



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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Alternative phone numbers for emergencies: Trowbridge 01225 752152 or Chippenham 01249 652404

Diary

- Sunday 15th December** **Third Sunday of Advent, Mass 9.00 am.** Children's Liturgy; all children up to 12 years old welcome. Refreshments in the hall (**Mass at St Edmund's Sat. 6.00pm; Sun. 11.00 am**).
- Monday 16th December** Mothers' Prayers 10.30 in the Hall
- Tuesday 17th December** The Church will be open for Rosary, 10.30 am.
- Wednesday 18th December** **Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Morning Mass 10.00 am.** Breaking open and sharing the Word in the Hall
- Thursday 19th December** Adoration 10.00 am to 7.00pm
- Friday 20th December** **Morning Prayer 09.40 am;** No Prayer Group until the New Year.
- Saturday 21st December** **Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church. Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Morning Mass 10.00am.** Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.45 am.

Sundays Year A; Psalter Week 3 and Proper of Season

Readings: Reading 1 – Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Psalm Refrain: Come Lord, and save us.

Reading 2 – James 5: 7-10

Gospel – Matthew 11: 2-11

Collections: Sunday 8th December £200; this week, retiring collection for Christmas flowers. Standing orders to the parish total £243.00 per week.

Flora, Morag and Ian would like to thank everyone in the Parish for their prayers and kind thoughts during George's illness.

Sunday 15th December – St Anthony's Advent Service, 3.00 pm

Sunday 22nd December – Father Christmas: During refreshments after Mass Father Christmas and Olaf will be visiting. While they are visiting they will be handing out small gifts to 16 yr. olds and under.

First Holy Communion 2020: Please enter the names of children who wish to take First Holy Communion Classes for 2020 on the clipboard in the porch. There will be a meeting for parents of candidates in January.

Christmas Rota – Readers and Eucharistic Ministers: Available in the porch for sign-up.

Mary's Meals Backpack project: Grateful thanks to everyone for your generous contributions, we managed to fill 10 backpacks. These have now been collected in time for the next shipment in mid-December. Job done, and 10 happy children in Malawi!

Parish Charities 2020: The charities with the largest votes from the parish, and who we shall support during 2020 are: Local Charity – Wiltshire Air Ambulance; Overseas Charity – Mary's Meals.

Pilgrimage to Krakow with St Edmund's Calne – September 21st- 25th 2020: Information packs available in the porch, or email admin.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com

Clifton Diocese Advent Reflections: A weekly series of video Reflections to help us to engage more fully with Advent and its rich themes, on the Diocesan website: <https://cliftondiocese.com/advent-reflections/>

Saturday 18th January - Catechists' Day, St Brendan's College Bristol: We welcome David Wells back to the Diocese to help us explore what it means to 'share our story'. In addition to his two talks, there will be a range of workshops on offer which will help new and experienced catechists and evangelists to engage more deeply with their role and mission. These will include: First Communion Preparation, Accompanying parents, Confirmation catechesis, Sharing our Story – Alpha, Baptismal Preparation, Liturgy and Catechesis and Sacramental Rites. All are welcome to this day; no experience necessary. The day starts at 10am (with refreshments from 9.30am) and will finish 3.30pm, please bring a packed lunch.

Starting School? If you have a child born between **1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2020 onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of the **Wiltshire Council**. If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school concerned – contact the school for full details. Our parish school is St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Corsham <http://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk/>, telephone number 01249 713125; email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15 January 2020**.

Foundation Directors - Romero Catholic Schools Trust (Swindon based): The Bishop and Trustees wish to appoint 6 foundation Directors for this new emerging Multi-Academy Trust of 4 schools in Swindon. It will be the first within Clifton Diocese and will be an exciting opportunity for all concerned. Nominations from new and existing Foundation Governors/Directors would be welcome. The Diocese and schools concerned are looking for people with a range of skills including: *Strategic Planning; Corporate Governance; Project management; Risk management; Change management; Financial management; Employment law and Practice; Education*. If you are interested, please contact Director of Schools and Colleges Mrs Colleen Collett colleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com or complete the forms available on <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance> under Recruitment. **Closing date: 3rd January 2020.**
Interviews - week commencing 6th January 2020

Melksham Foodbank: Desperately need donations; please look on the website for further information: <http://melkshamfoodbank.org.uk/foodbox-contents/>. Please donate non-perishable food, e.g. potatoes (instant) Peas, carrots (canned) sugar, pasta, UHT milk, and ensure that these items are within the "use by" dates.

