



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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Facebook: St Anthony of Padua Melksham

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

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 20th December at 9.00 am. For further details of Masses to 10th January, please see below.

You must book to attend any of our Masses, including the Christmas Masses. Booking time for Masses will close on Tuesday 22nd December. Bookings will not be taken after this time until Monday 28th December, when normal bookings for Mass will recommence (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of each week).

Please do not arrive at church hoping to attend any of our Masses if you have not booked in advance.

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

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is currently rescinded.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.

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 20th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year B; Psalter week 4, Proper of Season

Reading 1 – 2Sm 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

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

Reading 2 – Rom 16: 25-27

Gospel – Luke 1: 26-38

Prayers of the Faithful, Fourth Sunday of Advent

In this time of great happenings and expectations, we look to our heavenly Father for confidence and faith;

That the Church always shows forth the love and fellowship of Jesus Christ the Saviour;

For those whose lives have been overtaken by tragedy and forces beyond their control, whether it be nature or manmade;

For the parishes of Our Lady and St Alphege in Bath, the United Church here in Melksham and our own parish community;

For the homeless and those who help them;

For all those sick in body, mind and spirit, and those who care for them;

For all expectant mothers.

God, our Father, as we look forward to the celebration of the coming of Your Son, help us to keep You ever in our minds and hearts as the true source of our salvation. We make this prayer through the same Lord, Jesus Christ your son, who loves and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hilary Clifton

Monday 21st December: Word: Sg 2: 8-14, or Zep 3: 14-18; Ps 32; Lk 1: 39-45
Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Tuesday 22nd December: Word: 1Sm 1: 24-28; 1Sm 2; Lk 1: 46-56
Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Wednesday 23rd December: Word: 2Sm 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 88; Lk 1: 67-79
Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season



Christmas Readings

Thursday 24th December, Christmas Eve

Children and Families Mass 4.00 pm

Reading 1: Isaiah 9: 1-7

Psalm refrain: Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord

Reading 2: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Prayers of the Faithful – December 24th Christmas Eve

Sing aloud all ye Angels, the Lord is coming. Coming as a child to a humble family, coming to save the world.

Jesus comes into this world as a child with all the frailty of a baby, but he brings hope and redemption. In these present days we need to remember that strength is often in weakness.

Let us pray for our world as Covid once mores takes hold, let us pray for our families and friends and do our best to protect them.

We pray for our parish family that we soon may be able to meet together in more normal circumstances.

Let us pray for all who worship at the Queensway Chapel in our town as they prepare to welcome the Saviour. Amen.

Terri Welch

Mass 6.00 pm

Reading 1: Isaiah 9: 1-7

Psalm refrain: Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord

Reading 2: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Friday 25th December, Nativity of the Lord, Mass 10.00 am

Reading 1: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Psalm refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of the Lord

Reading 2: Hebrews 1: 1-6

Gospel: John 1: 1-18

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Prayers of the Faithful, Nativity of the Lord.

Jesus, the child Of God, the child of Mary born in the stable; come and dwell in our hearts this Christmas so that our homes may be blessed with your presence.

We pray as Brexit continues, that our prime minister and government are guided to make the right decisions.

We pray for the Housebound, the sick and the families who will not be able to celebrate Christmas together.

We pray for those whose lives are dedicated to the services of others, especially the providers of essential services and the NHS as our country battles with the scourge of the Covid-19

We thank God for the vaccine and the scientists who worked on it.

We look forward to the time when life can return to normal.

We pray for our Church and the Church of God of Prophecy, Melksham.

We remember those who have died recently and their families.

Christ the son of God, born of Mary, fill us with his grace and love. Let us trust his promise and obey his will. Amen

Mary Harris

Saturday 26th December: Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr

No Mass at St Anthony's today

Word: Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Ps 30; Mt 10: 17-22

Hours: Psalter 4, Proper of Season

Sunday 27th December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday Year B; Proper of Season
Reading 1 – Ecclus: 2-6, 12-14
Psalm refrain: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
Reading 2 – Col 3: 12-21
Gospel – Luke 2: 22-40

Prayers of the Faithful, Holy Family

We celebrate with joy and wonder the birth of Our Saviour in a lowly stable. Let us place our prayers with Him in the manger.

We pray for Pope Francis, the clergy, Fr. Vincent and ourselves, that we may share with others the gift of our faith.

We thank God for this Christmas time, for the gift of today, for the love of our family, our relations, our friends and our Church. Especially at this time, we remember all those we have loved who have died and their families and friends.

We pray for the disabled, for the ill in body, mind or spirit, and for those who love and care for them.

We thank God for the NHS staff, for teachers, social workers, shop workers, care workers, community medical staff, volunteers and all who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic for the good of others.

We thank God for the vaccine and for the scientists.

We pray for peace throughout our beautiful world, created by our Loving God. Help us to care for it and to see God in the beauty all around us.

We pray for St. Anthony's and St. Edmund's Churches, all Churches in the Clifton Diocese and the Core Church in Melksham.

Help us to live our lives in the best way we can, knowing Our God is always with us.

