

DIARY

- SAT** 1st Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm.
- SUN** **SUNDAY 3 EASTER**
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
- WED** Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments and Breaking Open and Sharing the Word.
- THU** Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
- FRI** Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am.
Prayer Group, hall, 7.30 pm.
- SAT** Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am
1st Mass of Sunday, (4 Easter) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Psalter Week 3 + Easter Readings etc.

MASS COMMEMORATIONS: Sat(14): Don Mackenzie, RIP; **Wed:** Ken Likely Ayling RIP;
Sat(21): Don Mackenzie RIP.

READINGS

Reading 1: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19..

Psalm (4) Refrain: *Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.*

Reading 2: 1 John 2: 1-5.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 35-48.

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, 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, Pamela Polizzotto.

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 15 APRIL, 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous Easter Offering. Thank you to those who took some part in helping to prepare for and to celebrate Easter, and to all who help in different ways during the year.

Most of us are a bit conservative by nature, and do not like change. Nevertheless, changes will have to happen in our parish in coming months. Going off in a huff because we do not like the changes is *not* the answer! We have a good little parish here, and it is vital that we work together and stick together to ensure its future. There seems to be no other realistic option. We are a quite a small parish, sadly getting smaller, and there are not at present enough priests to cover every parish. In the post-war years, there were a lot of young men offering themselves for the ministry; and new parishes were built. Now most of those are reaching retirement age; and because the record number did not keep up, we have less younger priests to replace them. Bishop Declan has done his best for the parish; but he cannot provide what he does not have!

Indeed, he showed a great concern for the parish 14 years ago. Two parish priests lasted less than 4 years between them; and there was talk then of Melksham sharing a priest. Bishop Declan did not want that; he asked me to be parish priest and expressed a firm wish that I would remain here for some time so that the parish might experience a bit of stability. Now, I can understand that having me must have seemed a bit like drawing the short straw – but at least you have had a resident parish priest during these years! Though you will soon no longer have a resident parish priest, the parish must go on! Every one of you has *something* to offer to the parish, even though it may seem little; do offer what you can, so that it may continue to be a lively and fruitful parish.

In the love of Christ,

Richard Northey

RECENT COLLECTIONS: 25 March: £280.33; 8 April: £215.75; Fr. Danny (H. Thur): £960.30; Holy Places & Holy Land Christians (G. Fri): £163.50; Build/Maint Fund (April): £232.50.

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

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

ADORATION: Thursday, 10 am – 7 pm.

PRAYER GROUP: Friday, 7.30 pm in the hall.

MIVA: Short appeal at end of Masses next weekend. Please do wait for this unless anything urgent prevents you.

CLERGY TRAINING FUND: Retiring Collection on w/e 28/29 April. Leaflets and gift aid envelopes will be available next weekend. As you will see in the leaflet, Fr. Matt intends to do one final cycle ride for vocations June-July, going up some of the iconic climbs of the Tour de France!

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.

24 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursday 17th May 10am to Friday 18th May 9am, This period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for 24 hours has a three-fold purpose.

1. To pray in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress to be held in Liverpool from 7th - 9th September 2018 Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, laity and religious which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. The last International Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908 when permission for a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament was refused. The Deanery Clergy have organised a programme of Eucharistic Adoration in the week 14th to 20th May 2018. Most of the parishes within the Deanery are taking part and having a period of Adoration on an allotted day that week.

2. "Thy Kingdom Come" This is an invitation from the Presidents of Churches Together in England to join again this year in a global wave of prayer for mission, evangelism, peace and justice. People around the world will be coming together to pray for family friends and neighbours to come to know Jesus Christ.

3. As we approach Pentecost to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit anew on our parish and its future when Fr. Richard retires.

This time of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will be part of our regular weekly Eucharistic Adoration and already have cover from 10am to 7pm We are asking many more

parishioners to sign up to an hourly slot to ensure that two people are praying before the Blessed Sacrament at all times for the 24 Hrs. Please sign up on the spread sheet in the church porch.

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

PARISH SURVEY: The PPC's initial response to the points made in the recent survey will be available at Mass today. If you are interested, please take a copy. If you would prefer an electronic version, please let Sharon Pearce know. Her email address can be found in the article below.

MAC. CHEESE TRAYBAKES: We have been asked via Melksham Fam. of Churches if we can provide a volunteer to cook a macaroni cheese traybake for messy church next Sunday? A recipe and a tray for the bake will be provided and expenses for the ingredients reimbursed. Alan McFall will collect the mac. cheese at about 2.30 pm next Sunday. Any volunteer please contact Sharon Pearce on sharonp1961@hotmail.co.uk, or 07434 925847.

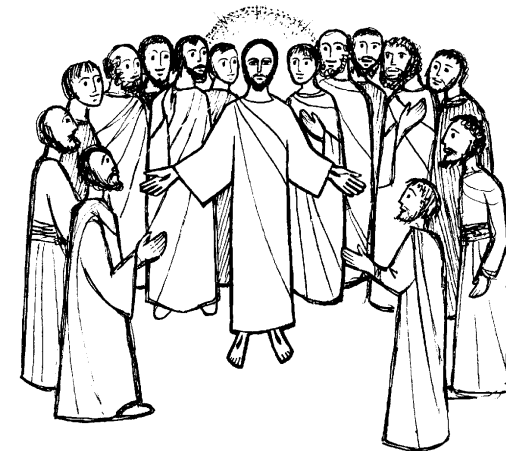
PARKING: a) Could those parking on the corner of the car park please pull in tightly? It can be difficult for other cars to get past. b) As Christians, consideration of our neighbours is of primary importance. If you park in the street, please take care not to block our neighbours' parking areas, or 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 articles, etc, please send at the address supplied newsletter.



information,
to the presbytery
on the front of the