



## Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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Parish Website: <https://st-anthonyofpadua.weebly.com/>

 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 24<sup>th</sup> December: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Mass 9.00am**

**St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am**

**Christmas Eve Children and Family Mass 5.00 pm**

**Night Mass 9.00 pm**



**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December: The Nativity of the Lord: Mass 9.00 am**

**St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December: No Morning Prayer; NO MASS**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December: NO MASS**

**St Edmund's Calne: Mass 6.00 pm**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Mass 9.00 am**

**St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January: Morning Prayer 9.45 am; Mass 10.00 am**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Adoration 10.00 am – 3.00 pm**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3.00 pm**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December: 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

Children's Liturgy of the Word will recommence on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

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

**Crib offerings are for the "Little Way" Association**

**We welcome Fr Michael Fitzpatrick who celebrates the Christmas Eve Masses with us**

**Please note – there will be NO refreshments after Sunday Morning Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> December; refreshments as usual on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**Mother's Prayers, Breaking Open and Sharing the Word, Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet are taking a break until the New Year (see above)**

**Christmas Wishes from CAFOD:** Wishing you all in your Parish a joyful but peaceful and filled with hope Christmas, celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! Thank you for all your support to suffering brothers and sisters around Our Common Home!

**Confirmations 2024:** The Confirmation of St Anthony's young people will be celebrated in October 2024. We now need volunteers to help with a programme of Preparation for the candidates. If you would be willing

to help with this, please speak to Father Vincent

**Starting School?** If you have a child born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2024** onwards. You must complete an application form that is available from the school admissions team of the **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. Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

**St Augustine's Catholic College - Admissions Policy:** St Augustine's admissions policy for 2025-2026 has now been ratified, and can be found on the College website at: [St Augustine's Catholic College - Apply to Lower School \(st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-augustines.wilts.sch.uk)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January: Mothers' Prayers** in the Hall, 10.30 am

**"Move it or Lose It"** keep fit exercises are now on their Christmas break and will resume in the New Year

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January:** 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, Dave Disney, Gay Harris, Fr Vincent, David Harris, Hilary McFall. 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](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net)

#### DIOCESAN NEWS

**Canon Christopher Whitehead:** On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Canon Christopher Whitehead as the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. On hearing the news of his appointment Bishop-elect Christopher said: "I thank God for his merciful love and pray that God's most Holy Spirit may enable me to be faithful in all I do, remaining ever attentive to the Gospel and his love. I pray that I be a gentle shepherd to God's people and a loving father to those I have been called to serve." Bishop Declan said: "Our prayers and thanks go with him as he leaves the Diocese of Clifton to commence a new journey in the Diocese of

Plymouth." Let us as a parish also pray for Bishop-elect Christopher.

#### 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  $\frac{2}{3}$  allocated to Presbytery repairs, and  $\frac{1}{3}$  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 –

##### Did you know?

**The Christmas Tree:** For many people, the Christmas tree is only a seasonal decoration. To Christians it symbolises the green of hope at a time of dying, the burning light of Christ at a time of spiritual darkness and the fruits of paradise, a theme of the medieval mystery plays. Its origin as a Christian symbol may trace to an historical event. In 722AD when St Boniface evangelised the Germanic tribes, he chopped down their sacred oak tree of Thor in the forest of Geismar to prove the impotence of their god. Legend has it that as the oak split a fir tree sprang from its centre and Boniface told the people to take it home and put gifts under it. Boniface used the evergreen as a symbol of the eternity of the true God.



#### Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

##### Love

God with us,

You made your home among us, loved by your mother Mary, and bringing her joy.

As we prepare to celebrate your birth, be with us now, especially with those who are seeking refuge.

Comfort us all and bring us joy.

