



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

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 Follow us on Instagram: [@stanthony0fpaduachurch](https://www.instagram.com/stanthony0fpaduachurch)

 Facebook: [St Anthony of Padua Melksham](https://www.facebook.com/StAnthonyofPaduaMelksham)

Alternative phone numbers for emergencies: Trowbridge 01225 752152 or Corsham 01249 712136

Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent (year B): Mass 9.00am
St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am

Wednesday 13th December: Morning Prayer 9.45 am; Mass at 10.00 am

Thursday 14th December: Adoration 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 15th December - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3.00 pm

Saturday 16th December: Mass 10.00 am

St Edmund's Calne: Mass 6.00 pm

Please be aware that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales states:
"The Roman Rite does not permit that communicants themselves dip their host into the Precious Blood"

Reconciliation after Mass on Saturdays, or by arrangement with Fr Vincent

Daily readings at end of newsletter

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Christmas Services at St Anthony of Padua and St Edmund's are as follows:

Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve:
Fourth Sunday of Advent

St Anthony of Padua – 9.00 am
St Edmund's 11.00 am

Children and family Christmas Eve Mass
Night Mass

St Anthony of Padua - 5.00 pm and 9.00 pm
St Edmund's - 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm

Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day:

St Anthony of Padua - 9.00 am
St Edmund's 11.00 am

Reconciliation at St Edmund's Calne – Wednesdays 13th and 20th December, 6.00 pm -7.00 pm

Christmas Collections are for Fr Vincent and are the main source of income for the priest.

PARISH NEWS

Sunday 10th December - Children's Liturgy of the Word

This week – Retiring Collection for the Poor Missions of the Diocese
Next week – Retiring collection for Christmas flowers

Wednesday 13th December – PPC Meeting in the hall after Mass.

Diocesan Diaries and Directories: If you ordered a Diary and/or Directory, please collect them from the hall. Payment can be made to Sharon, Michael or put in the publications box in church.

Red Missio Boxes: If you have a red Missio box, please hand it in to Patrick as soon as possible, so that

the count can be done before the end of December. Thank you.

Advent Services: St Anthony and St Edmund are holding joint Advent Services; St Edmund's Advent Service is today, Sunday 10th December at 3.00pm, and St Anthony's will be held here next Sunday 17th December at 3.00 pm. We do hope you can come!

Christmas Cards – For reasons of space we must ask you please NOT to leave Christmas cards for people in the church porch. There will be a "Parish Card" for you to sign instead of giving cards to fellow parishioners, in return for a donation to our parish project. If you would like to purchase Christmas Cards for others, we have some for purchase, £2.00 per pack of 10. Please see Sheila Likely-Ayling after Mass.

Confirmations 2024: The Confirmation of St Anthony's young people will be celebrated in October 2024. We now need volunteers to help with a programme of preparation for the candidates. If you would be willing to help with this, please speak to Father Vincent.

First Holy Communion

Parents of children in primary school year 3 and above whose children would like to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion are invited to put their contact details and names of children on the sheet in the porch. Regular church attendance at Mass is required. First Communion classes will begin in January following an initial meeting with parents and children.

Next Saturday 16th December – Christmas Carols outside Melksham United Church - 10.30 am for 11.00am start; come and join us!

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2024 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. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of 15th January 2024.

Also this week: Monday 11th December: Mothers' Prayers in the Hall, 10.30 am

"Move it or Lose It" keep fit exercises are now on their Christmas break and will resume in the New Year

Wednesday 13th December: Breaking Open and Sharing the Word in the church after Mass.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please pray for: Geoff Blwyddin, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, Patrick Egan, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, Janice Kuranlu, Anne Doyle, Sheila Likely-Ayling, Anne O'Mahony, Lorraine Pavey, Francis Ballinger, Shireen Doyle, Fr John O'Toole, Tess Jones, Kelvin Boorer, Maureen Westlake, Liz McGrane, Isaac Anderson, June Carey, Michael Bramwell, Val Stiles, Dawn Holt, Dave Disney, Gay Harris, Fr Vincent, David Harris. All who are suffering from illness, and those finding life difficult.

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. If anyone in the Royal United Hospital would like Holy Communion, please telephone 01225 824039 and leave a message, or Email ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

DIOCESAN NEWS

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star - Shafts of Light, Shafts of Hope in Advent: Advent is a time of

light, of waiting and hope, of light and joy. Join us as we reflect on these great themes with music, art, and scripture. See it as a mini retreat to give some focus to this busy time. The mini retreat will be run twice online, just click on your chosen session link below:

Thursday 14th December 7-8pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bef05e7a-38d9-4349-8c6c-39c0d79dda93@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>

Repeated on Tuesday 19th December 3-4pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/e1cc27ee-0fba-403e-a6a4-86c34a930b1a@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>

OTHER

Sunday 17th December - Melksham United Church
Candlelight Service 4.00pm

CHARITIES and PARISH PROJECT

Gift Aid: Your Parish Gift Aid contact is Tricia Hoy, phone number 01225 704805. Please remember to contact us if your circumstances change and you no longer pay sufficient income Tax to cover your donation.