Gift Aid: Contact for all queries: Tricia Hoy 01225 704805.

Sick & Housebound: Please let Fr Vincent or Mary Harris 01249 730340 know if anyone sick, elderly or housebound would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion.

If anyone is going into the Royal United Hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the RUH Chaplaincy; direct line 01225 428331, or email: ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

Please pray for the following: Mrs. Rosa Menghini, Vilma D'Sousa, Don d'Cruz, Mrs Kathleen Murphy, John Doyle, Mrs Marian Frawley, Geoff Blwyddin, Mrs Jean Irwin, Mrs Jeanette Allsop, Mrs Bridie Liddle, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, David Coughlin, Katja Lubina, Mrs Audrey Tickner, Patrick Egan, Mrs Jonasz. Deacon David Wakefield, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Alan Glass, Fr Richard Northey, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse.

Please note – due to GDPR regulations, we are obliged to have the consent of the person you wish to pray for (or that of a close family member) before publishing their name in the newsletter.

Drivers: Please be careful entering and leaving the car park and leave the turning area free. Please do not block neighbours' entrances.

Please send items and information for the newsletter to:

comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com or give to Sharon Pearce or Anne Doyle by each Thursday **Please email to the above address if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, or complete the form at the back of church.**

Dates for your Diary:

Melksham Family of Churches – Christmas 2019 Events Programme: Please see the posters in the porch and hall.

18th – 25th January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: This year, resources have been created by Churches Together in Malta, and are called "Unusual Kindness". St Anthony's is hosting on 24th January.

Melksham Family of Churches' programme is as follows:

Wednesday 22nd January 11.00 am St Michael's – Prayer and praise followed by communion;

Thursday 23rd January 2.30 pm Queensway Chapel – Songs of Praise;

Friday 24th January – 10.00 am St Anthony's – Prayer for the seventh day;

Saturday 25th January – 11.00 am Melksham Baptist Church – prayer and praise

Sunday 26th January – 11.00 am Covenant Service, St. Michael's Church

Youth Ministry - Catechists' Formation Courses starting Wednesday 29th January 2020, St Osmund,

Salisbury SP1 2SF: Designed for the formation of the catechists of our diocese, this course includes the diocesan day gathering on Saturday 27th June 2020. There are some engaging and stimulating facilitators for each session. The course will run on a Wednesday evening, once a month through the year. The session on 29th January is designed to set the scene for the monthly sessions that follow. Sessions start at 7.30pm with refreshments from 7pm. Further information can be found on the Clifton Diocese [website](#). Those wishing to take part in the series will need to send their registration details to Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX by the end of January. There is a minimal cost to the course of £50 which may be subsidised by your parish. Cheques are to be made payable to *Clifton Diocese*. Details are on the [booking form](#).

A new course in Youth Ministry - starting January 2020: Facilitated by Clifton Diocese, this opportunity mirrors the Liturgy Course by forming, training and preparing those in our parishes for ministry. Open to all in our parishes, those currently in ministry either through Confirmation, parish youth groups, chaplaincy, first Holy Communion, or those interested in serving young people. Each session is facilitated by experts in the field of Youth Ministry, covering topics such as Confirmation, Scriptural reflections, Catholic Social teaching and forming young disciples. If you would like to apply for this course which will be funded by the parish, please speak with Fr Vincent.

Teachers – including those who are now retired: Teachers and retired teachers can make a valuable contribution to the governing body of a school. Sharing experience and good practice benefits the governing body and the school and enables you to utilise and grow your skills and experience in a different context. We would love to hear from you. Please contact bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com for more information about becoming a Foundation Governor.