 2 meters apart in all directions. Musicians must adhere to social distancing requirements.	There is to be no congregational singing. A cantor or a choir may sing during mass. When there is a choir, singers are to be spaced at least 2 meters apart in all directions. Musicians must adhere to social distancing requirements.
Baptisms	Baptisms can take place. When taking place outside of Mass the number attending is limited to 6, which includes the person being baptised but not the priest/deacon. Those attending can only be from the household or support bubble of the person being baptised. When a baptism takes place in a Mass which must be part of the normal pattern of parish Masses, the number of attending will be determined by the secure capacity for the church building. Those attending	Baptisms can take place. When taking place outside of Mass the number attending is limited to 6, which includes the person being baptised but not the priest/deacon. Those attending can only be from the household or support bubble of the person being baptised. When a baptism takes place in a Mass which must be part of the normal pattern of parish Masses, the number of attending will be determined by the secure capacity for the church building. Those attending can

	can only be from the same household or support bubble	only be from the same household or support bubble
Weddings	A Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service can take place but must have no more than 15 people attending. Anyone working is not included as part of the limit on those attending. Wedding receptions are not permitted.	A Nuptial Mass or Wedding Service should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example urgent marriages where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or due to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. In such cases weddings must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included. Wedding receptions are not permitted.
Funerals	Requiem Mass or Funeral Service can take place with a maximum of 30 attendees. If the secure capacity determined by the COVID-19 risk assessment for the church building or Crematorium Chapel is less than 30, then the secure capacity number applies. The maximum number of 30 or the safe capacity number if lower does not include the priest/deacon or funeral staff. Wakes can take place with a maximum of 15 attendees.	Requiem Mass or Funeral Service can take place with a maximum of 30 attendees. If the secure capacity determined by the COVID-19 risk assessment for the church building or Crematorium Chapel is less than 30, then the secure capacity number applies. The maximum number of 30 or the safe capacity number if lower does not include the priest/deacon or funeral staff. Wakes can take place with a maximum of 6 attendees.
Pastoral Visits	Cannot take place except in the case of terminal illness or end of life care.	Cannot take place except in the case of terminal illness or end of life care.
Travel	Avoid travelling out of area except to attend Weddings or Funerals. A priest may travel out of area to cover a Mass supply. A deacon may travel out of area to officiate at a Wedding, Funeral or Baptism service.	Avoid travelling out of area except to attend Weddings or Funerals. A priest may travel out of area to cover a Mass supply. A deacon may travel out of area to officiate at a Wedding, Funeral or Baptism service.
Small Prayer & Study Groups	Limits for prayer and study groups should be decided on the basis of the capacity of the place of worship or meeting room following an appropriate assessment of risk.	These cannot take place in person.

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!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 11.30am on Wednesdays we gather for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for an end to the pandemic. If you are coming to the noon Mass (6th Jan- the Epiphany of the Lord), do join us for these moments of prayer in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

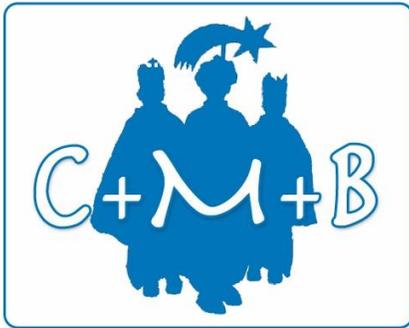
MAEVE HEFFERNAN'S BOOKS Maeve left quite a few books, reference, novels and religious. If you might be interested in giving some a home, please contact Anne Keat.

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 McMahan 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 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

AN EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Peace be to this house and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.
Blessed be God forever

A reading from the holy gospel according to John
Glory to You, O Lord

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:1-3.14*)

Magi from the East came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasure chests they presented Him with precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.
Alleluia.

Let us pray. God, who on this day revealed your only begotten Son to all nations by the guidance of a star, grant that we who now know you by faith may finally behold you in your heavenly majesty, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Each room of the home may then be sprinkled with holy water.

