



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 Wednesday 24th February at 10.00 am, and Sunday 28th February at 9.00 am.

Please do not arrive at church hoping to attend Mass if you have not booked in advance.
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is currently suspended.

*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.

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

Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of each week

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 each Wednesday in prayer for all who live and work in Melksham, our Council, industry and shops, hospital, care homes and surgeries.

**Sunday 21st February: First Sunday of Lent
Sunday Year B; Psalter week 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 – Mark 1: 12-15

Prayers of the Faithful, First Sunday of Lent

During Lent Lord, help us deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ and make it a reality in the conduct of our lives.

We pray for our parish community that God may keep us connected in Spirit and love during this time of social distancing. We pray also for the candidates preparing for the Sacraments.

We thank God for the scientists, the volunteers and all involved in the widespread vaccination throughout the country, working for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We pray for the people of Myanmar who are striving for justice in their own countries and the children in war-torn Yemen who are in danger of dying of acute malnutrition.

We pray for the Holy Cross Church, Bristol, and the Core Church in Melksham.

We remember those who have died and their families in our prayers.

Father, trusting in your love, we bring these prayers before you through Jesus Christ your Son. Mary Harris

Monday 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

Tuesday 23rd February: Word: Is 55: 10-11; Ps 33; Mt 6: 7-15

Hours: Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Wednesday 24th February: Word: Jon 3: 1-10; Ps 50; Lk 11: 29-32

Hours: Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Thursday 25th February: Word: Est 4: 17; Ps 137; Mt 7: 7-12
Hours: Psalter 1, Proper of Season

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

Saturday 27th February: Word: Dt 26: 16-19; Ps 118; Mt 5: 43-48
Hours: Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Week beginning 28th February; retiring collections in aid of CAFOD Family Fast day (*see below*)

Wednesday 24th February – PPC and Liturgy Meeting: There will be a PPC and Liturgy group meeting after Mass on 24th February in the hall. Covid restrictions (social distancing, face masks, ventilation, etc.) will be observed.

Family Fast Day for CAFOD Friday 5th March: Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give this Lent to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. CAFOD Envelopes will be available in Church Sunday 28th February and Wednesday 3rd March, or you can donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>. You can also give via text. Text **LENT** to **70460** to donate £10*. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text **LENTNOINFO** to **70460**. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: <https://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice>

CAFOD's Big Walk for Water: Tricia Hoy is joining CAFOD's Big Walk for Water this Lent. This involves walking 10,000 steps every day during Lent totalling over 400,000 to raise money to provide clean, safe water in Ethiopia. She is looking for sponsors for this great cause - please give through the Just Giving link: [Tricia | Walk for Water | CAFOD](#)

Parish Charities: Zofia Clark still has some facemasks to sell for our charities; they are 3 layered. If you would like to buy some, please contact Zofia direct on **01225 340998**. 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>

St Edmund's Presbytery – Cleaner(s): Fr Vincent is searching for a cleaner for the Presbytery in Calne – can anyone help? For more information, please speak with Fr Vincent. Thank you.

Clifton Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage 2021 – Cancelled: It is with regret that we announce that there will be no Diocesan and Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. The Pilgrimage, which was scheduled for 21st – 27th August 2021 has been cancelled in light of the on-going effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Diocese has a schedule for special virtual events which will continue until the end of August, and can be found on the Diocesan website: [Clifton Diocese](#).

Every Thursday to 25th March, Global Healing – Lent: This Lent, the Global Catholic Climate Movement invites you to 'Global Healing' in response to Pope Francis' call to care more deeply for Our Common Home. Running for six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm, Global Healing film sessions with reflection, guest speakers & discussion. To register, please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

Debt Advice in Melksham – Can you help? Hope Debt Advice Melksham are changing their name to Melksham Community Money Advice (CMA). This name will help identify them with the publicity of their national organisation. Melksham CMA now wish to appoint a Centre Manager; this is a voluntary part time post. It is envisaged that the post should - at least initially - be no more than a couple of hours per week, but may increase as things develop. A job description is available from Sharon Pearce (contact details as at the foot of the newsletter). If you feel you, or someone you know can help, please make initial contact to 01225 702053, or email melkshamcma21@gmail.com by **Friday 26th February, please.**

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.

Melksham Family of Churches' Crisis Support: Melksham Family of Churches also supports those who need emergency relief help (non-food items such as fuel meter payments, etc.). If anyone would like to contribute to this, please contact Sharon (email as at foot of newsletter) for further information.

Please pray for the following: Don d’Cruz, 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. Deacon David Wakefield, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Alan Glass, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, June Carey, Janet Ruddick, Judith Curtis, Janice Kuranlu, Merv Pearce, Alan McFall. 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

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. No word should be completely inside another. Ignore any other words that may appear coincidentally.

The remaining letters give the pact that God has made with each of us at our baptism:

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The words from the previous weeks were “FREE TO SERVE” and “OUTCASTS” Hilary Clifton

Just some thoughts:

Extracts from Church Notices:

- (On a church bulletin during the minister’s illness) “God is good! Dr Hargreaves is better!”
- 22 members were present at the meeting yesterday evening. Mrs Crutchfield and Mrs Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.
- The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment. Holy Joke

Words of Wisdom:

“The history of our life has two rhythms: one, measurable, made of hours, days, years; the other, composed of the seasons of our development: birth, childhood, adolescence, maturity, old age, death. Every period, every phase has its own value, and can be a privileged moment of encounter with the Lord. Faith helps us to discover the spiritual significance of these periods: each one of them contains a particular call of the Lord.” Pope Francis

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

Care for Creation – Countdown to COP26: The COP26 event is a global United Nations' summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it. The Pope has asked for a new appreciation of the interdependence of all things in our beautiful planet:

First Week of Lent: The parable of the seed growing by itself: Mark 4.26

This speaks of the kingdom of God, but also speaks of the bounty of the world. We could extend it by 10,000 and more reasons for thanking God. For example, when we wake, we can thank God that we have breath, and that we have had air to breathe all the time we were asleep, for the loveliness of light returning, for our strength as our muscles respond to our thought, for the warmth of the atmosphere and the stability of gravity, for the peace in our streets... and that is in the first seconds of waking up!

Youth Ministry - A 'Million Minutes of Silence': This is a simple idea - each minute is sponsored to raise money for social action projects supporting young people. Throughout Lent schools, parishes, and individuals will help clock up a million minutes! We want this year to be the biggest year yet, to show our collective support for young people, and to raise at least a million pennies (which is £10,000!) to help young people restore our world. Explore our website and resources at: millionminutes.org/silent. Alternatively, if you feel inspired by our work and feel compelled to give consider [donating](#).

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@cliftodiocese.com

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

Dates for your Diary

Friday March 5th - Alabaré's Big Sleep at Home: On Friday March 5th Alabaré were due to hold their "Big Sleep" at Salisbury Cathedral, which has been their flagship fund-raising event for the last 13 years. However, because of the current restrictions, this year they are doing things differently. Instead, they are holding their second "Big Sleep at Home" and are asking participants to sleep on their floor, in their garden, garden shed, church or anywhere else that is safe, and seek sponsorship from their friends, family, congregations and colleagues. Please visit the following link: [Big Sleep at Home](#) for more information. Please also pray for Alabaré and the work that they do.

Wednesday 10th – Thursday 18th March – National Novena to St Joseph: The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10th -12th March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13th March at 10am, Sunday, 14th March at 11.00am, Monday – Thursday (15th -18th March) at 7.30pm. If you would like to join in from home, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena Prayer leaflet. You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the **Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW**, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.