

DIARY

SAT	1 st Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm.
SUN	SUNDAY 4 LENT (Laetare Sunday) Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments in the hall.
MON	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. Mothers' Prayers in the hall, 10.30 am (Family of Churches meeting, Baptist Rooms, 7.30 pm.)
WED	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments and Breaking Open and Sharing the Word. Parish Pastoral Council, hall, 7.30 pm.
THU	Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
FRI	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. (Women's World Day of Prayer, United Church, 1030 am) Prayer Group, hall, 7.30 pm.
SAT	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am. 1 st Mass of Sunday, (5 Lent) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Psalter Week 4 + Lent readings etc.

MASS COMMEMORATIONS:

READINGS

Reading 1: 2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23.

Psalm (136) Refrain: ***O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!***

Reading 2: Ephesians 2: 4-10.

Gospel Reading: John 3: 14-21.

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mr Frank Manning, Mr Richard Eades, Mrs R. Menghini, Mrs Bridie Liddle, Mrs Jonasz, Fr Lloyd, Zofia Clarke, Vilma D'Souza, Don d'Cruz, Mrs Audrey Tickner, Mrs Kathleen Murphy, Charlie Canavan, Ann O'Mahony, John Porter, Don Mackenzie, Faith Wheat, Mrs Rebecca Matthews, Gail Ballinger, Eric Conn, Joyce Alford, Chris Bate, John Doyle, David Coghlan, Helen Krause, Derek Dyer, Michael Lees, Elizabeth Travers, Nuala Barron, June Carey, Tom & Claire Hunter, Mrs Marian Frawley, Geoff Blwyddin.

Richard Eades is very ill at present – please keep him and Margaret in your prayers; also Eric Conn.

Welcome to The Parish of St Anthony of Padua



Parish Priest: Fr Richard Northey

22 West End, Melksham. SN12 6HJ.
Tel: 01225 702128

Email:
richardnorthey@blueyonder.co.uk

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:
www.cliftondiocese.com



Parish Website: www.st-anthonypadua.com

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

SUNDAY 11 MARCH, 2018

Dear Friends,

The Christian Church is often bitterly attacked by such people as women's rights supporters for its unflinching support of "traditional" marriage and family values. But do those people *really* have women's rights and welfare at heart? Or could it be that the Church is the one that really most cares for the welfare of women?

Information I received this week suggests that according to research, it is the Church's values that most truly promote the welfare of women and families in general!

- According to research, married people tend to live longer, have fewer heart attacks, less risk of depression, and better survival rates for cancer and major operations.
- According to studies in the US, younger married women are far more likely to report higher life satisfaction than their unmarried peers; and they also drink less.
- Married women are far less likely to be abused or suffer domestic violence than women who cohabit; they are also less likely to have an unfaithful partner.
- Studies in America have shown that higher levels of marriage are strongly associated with economic growth and higher family income. Married women tend to enjoy substantially higher family incomes than their unmarried peers.

Could it be that there is more wisdom in the Christian "traditional" family values than today's opponents of the Church are willing to admit? Since it ain't broke, why do so many people waste so much time and energy trying fix it?

In the love of Christ,

Richard Northey

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £204.30

LENT FAST DAY: Now up to £753.95

BUILDING/MAINTENANCE FUND: Monthly Collection *this* weekend.

EASTER FLOWERS: Retiring collection next weekend. Our team of flower arrangers do us proud year after year; but flowers are expensive, and they need our financial support to buy flowers for their arrangements. So please support generously.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: Monday, 10.30 am in the hall.

FAMILY OF CHURCHES: Meeting, Baptist Rooms, Monday 7.30 pm. *Open invitation to this meeting, at which Fatimah Murray will explain the plans to date for the "Turning" mission to Wiltshire in June. This will be an opportunity to discuss together what part we may wish to play in this in Melksham.*

BREAKING OPEN & SHARING THE WORD: Sharing on next Sunday's Gospel. Wednesdays, after Mass & refreshments.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING *This Wednesday 14th March 7.30pm.* Agenda for this meeting is on the notice board at the back of the church. If there are any issues you would like to bring to this meeting please see a member of the PPC. Names of PPC members also displayed on the notice board at the back of the church.

ADORATION: Thursday, 10 am – 7 pm.

PRAYER GROUP: Friday, 7.30 pm in the hall.

LENT GROUPS: These will continue on the appropriate days this week.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This had to be postponed, of course, because of the recent weather. It will now be held *this* Friday, 16 March, as before at 10.30 am and at Melksham United Church.

CHRISM MASS: A 28-seater bus has been arranged to take us to Clifton Cathedral for the Chrism Mass at 11 am on Wednesday 28 March. The people who go normally enjoy this occasion, when the holy oils for sacramental use in parishes for the year are blessed. There are about 10 places left in the bus – do consider joining us this year.

RECONCILIATION: Please try to come to make your pre-Easter Reconciliation well before the end of Lent to avoid last-minute queues! As usual, the final opportunity before Easter will be on Holy Thursday morning.

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please let Fr. Richard know of anyone who is sick, elderly or housebound who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion.

RUH BATH RC CHAPLAINCY: Mandy Baker – 07775895814, email: mandybaker@live.co.uk please contact Mandy if you have a relative or friend in hospital.

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH every third Thursday at 9:30 am in church before Adoration begins. Prayer intentions: for God's guidance, a smooth transition and for a new parish priest and

thanksgiving to God for our parish priest. All are warmly welcome to join in at church or home if you can.

LIFTS TO/FROM MASS: Anyone willing to offer lifts to/from Mass when required, please let Mary Harris know.

CATH.COM REACH: This quarterly publication for parents of young families is available this weekend. If you are parents of a young family, or know people who are and who might appreciate this publication, please take a copy.

SUMMER CAMPS: The annual Clifton Diocese Summer Camps have launched for 2018 and bookings are now being taken. This year, the camps have moved to a new location at the Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean and are being held between 13-17 August (ages 7-11) and 20-24 August (ages 12-16). The camps promise to be a week full of fun, faith and friendship. If you are interested in finding out more, or to book a place for your child, please visit <http://livingyourfaith.co.uk> or email livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk.

PARKING: a) Could those parking on the corner of the car park please pull in tightly? It can be difficult for other cars to get past. b) As Christians, consideration of our neighbours is of primary importance. If you park in the street, please take care not to block our neighbours' parking areas, or park on yellow lines. If our church car park is full, there *is* a nearby public car park; please try to avoid upsetting our neighbours.

MELKSHAM FOODBANK: (www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk). They are most in need of potatoes (instant), peas (canned), carrots (canned), sugar, pasta. They no longer use boxes – thank you to those who have donated boxes, but please do not leave them in the church porch any more. Does anyone know anyone who is going through a difficult time and might be in need of the help of the Foodbank?

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: for safety reasons, unaccompanied children are not allowed in the church hall during Mass.

DRIVERS: Please drive with great care when entering or leaving the car park, so that the lives of children – and adults – may not be put at risk.

NEWSLETTER: Any information, articles, etc, please send to the presbytery at the address supplied on the front of the newsletter.

