



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

Tel: 01249 813131


Email: vincent.curtis@cliftondiocese.com


Diocesan Website: www.cliftondiocese.com

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

Email: admin.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com

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

 Follow us on Instagram: @stanthony0fpaduachurch

 Facebook: St Anthony of Padua Melksham

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

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 13th December at 9.00 am, and Wednesday 16th and Saturday 19th December at 10.00 am.

Please do not arrive at church hoping to attend Mass if you have not booked in advance. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is currently rescinded.

It is mandatory for face coverings/masks to be worn in places of worship unless you have an exemption from wearing one (Children under 11, illness, disability, etc.)

Please note that Covid regulations require young children to be supervised by an adult, remaining with them at all times in and around the Church. Thank you.

To pre-book your attendance at Mass, contact Anne Doyle telephone 01225 707486 or email anne.doyle16@blueyonder.co.uk on the following days:

Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of each week

Please note: Toilet facilities will remain closed; please remember this when planning your visit. Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteer stewards and cleaners who make reopening possible.

Prayer for Melksham - you are invited to spend some time on Wednesday in prayer for all who live and work in Melksham, our Council, industry and shops, hospital, care homes and surgeries.

Sunday 13th December: Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Sunday Year B; Psalter week 3, Proper of Season

Reading 1 – Is 61: 1-2, 10-11

Psalm refrain: My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2 – 1Thes 5: 16-24

Gospel – John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Prayers of the Faithful, Third Sunday of Advent

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God 'binds up the hearts that are broken'; we pray that he may do so for all who are suffering as a result of the Coronavirus.

May the church of Christ be a support to those who are unemployed or hungry, lonely or isolated because of the pandemic.

We give thanks for the skill and the efforts of those who have produced vaccines to counter the Covid virus; and pray that they may be distributed wisely and fairly.

We pray that our political leaders may make wise decisions which will serve the prosperity of society.

We pray for the Christian communities at Christ the King, Amesbury; and the Baptist church in Melksham.

Gervase O'Donohoe

Monday 14th December: Memorial of St John of the Church, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Word: Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 24; Mt 21: 23-27

Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Tuesday 15th December: Word: Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps 33; Mt 21: 28-32

Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Wednesday 16th December: Word: Is 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26; Ps 84; Lk 7: 19-23

Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Thursday 17th December: Word: Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 71; Mt 1: 1-17
Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Friday 18th December: Word: Jer 23: 5-8; Ps 71; Mt 1: 18-24
Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Saturday 19th December: Word: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25; Ps 70; Lk 1: 5-25
Hours: Psalter 3, Proper of Season

Retiring Collections: There will be a retiring collection for Christmas flowers for the Church this weekend. The Christmas offerings are for our parish priest; Easter and Christmas offerings form the main source of income for our priests, and of course our churches were sadly closed at Easter this year.

Mr John Learoyd: John Learoyd's family wish to express their gratitude for the support they received from the parish leading up to his funeral on Thursday, it meant so much to his wife Dorothy. His daughter Stephanie said her dad was a very private man but really enjoyed the sense of community and the courses he attended at St Anthony of Padua. Stephanie wanted to communicate to the parish how much it meant to John's family to have so many parishioners attend his funeral and to hear their kind words about her dad. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.

Red Missio Boxes: Those of you who have a red Missio box are asked to bring them to church for counting, please.

Wednesday 16th December – Finance Committee: There will be a socially distanced Finance Committee meeting on 16th December, 10.45 am in the Hall after Mass

Christmas Masses: You **must** book to attend any of our Masses, including the Christmas Masses. Booking time for the Christmas Masses will open on Monday 14th December, and close on Tuesday 22nd December. Bookings will not be taken after this time.

During week commencing 20th December, Masses will be as follows:

Sunday 20th December – 09.00 am;

Wednesday 23rd December – 10.00 am;

Christmas Eve, 24th December – 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm – *Please note that the 4.00 pm Mass is aimed at those with young families;*

Christmas Day – 09.00 am

There will be no Mass on Saturday 26th December.