Amen

CAFOD

## Wordsearch: Christmas

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

- |            |              |           |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| ACTIONS    | GOD          | PRIZE     |
| ANGELS     | GRACE        | REIGN     |
| AWAY       | HEART        | REJOICE   |
| BABY       | HEAVEN       | SAID      |
| BETHLEHEM  | ISAIAH       | SAVIOUR   |
| BORN       | JESUS CHRIST | SAY       |
| CALLED     | JOY          | SHEPHERDS |
| CHILD      | KINDNESS     | SHINE     |
| COASTLANDS | KING         | SKIES     |
| COMPASSION | LET US GO    | TITUS     |
| EARTH      | LIGHT        | TODAY     |
| ETERNAL    | LORD         | TOLD      |
| FAVOUR     | MANGER       | TREASURED |
| FORTH      | MARY AND     |           |
| GLAD       | JOSEPH       |           |
|            | PONDERED     |           |

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters give another two words which could describe this important event:

God's \_ \_ \_ \_ for \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Wordsearch: Christmas Carols

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

- |                                 |                               |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| ADESTE fidelis                  | God rest you merry, GENTLEMEN | SANS day carol                         |
| ANGELS we have heard            | Deck the HALL                 | I SAW three ships                      |
| AWAY IN A MANGER                | Do you HEAR what I hear       | While SHEPHERDS watched                |
| Sleep, holy BABE                | HOLLY AND THE IVY             | SILENT night                           |
| Carol of the BELLS              | INFANT holy infant lowly      | On Christmas night all Christians SING |
| Unto us is BORN a son           | JOY to the world              | Little Jesus SWEETLY sleep             |
| Little drummer BOY              | In dulci JUBILO               | We THREE kings                         |
| It came upon the midnight CLEAR | LITTLE town of Bethlehem      | Jesus Christ the apple TREE            |
| O COME all ye faithful          | MARY'S boy child              | VIRGIN Mary had a baby boy             |
| COVENTRY carol                  | In the deep MIDWINTER         | Good King WENCESLAS                    |
| Once in royal DAVID'S city      | Go, tell it on the MOUNTAIN   | WHAT child is this                     |
| Ding DONG merrily on high       | PAST three o'clock            | See amid the WINTERS snow              |
| How FAR is it to Bethlehem      | PERSONENT                     | As WITH gladness men of old            |
| FIRST NOWELL                    | Shepherds PIPE carol          | Adam lay YBOUNDEN                      |
| King Jesus hath a GARDEN        | There is no ROSE              |  |

Eliminate only the listed carol words. The remaining letters give another particularly moving one:

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Sunday Year B; Psalter 4 Proper of Season**

**Reading 1:** 2 Sm 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:** Lk 1: 26-38

**Christmas Eve Masses**

*We welcome Fr Michael Fitzpatrick who celebrates Mass with us this evening*

**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:** Proper of Season

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

**Sunday Year B; Psalter 2, Proper of Season**

**Reading 1:** Is 52: 7-10

**Psalm Refrain:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Reading 2:** Heb 1: 1-6

**Gospel:** Jn 1: 1-18

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr**

**Word:** Acts 6: 8-10, 7: 54-59; Ps 30; Mt 10: 17-22  
**Hours:** Proper of Feast

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist**

**Word:** 1Jn 1: 1-4; Ps 96; Jn 20: 2-8

**Hours:** Proper of Feast

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

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

**Hours:** Proper of Feast

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December: Feast of St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr**

**Word:** Col 1: 24-29; Ps 22; Lk 22: 24-30

**Hours:** Proper of Feast

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December: Word:** 1Jn 2: 12-17; Ps 95; Lk 2: 36-40  
**Hours:** Proper of Season



**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Sunday Year B; Psalter 2, Proper of Season**

**Reading 1:** Eccles 3: 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

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**Reading 1:** Nm 6: 22-27

**Psalm Refrain:** O God, be gracious and bless us.

**Reading 2:** Gal 4: 4-7

**Gospel:** Lk 2: 16-21

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January: Memorial of Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church**

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

**Psalter 2, Proper of Memorial**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January: Word:** 1Jn 2: 29- 3:6; Ps 97; Jn 1: 29-34  
**Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of Season

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Word:** 1Jn 3: 7-10;

Ps 97; Jn 1: 35-42  
**Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of Season

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January: Word:** 1Jn 3: 11-21; Ps 99; Jn 1: 43-51  
**Hours:** Psalter 2, Proper of Season

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Word:** 1Jn 5: 5-13; Ps 147; Mk 1: 6-11  
**Hours:** Psalter 2, 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:**

[comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com)