At the entrance: O God, protect our going out and our coming in; Let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us, that those who enter here may know your love and peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the living room: O God, give your blessings to all who share this room that we may be knit together in companionship. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the kitchen: O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on us, as we work in this kitchen, and make us ever thankful for our daily bread. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the dining room: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the bedrooms: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, we may rest in his peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the bathroom: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. You formed us in wisdom and love. Refresh us in body and in spirit and keep us in good health that we might serve you. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All return to the starting place. A cross or icon is kissed by each person, and then put in a place of honour. A candle may be lighted before it. All recite the **Lord's Prayer**

If the chalk is not blessed the following prayer is used:

May God, who provided a safe dwelling place for the eternal Word, bless this chalk, the homes of the faithful, and the people who live there, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Take the blessed chalk and first write the initials of the three Wise Men, connected with Crosses, over the inside of your front door (on the lintel, if possible). Then write the year, breaking up the numbers and the year so that they fall on both sides of the initials

20 C + M + B 21

with the "20" being the millennium and century, the "C" standing for the first Wise Man, Caspar, the "M" standing for Melchior, the "B" standing for Balthasar, and the "21" standing for the decade and year. It is also popularly believed that the Kings' initials also stand for "**Christus Mansionem Benedicat**" ("May Christ bless this house")

Be our shelter, Lord, when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return. and at last, receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where you live for ever and ever. **Amen.**

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord. **Amen**

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.

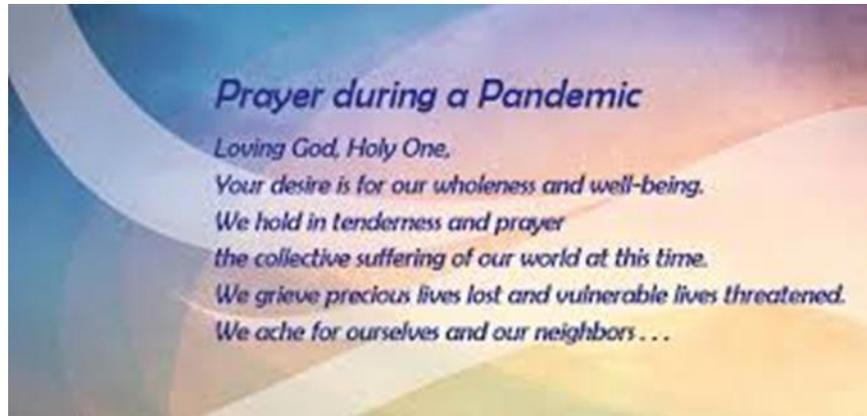
Recently Departed: Rob Jones

Pope Francis January 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: St John the Evangelist, Bath

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

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.

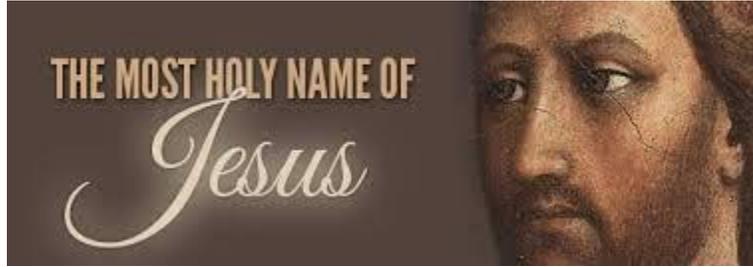
We pray for those who are suffering with sickness
and all who are caring for them.

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.

January - Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus



"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he appears to the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation: "Behold you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "Saviour." The very name speaks of the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us. The celebration of the Holy Name of Jesus falls on the 3rd January, which this year is the 2nd Sunday of Christmas.

Prayer to the Holy Name – St Bernardine of Siena

Jesus, Name full of glory, grace, love and strength! You are the refuge of those who repent, our banner of warfare in this life, the medicine of souls, the comfort of those who mourn, the delight of those who believe, the light of those who preach the true faith, the wages of those who toil, the healing of the sick.

To You our devotion aspires; by You our prayers are received; we delight in contemplating You. O Name of Jesus, You are the glory of all the saints for eternity. Amen.

St Bernardine of Siena

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 Second Sunday of Christmas



First reading

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High,
she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;

“Then the creator of all things instructed me,
and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, “Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance.”
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people,
in the Lord’s property, in his inheritance.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

The Word was made flesh,
and lived among us.
Or Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love

in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.1Tim3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,

to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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