



# Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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

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

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

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

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday): Mass 9.00am**  
St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Morning Prayer 9.45 am; Mass at 10.00 am**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Adoration 10.00 am – 3.00 pm**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3.00 pm**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: NO MASS**

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:**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day:**

St Anthony of Padua - 9.00 am

St Edmund's 11.00 am

**Reconciliation at St Edmund's Calne – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> December - Children's Liturgy of the Word**

*This week - Retiring collection for Christmas flowers*

**Please note – there will be NO refreshments after Sunday Morning Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> December; refreshments as usual on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**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.

**Advent Services:** St Anthony and St Edmund are holding joint Advent Services; St Anthony's Advent Service is today, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm. 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

**Starting School?** If you have a child born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

### 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.

**Also this week: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Breaking Open and Sharing the Word in the hall 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, Dawn Holt, Dave Disney, Gay Harris, Fr Vincent, David Harris, Hilary McFall. 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](mailto: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 last mini retreat will be run on next Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 3-4pm, just click the session link below:

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

### 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  $\frac{2}{3}$  allocated to Presbytery repairs, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  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 18<sup>th</sup> 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?

Ants don't have lungs. They instead breathe through spiracles, nine or ten tiny openings, depending on the species.

[www.sciencefocus.com/science/fun-facts](http://www.sciencefocus.com/science/fun-facts)

### Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent:

Joy

God of all,

John the Baptist came to bear witness to your light.

Fill us with faith and the courage to act upon it, so that we may shine a light in the darkness and share the love we have found in you.

Amen

CAFOD

## 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

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	

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters given an alternate name to this day

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Last week's words (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent) were "THE GOOD NEWS"  
Hilary Clifton

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Sunday Year B; Psalter 3

Reading 1: Is 61: 1-2, 10-11

Psalm Refrain: My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2: 1Thes 5: 16-24

Gospel: Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Jer 23: 5-8;  
Ps 71; Mt 1: 18-24 **Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25; Ps 70; Lk 1: 5-25 **Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** Is 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Lk 1: 26-38 **Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Word:** Sgs 2: 8-14; Ps 32; Lk 1: 39-45 **Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Word:** 1Sm 1: 24-28; 1Sm 2: Lk 1: 46-56 **Hours:** Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: Word:** Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps 24; Lk 1: 57-66  
**Hours:** Psalter 3, 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](mailto:comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliffondiocese.com)