We make these prayers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gay Harris

Monday 28th December: Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Word: 1Jn 1: 5-2:2; Ps 123; Mt 2: 13-18

Hours: Proper of Season

Tuesday 29th December: Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr

Word: Col 1: 24-29; Ps 22; Lk 22: 24-30 *or* Mt 10: 28-32

Hours: Proper of Season

Wednesday 30th December: Word: 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Ps 99; Lk 2: 36-40

Hours: Proper of Season

Thursday 31st December: Word: 1Jn 2: 18-21; Ps 95; Jn 1: 1-18

Hours: Proper of Season

Friday 1st January 2021: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Word: Nm 6: 22-27; Ps 66; Gal 4: 4-7; Lk 2: 16-21

Hours: Proper of Solemnity

Saturday 2nd January: Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church

Word: 1Jn 2: 22-28; Ps 97; Jn 1: 19-28

Hours: Psalter 1

Sunday 3rd January – Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday Year B; Psalter week 2, Proper of Season

Reading 1 – Ecclus 24: 1-2, 8-12

Psalm refrain: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us *or* Alleluia!

Reading 2 – Eph 1: 3-6

Gospel – Jn 1: 1-18

Prayers of the Faithful, Second Sunday of Christmas

Jesus is a great gift to us, he leads us to the Father and to each other.

We pray for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit for Church Leaders and governments, that in this New Year there will be peace and justice for all.

We pray for our young people, for the elderly, for those who are lonely that they will feel the comfort of God's peace and love.

We pray for our parish, that we may be a welcoming, loving and caring community.

We pray for Fr Chris and the congregation of St John's, Bath and Rev Alison and St Michael's, Melksham. Father, You know the needs of the human heart, we ask you to fulfil those needs.

We pray in Jesus name. Amen

Anne Doyle

Monday 4th January: Word: 1Jn 1: 3-7; Ps 97; Jn 1: 35-42
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Tuesday 5th January: Word: 1Jn 3: 11-21; Ps 99; Jn 1: 43-51
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Wednesday 6th January: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Word: Is 60: 1-6; Ps 71; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Solemnity

Thursday 7th January: Word: 1Jn 3: 22-4:6; Ps 2; Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Friday 8th January: Word: 1Jn 4: 7-10; Ps 71; Mk 6: 34-44
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Saturday 9th January: Word: 1Jn 4: 11-18; Ps 71; Mk 6: 45-52
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Retiring Collections: Our 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.

Red Missio Boxes: Those of you who have a red Missio box are asked to bring them to church for counting, please. We have received letter of thanks from Missio for the sum of £135.00 from our parish from World Mission Sunday.

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.

Prayer Candles: Our Prayer Candle display will continue through December. 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, where it will be added to the display. **Please do not add candles to the display yourself;** this will compromise our Covid infection control systems.

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>

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, Win and Ron Jones. 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

Words of Wisdom:

You give little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

Kahlil Gibran

Heavenly Father, thank you that the Son of God
Became the son of man in order that
the family of man might
become the family of God.

Father, this is your great expectation, make it mine.

Anon

Just some thoughts:

Grandpa and Granddaughter were chatting.

Granddaughter asked "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes", said Grandpa, "God made me."

"Did God make me", she asked.

"Yes, said Grandpa, God made you."

She looked at Grandpa and then at herself in a mirror. "You know, Grandpa, God's doing a better job these days!"

Holy Joke

Wordsearch – The Big One!

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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| ! | GALILEE | SANDAL |
| BATTLE | GAVE | SECURE |
| BEING | GODISWITHUS | TENT |
| BETROTHED | HANDMAID | THEWEDDED |
| BIRTH | HONOUR | THRONE |
| BLISS | HOUSE | THRONG |
| CAESARAUGUSTUS | ISAAC | TOWN |
| CENSUS | ISRAEL | TRUTH |
| CHOSEN | JERUSALEM | UNIVERSE |
| CLOUDS | KING | WENT |
| CROWN | LIFE | WITNESS |
| DONOTBEAFRAID | LIGHT | WONDER |
| ENDS | MARY | YOKE |
| ENDURE | MOSES | ZADOK |
| FATHER | REIGN | ZION |
| FREE | REJOICE | |

Eliminate only the words given in the list. No word should be completely inside another. Any other words are coincidental and should be ignored.

The remaining letters give the name of the feast (no surprises there) and the words in bold give the initial letter.

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Last week's words were "GAUDETE SUNDAY"

Hilary Clifton

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@cliftondiocese.com 07710 094976 for more information – he would be delighted to hear from you.

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@cliftondiocese.com

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

Christmas is God's gift to us. May its blessings bring our Church family joy and peace and may we be guided by the strength of the Lord in the coming year. Let's rejoice, the Lord said, let's rejoice! Have a blissful Festive Season and God bless you all.



Rejoice!

The word "Rejoice!" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Above the letters 'i' and 'o' are two lit candles with flames. Each candle is surrounded by a circular, dotted pattern that resembles a halo or a decorative glow. A long, thin, curved line sweeps under the word, ending in a small dot at the bottom right.