Our Parish Charity is Wiltshire Air Ambulance. You can donate by using this link:

<https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/donate/>

Our Parish Project is the repair and refurbishment of the Presbytery. Funds raised will be split between our charity and our project with 2/3 allocated to Presbytery repairs, and 1/3 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Melksham Food Bank: A basket for donations is in the church porch. Items needed – cans of meat, vegetables and fruit, pots of jam, crisps. Do not send chilled, or frozen foods or fresh fruit or vegetables as these cannot be stored. Thank you.

Melksham Family of Churches' Crisis Support is for those who need emergency non-food relief. If you would like to contribute, please contact Melksham Foodbank or Sharon (Parish office) for further information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 18th December, St Edmund's – Carols and Christmas Songs performed by children from St Edmund's school, 11.30 am to 12.00 noon.

AND FINALLY –

Did you know?

The world's oldest cat lived to 38 years and 3 days. She was a tabby mix called Creme Puff.

www.sciencefocus.com/science/fun-facts

Wordsearch: Second Sunday of Advent

L	O	C	U	S	T	S	L	A	D	N	A	S
F	T	C	R	I	E	S	Y	E	A	R	S	H
H	A	N	D	M	E	D	H	L	C	E	S	S
E	N	I	A	L	P	I	E	O	N	I	P	N
C	G	L	T	D	G	T	O	S	U	O	O	E
N	F	H	D	H	R	H	U	N	E	T	T	V
A	N	E	W	E	F	O	L	O	W	R	A	A
T	R	A	P	A	E	U	J	C	H	T	T	E
N	Y	R	N	T	F	S	L	L	O	T	L	H
E	S	R	H	Y	D	A	K	N	A	S	I	E
P	N	G	O	H	O	N	E	Y	E	M	S	W
E	I	J	J	L	O	D	W	O	L	S	B	E
R	S	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S

APART	HAND	RIGHTEOUSNESS
ATONED	HEAR	SANDALS
CONSOLE	HEAVENS	SHOUT
CRIS	HIGHWAY	SINS
DESERT	HONEY	SKY
ELSE	JOHN	SLOW
EWES	JORDAN	SPOT
FAITHFULNESS	JOYFUL	THOUSAND
FLAMES	LAMBS	VOICE
FORGIVENESS	LOCUSTS	WITHOUT
GLORY	PLAIN	YEARS
GOOD	REPENTANCE	

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters give something that we should all want to hear –

— — — / — — — — / — — — —

Last week's words (1st Sunday of Advent) were "STAY AWAKE!"
Hilary Clifton

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent:
Peace

Merciful God,
You sent John the Baptist to preach repentance.
Forgive us the times when we have done wrong,
when we have hurt other people and damaged
our earth.

Lead us to make a change, to live differently,
preparing a way and making your paths straight.
Amen

CAFOD

**Sunday 10th December
Second Sunday in Advent**

Sunday Year B; Psalter 2

Reading 1: Is 40: 1-5,9-11

Psalm Refrain: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
and give us your saving help.

Reading 2: 2Pt 3: 8-14

Gospel: Mk 1: 1-8

Monday 11th December: Word: Is 35: 1-10;
Ps 84; Lk 5: 7-26 **Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of
Season

Tuesday 12th December: Word: Is 40: 25-30;
Ps 95; Mt 18: 12-14 **Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of
Season

**Wednesday 13th December: Memorial of St
Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

Word: Is 40: 25-31; Ps 102; Mt 11: 28-30
Psalter 2, Proper of Memorial

**Thursday 14th December: Memorial of St John
of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church**

Word: Is 41: 13-20; Ps 144; Mt 11: 11-15
Hours: Psalter 2, Common of Doctors

Friday 15th December: Word: Is 48: 17-19; Ps 1;
Mt 11: 16-19 **Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Saturday 16th December: Word:
Ecclus 48: 1-4, 9-11; Ps 79; Mt 17: 10-13
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Please send any comments or items for the newsletter to
the email address below or put a note through the
Presbytery door. Thank you.

**If you know any parishioners who do not have
access to email, please print this newsletter for
them.**

Newsletter/contact – email:
comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliffondiocese.com