



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

26, London Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5AX

Father Clive Dytor holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk 07484 158642

Website <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com>

Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 15th February 2026 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

Why do we need laws? Wouldn't life be much better if we could all do as we liked? This approach has been tried and generally ends in chaos. Indeed, social scientists suggest that humans have an innate tendency and need to make laws in order to create order, not anarchy. There are some areas of the world not governed by laws: Antarctica is one example. The 1959 Treaty ensured that no-one owns this enormous territory. That may change with the current American President! This is unusual and can create tensions, as we are seeing at present.

For the Hebrews there was one overriding and dominant set of laws: the Torah, or Law of Moses, 613 commandments contained in the first five books of the Old Testament. A better translation of Torah would be "Teaching" or "Guidance" as this code lays down the rules on ceremonial, civic and moral life, in fact every aspect of Jewish existence. The Ten Commandments delivered by Moses on Mount Sinai are simply the summary for everyday living.

In today's Gospel Jesus says:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them".

He then addresses individual issues like anger, desire, divorce and so on. What does the Lord mean? If you examine His words, you will discover that the focus is on, not the external but the internal. The Old Law concerned itself with the outward observance of rules laid down by Moses and the elders of Israel over the centuries—circumcision of baby boys, clean/unclean foods, ritual purity etc. Jesus is trying to shift attention to the intention or motivation for actions. So anger harboured against another person is the root for murder, sly glances at another are the seed of desire, casual treatment of a wife leads to infidelity.

Jesus uses hyperbolic language to shock and make a point:

"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away... if your right hand causes you to sin, chop it off and throw it away".

If we took these words literally, the churches would be full of one-eyed, one-handed worshippers!

The point is that we need to be aware of our intentions and motivations, what is going on inside, that determine what happens in our words and actions. "God looks on the heart".

This next week we have an opportunity to reflect on our inner selves as we begin the great season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes this Wednesday. Why not make this year one of substantial spiritual progress and growth by following the Church's guidance for deeper Prayer, regular Fasting and generous Almsgiving? Let's remember the old saying: A good Lent makes for a better Easter! Holy Week is only six weeks away!

God bless everyone, Fr. Clive

Parish Notices

Second Collection: Life, the charity that supports the unborn.

Masses/Rosary this week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:15am Mass. Friday Holy Rosary for Peace 9:15am.

Wednesday: Mass with Imposition of Ashes 9:15am St. Teresas, 7pm Holy Trinity.

Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. That means no meat and one substantial meal only and two lighter ones.

The Requiem for *Richard Lethbridge* is at 12:30pm on Wednesday 25th February. It will be celebrated in St. Mary's, the Anglican parish church in Charlbury.

There will be another big funeral, for *Aidan Hughes*, this time in St. Mary's, the Anglican parish church in Chipping Norton. Time and date to be confirmed.

First Communion and Reception classes as usual.

Join our new WhatsApp Community: scan the QR below (or use this [link](#) if viewing on your mobile) to receive the latest from the parish as well as chat with fellow worshippers. It's currently a work-in-progress, but we hope to flesh it out in time.

In February, let us pray with the Holy Father, that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. The people of the Middle East, Ukraine, and Sudan.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tammy Lawson** and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.



THE RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**ACN is leading a campaign for the enactment of Article 18 -
Religious Freedom in the International Declaration of Human
Rights.**

**The QR code overleaf gives further information and allows
you to sign in support.**

**Thanks,
Suze,
ACN Parish Representative.**

THE RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

ARTICLE

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