



## Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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Parish Website: <https://st-anthonyofpadua.weebly.com/>

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 11<sup>th</sup> December: Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday: Mass 9.00 am**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Morning Prayer 10.10 am; Mass 10.30 am**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Adoration *in the hall* 10.00 to 3.00 pm**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Mass 10.00 am**

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

**Government advice is that face coverings/masks can help reduce the spread of Covid.**

***Readings at end of newsletter***

**As winter approaches, we ask everyone to make sure they dress for warmth when they come to church.**

We continue to keep windows open in the church to reduce the spread of virus – at the same time due to increased utility costs that we all face, church heating cannot be set to as high a temperature as we would like.

Thank you.

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Eve:** St Anthony of Padua - 5.00 pm and 9.00 pm;

St Edmund's - 5.00 pm and 10.00 pm;

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day:** St Anthony of Padua - 9.00 am

St Edmund's 11.00 am

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

### PARISH NEWS

***This week – retiring collection for Christmas Flowers***

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – please note the changed time (for this week only) of Mass and Morning Prayer**

**Reconciliation held Saturdays immediately after 10.00 am Mass.**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last opportunity for reconciliation at St Anthony's before Christmas.

**Melksham Family of Churches' Crisis Support** for those who need emergency relief. This fund is seeing increased demand; if you would like to contribute, please contact Melksham Foodbank or Sharon (Parish office) for further information.

**Candidates for First Holy Communion:** Parents of children in primary school year 3 and above who have children who would like to receive the sacrament of

**Next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December -  
Carol Singing in front of  
Melksham United Church, 10. 30  
– 11.30 am: Come and join in or  
just enjoy the carol signing!**

Holy Communion are invited to put their contact details on the clipboard in the porch by the end of December. A meeting for parents will be held before communion classes in January.

**Christmas Cards** are now available to purchase; please see Sheila Likely-Ayling. If you would like to donate to our parish project instead of giving cards to fellow parishioners, there will be a "Parish Card" for you to sign!

**This Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December – There will be a Repository Sale** after Mass in the porch.

**Time to start school?** If you have a child born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school in the Diocese. You must complete an application form (either online or on paper) available from the school admissions team of Wiltshire Council, for admission during the **2023-24** school year. If your child has been baptised, you **must** also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to your preferred school. Our parish school is St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Corsham [Home | St Patrick's Catholic Primary School \(stpatricks-wilts.co.uk\)](#) - contact them also on **01249 713125**, or email [admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk) Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

**Mother's Prayers:** Mondays at 10.30 am.

**Wednesdays:** Breaking Open and Sharing the Word after Mass

**Fridays:** Divine Mercy Chaplet 3.00 pm

### OUR PARISH FAMILY

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please pray for:** Geoff Blwyddin, Mrs Jeanette Allsop, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, Andrew Bate, Katja Lubina, Patrick Egan, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, Judith Curtis, Janice Kuranlu, Anne Doyle, Sheila Likey-Ayling, Anne O'Mahony, Lorraine Pavey, Francis Ballinger, Shireen Doyle, Fr John O'Toole, Martin Hughes, Tess Jones. All who are suffering from coronavirus, 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 to receive Holy Communion, please telephone 01225 824039 and leave a message, or Email [ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net)

### CLIFTON DIOCESE

**Vocation Discernment Retreat for Young Catholic Adults for Lent - Answering God's Call":** Listening to the 'voice' of Christ, discerning, responding to the call at Brownhill monastery, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 8AL. **Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March 2023.** For Catholic men and women aged 18-35. This Lenten retreat will help with discerning our vocation in life and answering God's call to each of us:  
Listening: What is the 'voice' of Christ and how do I know that He is speaking to me?  
Discerning: What is Christ asking me to do?  
Responding: How should I respond? How do I know that I am doing the right thing?  
Commitment: Answering God's call.

### OTHER NEWS

**The Jesuits in Britain spirituality team** have several upcoming events, which may be of interest to you. They include an online 'Ignatian Listening' weekend on 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December. For further details and to book, visit [School of Prayer | Online Prayer | Jesuits In Britain](#)

### CHARITIES and PARISH PROJECT

**Gift Aid:** Your Parish Gift Aid contact is Tricia Hoy, phone number **01225 704805**.

**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  $\frac{2}{3}$  allocated to Presbytery repairs, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

**Melksham Food Bank** is grateful for the help from St Anthony's parishioners. A basket for donations is in the church porch, or you can use designated trollies in the Supermarkets, or deliver to the Baptist Church. 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:** This is for those who need emergency relief (items such as energy meter payments, uniform costs for school etc). If anyone would like to contribute to this, please contact Melksham Foodbank or Sharon (Parish office) for further information.

### AND FINALLY –

#### Did you know?

The sun accounts for about 99.9% of the total mass of the solar system.

The Earth, seen from the moon, also goes through phases.

As passengers of Earth, we are all carried round the sun at a mean velocity of 66,600mph

#### Words of wisdom....

Accept the past for what it was. Acknowledge the present for what it is. Anticipate the future for what it might become.

## Wordsearch: Third Sunday of Advent

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

AGE	GATES	RANSOMED
BLOOM	GLORY	REIGN
CARMEL	GOODNEWS	REJOICE
CLOTHES	LEAP	SAVE
COMING	LORD	SEE
EARS	LOVES	SING
EYES	MESSENGER	SPLENDOUR
FACES	NAME	SPOKE
FARMER	NEAR	SWAYING
FEAR	POOR	WIDOW
FORTH	PREPARE	
FREE	PRISONERS	

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters give a word which describes Advent!

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The word from last week (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent was  
FIRE Hilary Clifton

### Advent prayer Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

In times of despair  
we seek comfort  
in your presence.

We wait in hope for you.  
*Come, Lord, source of joy.*

Move us to be  
good news in our world  
and to stand alongside  
our sisters and brothers in need  
*Come, Lord, source of joy.*

Lead us in your ways,  
as together we make a change,  
so all people may  
rejoice and be glad.

*Come, Lord, source of joy.* CAFOD

## Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Sunday Year A; Psalter 3

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Reading 1 – Is 35: 1-6, 10

Psalm refrain: **Come, Lord, and save us.**

Reading 2 – Jas 5: 7-10

Gospel – Mt 11: 2-11

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 24; Mt 21: 23-27

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Memorial of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

**Word:** Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps 33; Mt 21: 28-32

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Memorial

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church**

**Word:** Is 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26; Ps 84; Lk 7: 19-23

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Memorial

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Is 54: 1-10;

Ps 29; Lk 7: 24-30

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Is 56: 1-3, 6-8;

Ps 66; Jn 5: 33-36

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December:**

**Word:** Gen 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 71; Mt 1: 1-17

**Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Is there anything you would particularly like to see included in the weekly newsletter? Help us make our newsletter an enjoyable read! Please send any comments or items for the newsletter to the email address below, 'phone the office on **01225 702128** and leave a message 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](mailto:comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliffondiocese.com)

