



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 22nd December Fourth 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 23rd December Mothers' Prayers 10.30 in the Hall

Tuesday 24th December The Church will be open for Rosary, 10.30 am. **Family Mass 5.30 pm; Night Mass 9.00 pm**

Wednesday 25th December Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Mass 9.00 am.

Thursday 26th December No Adoration today

Friday 27th December Morning Prayer 09.40 am; No Prayer Group until the New Year.

Saturday 28th December Feast of the Holy Innocents. Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Morning Mass 10.00am. Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.45 am.

Sundays Year A; Psalter Week 4 and Proper of Season

Readings: Reading 1 – Isaiah 7: 10-14

Psalm Refrain: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Reading 2 – Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel – Matthew 1: 18-25



Christmas Readings

Tuesday 24th 24th December Christmas Eve: Children and Families' Mass 5.30 pm

Reading 1: Isaiah 62: 1-5,

Psalm refrain: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Reading 2: Acts 13 16 17, 22-25, **Gospel:** Matthew 1: 1-25

Night Mass 9.00 pm

Reading 1: Isaiah 9: 1-7,

Psalm refrain: Today a saviour has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord.

Reading 2: Timothy 2: 11-14, **Gospel:** Luke 2: 1-14

December 25th Christmas Day Mass 9.00 am

Reading 1- Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Reading 2: Hebrews 1: 1-6, **Gospel:** John 1: 1-18

Sunday 29th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Mass 9.00 am. No Children's Liturgy this week. Refreshments in the hall (Mass at St Edmund's Sat. 6.00pm; Sun. 11.00 am).

Monday 30th December Mothers' Prayers 10.30 in the Hall

Tuesday 31st December The Church will be open for Rosary, 10.30 am.

Wednesday 1st January Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Morning Mass 11.00 am; followed by a "Bring and Share" lunch in the hall.

Thursday 2nd January Adoration 10.00 am to 7.00pm

Friday 3rd January Morning Prayer 09.40 am; No Prayer Group until the New Year.

Saturday 4th January Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Morning Mass 10.00am. Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.45 am.

Sundays Year A; Psalter Week 1 and Proper of Season

Readings: Reading 1 – Eccles 3: 2-6, 12-14

Psalm Refrain: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Reading 2 – Colossians 3: 12-21

Gospel – Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

Collections: Sunday 15th December £219.20; Christmas flowers £129.10. Standing orders to the parish total £243.00 per week. Christmas offerings are for our parish priest; Easter and Christmas offerings form the main source of income for our priests!

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

Wednesday 1st January: Bring and Share lunch after Mass. Signup sheet in the porch for contributions, please, to ensure a variety of dishes!!

Red Missio Boxes: Please bring your red Missio box to church before the end of December. Thank you.

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.

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!

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

Diocesan Parish Christmas Mass Times: Now on the Diocesan website - <https://cliftondiocese.com/advent-2019-mass-times/>

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.

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**.

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”. Everyone is welcome to all events. 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

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’. There will be a range of workshops on offer to 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.

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](#).

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.

Faith in Politics, an internship run by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales: Bishop John Arnold on behalf of the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, has written a letter to bring the following to your attention:

‘We are looking to recruit six Catholic graduates to work for 11 months from September 2020 to July 2021 in Parliamentary and Public Affairs posts. The interns will be selected on the basis of ability and potential to gain most from the experience. The interns will all live together, with 70 other students, in More House, a Catholic Chaplaincy and Student Centre in Central London. Financial support will be provided to cover living and travel costs for the duration of the internship.

Further information is available at www.faithinpolitics.org.uk; this is also where they must submit their application. **The closing date is 5pm on Friday 28 February 2020.** I am delighted to tell you that Faith in Politics has been featured on www.laityinvolved.org, a website launched by the Holy See’s Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life in November 2019, highlighting the mission of promoting and evangelizing laity.

With best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and New Year.’

Bishop John Arnold