Sunday 27th December – 09.00 am

Normal bookings for Mass will recommence on Monday 28th December

Midnight Mass at Clifton Cathedral: The BBC will be broadcasting midnight Mass from Clifton Cathedral on Christmas Eve, 24th December at 11.45pm on BBC1.

Advent Prayer Candles: To replace our Tree of Remembrance, there will be an Advent Prayer Candle display at the back of the church from 1st December. Paper "candles" will be placed on the board, and will show names of friends, family and loved ones that you wish to pray for – especially those who you are unable to be with due to Covid regulations. Everyone is invited to write names on coloured paper candles which will be available in church for you to take away and write names, then return them to church or Presbytery, where it will be added to the display. If you are unable to attend church, please send names to Sharon (using the email at the foot of the newsletter, leave a message on the parish answer phone, or pop them through the presbytery door) who will write a candle for you. **Please do not add candles to the display yourself;** this will compromise our Covid infection control systems.

Face Masks – one week only!: Zofia will be selling face masks for charity until the end of next week – now is your chance to buy one if you missed them earlier!

Christmas Cards and Parish Charities 2020: This year, the usual practice of parishioners leaving Christmas cards at church for friends to collect is not practical. Instead, why not make a donation to one of our parish charities? If you would like to make a donation to **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**, please use the following link: <https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/donate/>

Mary's Meals also has an internet "Giving Page": <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate>

CAFOD World Gifts: World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. Catalogues are available in the porch for you to take home, or visit [CAFOD World Gifts](#) for

gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD: After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/parishes> to learn more. We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at <https://cafod.org.uk/advent>

Melksham Food Bank: There has been a huge rise in the number needing the Food Bank. To donate food items, please use either the 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.

Please pray for the following: Don d'Cruz, Mrs Kathleen Murphy, John Doyle, Mrs Marian Frawley, Geoff Blwyddin, Mrs Jean Irwin, Mrs Jeanette Allsop, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, Andrew Bate, David Coughlin, Katja Lubina, Patrick Egan, Mrs Jonasz. Deacon David Wakefield, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Alan Glass, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, June Carey, Janet Ruddick, Judith Curtis, Keith Healy, Janice Kuranlu. All who are suffering from coronavirus, and those finding isolation 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

Wordsearch – Third Sunday of Advent

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

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|-----------|------------|-------------|
| AGES | EMPTY | OPENLY |
| ANSWER | FAR | PROPHECY |
| BAPTISING | GOD | REJOICE |
| BELIEVE | HAPPY | REMEMBERING |
| BETHANY | HENCEFORTH | SEEDS |
| BIND | HOLY | SENT |
| BRIDE | JEWELS | SIDE |
| CLOTHED | JORDAN | SPEAK |
| EARTH | JOY | TREAT |
| ELIJAH | LIBERTY | |

Cross out only the words given in the list. No word should be entirely inside another. The remaining letters given an alternate name to this day

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Last week's words were "THE GOOD NEWS"

Hilary Clifton

Words of Wisdom:

The only way to have a friend is to be one. If you want to receive letters you have to write to friends first.

Anon

Just some thoughts:

Mother (reading to daughter from the Bible): "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the country, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

Daughter: "What happened to the flea?"

Holy Joke

Starting School? If you have a child born between **1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2021** onwards. You must complete an application form available from the school admissions team of **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 **15th January 2021**.

Could you be a School Foundation Governor? The Diocese is recruiting people to serve on school governing bodies. If you believe in Catholic education, have enthusiasm and commitment, you can make a valuable contribution to a Catholic school. It also provides the opportunity to use your life/work skills and experience for the benefit of the children in our schools. Please contact bill.mcentee@cliftodiocese.com 07710 094976 for more information – he would be delighted to hear from you.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Any Comments? *Is there anything you would particularly like to see included in the weekly newsletter? Please send any comments 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.*

Contact: comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftodiocese.com

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