



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

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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

As a Parish Community we welcome all those who are visiting and joining with us to celebrate Christ's birth. We wish you, your families, and your loved ones the peace and joy of this season.

Sunday 25th December: Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day: Mass 9.00 am

Wednesday 28th December: NO MASS

Thursday 29th December: Adoration in the hall 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 30th December: Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3.00 pm

Saturday 31st December: NO MASS

Sunday 1st January 2023: Mass 9.00 am

Wednesday 4th January: Morning Prayer 9.40 pm; Mass 10.00 am

Thursday 5th January: Adoration in the hall 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 6th January: Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord – Mass 10.00 am

Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3.00 pm

St Edmund's Calne – Mass 7.00 pm

Saturday 7th January: Mass 10.00 am

Reconciliation after Mass on Saturdays, or by arrangement with Fr Vincent

Government advice is that face coverings/masks can help reduce the spread of Covid.

Readings at end of newsletter

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Collections are for Fr Vincent and are the main source of income for the priest. All Crib offerings will be for the Little Way Association

There will be no refreshments after Mass on Sunday 25th December, nor Sunday 1st January

Mothers' Prayers: No Mothers' prayer this week (26th December); Mothers' prayers resume on Monday 2nd January.

We are delighted to welcome Alex Harris into our parish family as he is baptised on Saturday 7th January. Please pray for Alex and his family.

As winter approaches, we ask everyone to make sure they dress for warmth when they come to church. We continue to keep windows open in the church to reduce the spread of virus – at the same time due to increased utility costs that we all face, church heating cannot be set to as high a temperature as we would like. Thank you.

Candidates for First Holy Communion: Parents of children in primary school year 3 and above who have children who would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to put their contact details on the clipboard in the porch by the end of December. A meeting for parents will be held before communion

classes in January.

Time to start school? If you have a child born between **1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019**, then **now** is the time to apply for a place at a Catholic primary school. You must complete an application form available from the school admissions team of Wiltshire Council, for admission during the **2023-24** school year. You **must** also provide a copy of your child's baptism certificate to your preferred school. Our parish school is St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Corsham [Home | St Patrick's Catholic Primary School \(stpatricks-wilts.co.uk\)](#) - contact them also on **01249 713125**, email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15th January 2023**

Breaking Open and Sharing the Word: There will be no Breaking Open and Sharing the Word on Wednesday 28th December; this will resume on Wednesday 4th January after Mass.

Fridays: Divine Mercy Chaplet 3.00 pm

OUR PARISH FAMILY

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please pray for: Geoff Blwyddin, Mrs Jeanette Allsop, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, Katja Lubina, Patrick Egan, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, Judith Curtis, Janice Kuranlu, Anne Doyle, Sheila Likey-Ayling, Anne O'Mahony, Lorraine Pavey, Francis Ballinger, Shireen Doyle, Fr John O'Toole, Tess Jones. 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 to receive Holy Communion, please telephone 01225 824039 and leave a message, or Email ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net

CLIFTON DIOCESE

A third new Catholic Educational Multi Academy Trust, The Little Way Catholic Educational Trust – consisting of Catholic Primary Schools in Gloucestershire, is due to open on 1 September 2023 and so the Bishop is seeking to appoint Foundation Directors to its Trust Board. If you have enthusiasm and commitment, can take a strategic view and wish to support and sustain Catholic education, then you can make a valuable contribution to the governing board. It also provides the opportunity to use your life/work skills and experience, to provide the best possible education for the children in our schools. For a The Little Way Directors Application Pack visit <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance>

& click on the 'Recruitment' tab or contact Bill McEntee, Governance Officer via Bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com or on 07710 094976 for further details.

OTHER NEWS

How Can You Help Rough Sleepers? A Message from Wiltshire Council: What do you do when you see someone sleeping rough?

How can you really help someone when you're not sure the best way to do it? We're offering advice to people on what they can do to support anyone they see sleeping rough on the streets and how you can provide real support. If you see someone on the streets, you can provide details to [StreetLink](#) which connects rough sleepers with local services that can support them. StreetLink will provide the council with details so officers can talk to the rough sleeper, help them find a warm place to stay and offer ongoing support. People are also encouraged to donate to local charities in Wiltshire, which directly help those in need. With temperatures falling we've also activated our Severe Weather Emergency Provision. If you are sleeping rough, or you know someone who is, let us know on **0300 456 0100** so we can provide accommodation and support.

