

DIARY

SAT	1 st Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm with Survive-Miva Appeal.
SUN	<u>SUNDAY 4 EASTER</u> Mass at 9.30 am with Survive-Miva appeal, followed by refreshments in the hall.
MON	SOLEMNITY OF ST GEORGE Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. Mothers' Prayers in the hall, 10.30 am
TUE	Prayer for Melksham, St. Anthony's Hall, 7.30 pm
WED	Extended Morning Prayer at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments and Breaking Open and Sharing the Word.
THU	Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
FRI	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. Prayer Group, hall, 7.30 pm.
SAT	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am 1 st Mass of Sunday(5 Easter) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Psalter Week 4 + Easter Readings etc.

MASS COMMEMORATIONS: Sat(21): Don Mackenzie RIP; **Sat(28):** Don Mackenzie RIP.

READINGS

Reading 1: Acts 4: 8-12.

Psalm (117) Refrain: ***The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.***

Reading 2: 1 John 3: 1-2.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10: 11-18.

Please pray for the following who are sick: Mr Frank Manning, Mr Richard Eades, Mrs R. Menghini, Mrs Bridie Liddle, Mrs Jonasz, Fr Lloyd, Zofia Clarke, Vilma D'Souza, Don d'Cruz, Mrs Audrey Tickner, Mrs Kathleen Murphy, Charlie Canavan, Ann O'Mahony, John Porter, Faith Wheat, Mrs Rebecca Matthews, Gail Ballinger, Joyce Alford, Chris Bate, John Doyle, David Coghlan, Helen Krause, Derek Dyer, Michael Lees, Elizabeth Travers, Nuala Barron, June Carey, Tom & Claire Hunter, Mrs Marian Frawley, Geoff Blwyddin, Pamela Polizzotto.

Richard Eades is very ill at present – please keep him and Margaret in your prayer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR eternal rest for Eric Conn, Vera's father, who died during the week; and also remember Vera in your prayers.

Welcome to The Parish of St Anthony of Padua



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SUNDAY 22 APRIL, 2018

Dear Friends,

I don't know whether I was really safe to drive along the M4 on my way back to Swindon one Saturday in mid-late November 1974, a week or two after my ordination. I was terrified at the thought of having to hear confessions as soon as I got back! It is a fear I have never completely got over in over 43 years; though the sense of satisfaction one experiences of a sincere confession of someone genuinely seeking to love God, and the privilege and joy of being able to tell them they are loved and forgiven outweighs the difficulties experienced in the Sacrament! And it is the same with other aspects of the priest's ministry; the good aspects compensate for and outweigh the difficult aspects. It has not all been easy; but in general I have been very happy.

But people sometimes ask, "Don't you get lonely?" and in all seriousness, I have to say, no. Okay, there may be odd moments, like a couple of years or so ago when I was ill, and could not cope with visitors, but felt a bit distanced from what was going on in the parish. But otherwise, no. If my ministry became so activity- and "me"- centred that I imagined I did not have time for God or for prayer, then I probably would be. Or if I was foolish enough to imagine that my ministry made me some kind of superior being to the people of the parish that I could not relate to them in any meaningful way, then again I probably would be. But the people of the parish have usually been kind and supportive, a sort of extended family. And I am conscious that God is very good to me and is always close to me— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit —; so there is no reason to be lonely.

Over the years I have been as happy, and probably happier, than most people in other callings; as I near retirement please pray that many more younger people will discover the happiness of this ministry and want to offer themselves in this way in the service of God and of his Church.

In the love of Christ,

Richard Northey

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £172.20

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: Monday, 10.30 am in the hall.

BREAKING OPEN & SHARING THE WORD: Sharing on next Sunday's Gospel. Wednesdays, after Mass & refreshments.

ADORATION: Thursday, 10 am – 7 pm.

PRAYER GROUP: Friday, 7.30 pm in the hall.

MIVA: Short appeal at end of Masses this weekend. Please do wait for this unless anything urgent prevents you; and contribute as generously as you can.

CLERGY TRAINING FUND: Retiring Collection next w/e 28/29 April. Leaflets and gift aid envelopes are available this weekend. As you will see in the leaflet, Fr. Matt intends to do one final cycle ride for vocations June-July, going up some of the iconic climbs of the Tour de France!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) meeting Wednesday 2nd May 7.30pm: Agenda for that meeting is displayed on the notice board at the back of the church. If there are any issues/suggestions that you would like discussed then, please place them in the postbox on the wall in the porch.

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please let Fr. Richard know of anyone who is sick, elderly or housebound who would like to be visited and receive Holy Communion.

RUH BATH RC CHAPLAINCY: Mandy Baker – 07775895814, email: mandybaker@live.co.uk please contact Mandy if you have a relative or friend in hospital.

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH every third Thursday at 9:30 am in church before Adoration begins. Prayer intentions: for God's guidance, a smooth transition and for a new parish priest and thanksgiving to God for our parish priest. All are warmly welcome to join in at church or home if you can.

24 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Thursday 17th May 10am to Friday 18th May 9am, This period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for 24 hours has a three-fold purpose.

1. To pray in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress to be held in Liverpool from 7th - 9th September 2018 Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, laity and religious which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. The last International Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908 when permission for a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament was refused. The Deanery Clergy have organised a programme of Eucharistic Adoration in the week 14th to 20th May 2018. Most of the parishes within the Deanery are taking part and having a period of Adoration on an allotted day that week.

2. "Thy Kingdom Come" This is an invitation from the Presidents of Churches Together in England to join again this year in a global wave of prayer for mission, evangelism, peace and justice. People around the world will be coming together to pray for family friends and neighbours to come to know Jesus Christ.

3. As we approach Pentecost to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit anew on our parish and its future when Fr. Richard retires.

This time of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will be part of our regular weekly Eucharistic Adoration and already have cover from 10am to 7pm We are asking many more parishioners to sign up to an hourly slot to ensure that two people are praying before the Blessed Sacrament at all times for the 24 Hrs. Please sign up on the spread sheet in the church porch.

LIFTS TO/FROM MASS: Anyone willing to offer lifts to/from Mass when required, please let Mary Harris know.

PARKING: a) Could those parking on the corner of the car park please pull in tightly? It can be difficult for other cars to get past. b) As Christians, consideration of our neighbours is of primary importance. If you park in the street, please take care not to block our neighbours' parking areas, or park on yellow lines. If our church car park is full, there *is* a nearby public car park; please try to avoid upsetting our neighbours.

MELKSHAM FOODBANK: (www.melkshamfoodbank.org.uk). They are most in need of potatoes (instant), peas (canned), carrots (canned), sugar, pasta. They no longer use boxes – thank you to those who have donated boxes, but please do not leave them in the church porch any more. Does anyone know anyone who is going through a difficult time and might be in need of the help of the Foodbank?

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: for safety reasons, unaccompanied children are not allowed in the church hall during Mass.

DRIVERS: Please drive with great care when entering or leaving the car park, so that the lives of children – and adults – may not be put at risk.

NEWSLETTER: Any information, articles, etc, please send to the presbytery at the address supplied on the front of the newsletter.

