



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

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Follow us on Instagram: [@stanthony0fpaduachurch](https://www.instagram.com/stanthony0fpaduachurch)

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

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

Sunday 18th February: First Sunday of Lent: Mass 9.00 am

St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am

Wednesday 21st February: - Morning Prayer 9.45; Mass at 10.00 am

Liturgy of Reconciliation 7.00 pm

Thursday 22nd February: Adoration 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 23rd February: Stations of the Cross, 11.00 am; Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3.00 pm

Saturday 24th February: Mass 10.00 am

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

PARISH NEWS

Sunday 18th February:

Children's Liturgy of the Word;

We welcome Bishop Declan, who presides at Mass today.

Refreshments after Mass on Sunday

Next week – retiring collection for CAFOD Fast Day, Friday 23rd February

This Lent your donations to CAFOD Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Envelopes are available today for your donation to be collected next Sunday 25th February. You can also donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk> and please pray that our brothers and sisters around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Lent Course - Tuesdays from 20th February to 19th March:

Pope Francis has named **2024 the Year of Prayer**, a year spent in preparation for the **2025 Jubilee Year**. He has called on all Catholics to spend this year deepening their prayer lives. Our Lent Course this year is "**We Dare to Say**" a Clifton Diocese resource exploring the prayer our Saviour gave us, The Our Father. We will be running two Lent groups every Tuesday from 20th February to 19th March; 10.30 am in

the Hall, and 7.00 pm at 16, Sherwood Avenue. All welcome – please sign up on the sheet in the porch. For those unable to attend a Lent group, there are a few copies of the "We Dare to Say" booklet available for £1 each, for personal study and reflection.

Liturgy of Reconciliation, Wednesday 21st February:

We are delighted that Bishop Declan will visit St Anthony of Padua for one of this year's Diocesan Penitentiary Services. The service will start at 7.00 pm, and there will be priests available to celebrate sacramental reconciliation.

Stations of the Cross take place at 11.00 am every Friday during Lent, followed by a Lent lunch in the hall at 12.00 pm (except 1st March). Donations go to our parish charities.

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk: Hilary and Chris Clifton will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, the challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty; any donations will be gratefully received! If you would like to sponsor them, please use this link:

[Chris and Hilary Big Lent WalkRun is fundraising for CAFOD](https://www.cafod.org.uk/cafod-big-lent-walk)

World Day of Prayer, Friday 1st March, 10.30 am, St Barnabas Church, Beanacre, SN12 7PT. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine, and the service will be led by members of Melksham Churches, including St Anthony's; everyone

is welcome, so please do come and join this ecumenical service. **The churches of Calne are also holding a service for World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March at 10.30a.m. at the Methodist Church, Calne SN11 0UD.** You all are welcome to come and support this event.

Also this week:

Monday 19th February: Mothers' Prayers in the Hall, 10.30 am.

Tuesday 20th February: "Move it or Lose It" keep fit exercises in the hall, 1.30 pm.

Wednesday 21st February: 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, Gay Harris, Fr Vincent, David Harris, Hilary McFall, Lijimol Chacko, Mirna Rodriguez. 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

DIOCESAN NEWS

Lenten Retreat – Online Sessions

"Transformed by Love": Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a **Lenten retreat: 'Transformed by Love'** in six online sessions, contemplating God's grace at work in the lives of six persons, through scripture and artworks. The six sessions begin at 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening: 20th February, 27th February, 5th March, 12th March, 19th March and 26th March. To sign up for the series, click on the Zoom link: [Meeting Registration](#) or go to the [diocesan website](#).

2024 – Year of Prayer: Pope Francis has given us the Year of Prayer in 2024, in preparation for the Holy Year of 2025. **St John the Evangelist, Bath,** is hosting a series of sessions to draw us into the school of prayer, so that we might grow closer to the Lord. **The next session is this Tuesday, 20th February at 7.00 pm, when Fr Dermot Power will speak on the theme "The Prayer of Jesus".** All are welcome.

Listening With the Heart Sessions: The department of Adult Education and Evangelisation are offering an opportunity for parishioners to develop the skills of [small group facilitation](#) in the context of parish groups. These short sessions will provide participants with a model for rooting decision making in prayer and discernment. The nearest venue to us is **Saturday 16th March, at St John's, Bath (after 9.30am Mass).** The Eventbrite link to register is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/listening-with-the-heart-tickets-808837323207>

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 – 23rd to 30th August:

The Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes is taking place this year in late August, with pilgrims coming from all over the Diocese to embark on this journey. Details are on the Diocesan website [Lourdes | Clifton Diocese](#) or contact lourdes@cliftondiocese.com or 0117 902 5590 for an information pack. Please be aware the **deadline for deposits is 31st March,** with payment in full by 31st May 2024.

OTHER NEWS

SJOG Homes for Ukraine acts as a matching, training, and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK who are willing to provide much-needed support. Our programme operates collaboratively with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN). At SJOG Homes for Ukraine, we offer a range of services to ensure fulfilling experience for both guests and hosts. These services include matching, training for hosts and guests, transportation assistance, and support during the placement. **More information on the project can be found at the following links**

Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>

E-mail: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine

YouTube: youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages, April – October 2024: Apartment B&B 7 nights from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer on request, Contact them for details. Tel 020 3239 8662 or go to reservations@med-irishcentre.com

Date for your diary:

Wednesday 27th March – Chrism Mass, Clifton Cathedral, 11.00 am

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 2/3 allocated to Presbytery repairs, and 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.

AND FINALLY –

Wordsearch: First Sunday of Lent

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

APPEARS	GENERATIONS	REPENT
BOW	GOD	SAVED
CLOUDS	GOODNESS	SAVIOUR
CREATURE	GUIDES	SIGN
DIED	GUILTY	SINS
ETERNAL	MYSELF	TRUTH
EVERYTHING	NOAH	WASHING
FAITHFULNESS	PATH	WATER
FLESH	PLEDGE	WILD
FLOOD	POOR	WORD

Eliminate only the words listed. The remaining letters give the pact that God has made with each of us at our baptism -

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The word from last week was "OUTCASTS"
Hilary Clifton

Did you know?

The Universe's average colour is called 'Cosmic latte'. In a 2002 study, astronomers found that the light coming from galaxies averaged into a beige colour that's close to white.
BBC Science Focus

Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent Sunday Year B; Psalter 1 Proper of Season

Reading 1: Gn 9: 8-15

Psalm Refrain: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Reading 2: 1Pt 3: 18-22

Gospel: Mk 1: 12-15

Monday 19th February: Word: Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18; Ps 18; Mt 25: 31-46 **Hours:** Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Tuesday 20th February: Word: Is 55: 10-11; Ps 33; Mt 6: 7-15 **Hours:** Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Wednesday 21st February: Word: Jon 3: 1-10; Ps 50; Lk 11: 29-32 **Hours:** Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Thursday 22nd February: Feast of the Chair of St Peter the Apostle

Word: 1Pt 5: 1-4; Ps 22; Mt 16: 13-19

Hours: Proper of Feast

Friday 23rd February: Word: Ez 18: 21-28; Ps 129; Mt 5: 20-26 **Hours:** Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Saturday 24th February: Word: Dt 26: 16-19; Ps 118; Mt 5: 43-48 **Hours:** Psalter 1, 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:

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