CHARITIES and PARISH PROJECT

Gift Aid: Your Parish Gift Aid contact is Tricia Hoy, phone number **01225 704805**.

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 is grateful for the help from St Anthony's parishioners. A basket for donations is in the church porch, or you can use 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 for those who need emergency relief. This fund is seeing increased demand; if you would like to contribute, please contact Melksham Foodbank or Sharon (Parish office) for further information.

AND FINALLY –

Wordsearch: Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

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

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| ABRAHAM | HEART | RADIANT |
| ANGEL | HUSBAND | REJOICE |
| BABY | INN | ROD |
| BETROTHED | ISAAC | SACRIFICED |
| CAESAR | ISAIAH | SHINES |
| AUGUSTUS | JOY | SHOULDER |
| CENSUS | JUDAH | SIGN |
| CHILD | LAW | SON |
| CLOTHES | LUKE | SPEAK |
| DAVID | LYING | SWORN |
| DAY | MANGER | THRONE |
| DECREE | NAZARETH | TREASURED |
| DEEP | OPPRESSOR | WATCH |
| DOMINION | PEOPLE | WIFE |
| DO NOT BE AFRAID | POWER | |
| FLESH | PROPHET | |
| GALILEE | | |

Eliminate only the listed Christmas scripture words. No word should be entirely inside another. The remaining letters give a well-known Christmas phrase, meaning Emmanuel:

_ _ _ / _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _

The word from last week (4th Sunday in Advent) was MARY'S CHILD
Hilary Clifton

Did you know?

- It snowed in the Sahara Desert in 1979
- The smell of chocolate increases theta brain waves, which triggers relaxation
- The strongest beer in the world has a 67.5% alcohol content.
- The longest common English word without vowels is "rhythms"

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

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

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| AARON | GLORIFYING | PEOPLES |
| ANGEL | GOD | PONDERED |
| BABY | GRACIOUS | REDEEM |
| BLESS | HEART | REPEATED |
| BORN | HEIR | RULE |
| CALL | ISRAEL | SPOKE |
| CHILD | LAW | TREASURED |
| ENABLE | LIGHT | UNCOVER |
| EXACTLY | MANGER | WOMAN |
| FACE | MOSES | |
| GLAD | NAME | |

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters give an important word in the Christmas story

_ _ _ _ _

Answers in the January 8th newsletter.

Hilary Clifton

Sunday 25th December

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Sunday Year A; Psalter 1, 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

**Monday 26th 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

**Tuesday 27th December: Feast of St John,
Apostle, Evangelist**

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

Hours: Proper of Feast

**Wednesday 28th December: Feast of the Holy
Innocents, Martyrs**

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

Hours: Proper of Feast

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

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

Hours: Proper of Feast

**Friday 30th December: Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Word: Ecclus 3: 2-6, 12-14; Ps 127;

Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23 **Hours:** Proper of Feast

Saturday 31st December: Word: 1Jn 2: 18-21;
Ps 95; Jn 1: 1-18 **Hours:** Psalter 1

Sunday 1st January

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of
God**

Sunday Year A, Psalter 2, Proper of Season

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

**Monday 2nd January: Memorial of ss Basil the
Great and Gregory Nanzianzen, Bishops,
Doctors of the Church**

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

Hours: Psalter 2

Tuesday 3rd January: Word: 1Jn 2: 29- 3: 6;
Ps 97; Jn 1: 29-34 **Hours:** Psalter 2

Wednesday 4th January: Word: 1Jn 3: 7-10; Ps
97; Jn 1: 25-42 **Hours:** Psalter 2

Thursday 5th January: Word: 1Jn 3: 11-21; Ps 99;
Jn 1: 43-51 **Hours:** Psalter 2

**Friday 6th January: Solemnity of the Epiphany
of the Lord**

Reading 1: Is 60: 1-6

Psalm Refrain: All nations shall fall prostrate
before you, O Lord.

Reading 2: Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2: 1-12

Hours: Proper of Solemnity

Saturday 31st December: Word: 1Jn 3: 22- 4: 6;
Ps 2; Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25 **Hours:** Psalter 2