



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

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 Follow us on Instagram: @stanthony0fpaduachurch

 Facebook: St Anthony of Padua Melksham

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

Sunday 18th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mass 9.00 am

Wednesday 21st December: Morning Prayer 9.40 am; Requiem Mass for Andrew Bate, 10.00 am

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve



We welcome Fr Michael Fitzpatrick who celebrates Mass with us at St Anthony of Padua today.

Children and Family Mass – 5.00 pm

Night Mass – 9.00 pm

St Edmund's, Calne: Fr Vincent will celebrate Mass at 5.00 pm (Children and family Mass) and 10.00 pm (Night Mass)

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.

PARISH NEWS

This week – retiring collection for Christmas Flowers

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

All Crib offerings will be for the Little Way Association

It is with sadness that we announce the following:

Andrew Bate, R.I.P. Andrew Bate passed away on Friday 9th December; please pray for the repose of his soul. A Requiem Mass will be held on Wednesday 21st December at 10.00 am.

Gerry Ellis R.I.P: Gerry passed away peacefully on Thursday 15th December. Please pray for his family and the repose of his soul.

Margaret Dent, R.I.P: Margaret Dent, passed away on 5th December. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

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 Holy Communion are invited to put their contact details

Parish Christmas Card: If you would like to donate to our parish project instead of giving cards to fellow parishioners, there is a "Parish Card" for you to sign in the hall and at the back of the church.

Time to start school? If you have a child born between **1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school. You must complete an application form available from the school admissions team of Wiltshire

Council, for admission during the **2023-24** school year. You **must** also provide a copy of your child's 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](http://Home | St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (stpatricks-wilts.co.uk) - contact them also on **01249 713125**, email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15th 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, 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

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 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.

AND FINALLY –

Did you know?

The USA purchased Alaska from Russia for just US\$7.2 million in 1867.

Siberia makes up 77% of Russia.

South Africa is called the "Rainbow Nation" because it has 11 official languages.

Wordsearch: Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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| ABOVE | FAITH | PROPHETS |
| BEHOLD | FULFIL | RESURRECTION |
| BIRTH | HONOUR | REWARD |
| BRING | HUSBAND | SAVES |
| CALL | JOSEPH | SEAS |
| CLIMB | MAIDEN | SEEK |
| CONCEIVE | MARY | SINS |
| DAVID | MATTHEW | SPARE |
| DEW | NEWS | VIRGIN |
| DREAM | PROMISED | WIFE |

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters describe Jesus who, although He became our Lord and saviour, He was firstly:

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The word from last week (3rd Advent A) was WAITING
Hilary Clifton

Words of wisdom....

We imagine that the Lord will come in a spectacular way, perhaps through some miraculous sign... Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there – he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life. He does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things; he manifests himself in everyday things. He is there, in our daily work, in a chance encounter, in the face of someone in need, even when we face days that seem grey and monotonous, it is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us and inspires our actions."

Pope Francis

Advent prayer Fourth Sunday of Advent - Peace

We listen to your word
as it whispers in our hearts:

"Do not be afraid."

Come, Lord, prince of peace.

Grant us the courage
to build peace in our homes,
our local community
and our world

Come, Lord, prince of peace.

Lead us in your ways,
as together we make a change,
and share your peace with all.

Come, Lord, prince of peace.

CAFOD



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year A; Psalter 4

Sunday 18th December

Reading 1 – Is 7: 10-14

Psalm refrain: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

Reading 2 – Rom 1: 7

Gospel – Mt 1: 18-24

Monday 19th December: Word: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25; Ps 70; Lk 1: 5-25

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Tuesday 20th Word: Is 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Lk 1: 26-38

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Wednesday 21st December: Word: Sg 2: 8-14; Ps 32; Lk 1: 39-45

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Thursday 22nd December: Word: 1Sm 1: 24-28; 1Sm2; Lk 1: 46-56

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Friday 23rd December: Word: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Ps 24; Lk 1: 57-66

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Saturday 24th December: Christmas Eve



We welcome Fr Michael Fitzpatrick who celebrates Mass with us today

Children and Families Mass 5.00 pm

Children are invited to dress as characters from the Nativity for this Mass

Reading 1: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalm Refrain: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord

Reading 2: Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25

Night Mass 9.00 pm

Reading 1: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalm Refrain: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord

Reading 2: Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season