

DIARY

- SAT** 1st Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm.
- SUN(3)** **SUNDAY 4 OF THE YEAR**
Mass at 9.30 am. No refreshments today.
Melksham Family of Churches' Covenant Service, St. Michael's, 11 am.
- MON** Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am.
Mothers' Prayers in the hall, 10.30 am
- WED** Morning Prayer at 9.15; Mass at 9.30 am, Followed by refreshments in the hall and
Breaking Open and Sharing the Word.
Liturgy Group meeting, hall, 7.30 pm.
- THU** Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
- FRI** **Feast of Presentation of the Lord**
Morning Prayer at 9.15 am *in hall*; Mass, *with candle procession beginning in hall*, at
9.30 am.
- SAT** Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am.
1st Mass of Sunday, (5 of Year) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Weekdays Year 2; Psalter Week 4.

MASS COMMEMORATIONS: Sat(27): Pete McGrane, RIP, anniv.

READINGS

Reading 1: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalm (94) Refrain: ***O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.***

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 21-28.

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, Jack Thomas, Ann O'Mahony, John Porter, Don Mackenzie, Faith Wheat, Mrs Rebecca Matthews, Gail Ballinger, Eric Conn, Joyce Alford, Chris Bate, John Doyle, David Coghlan, Helen Krause, David Gompels, Derek Dyer, Michael Lees, Elizabeth Travers, Nuala Barron, June Carey, Tom & Claire Hunter, Mrs Marian Frawley.

Richard Eades is very ill at present – please keep him and Margaret in your prayers; also Eric Conn.

Welcome to The Parish of St Anthony of Padua



Parish Priest: Fr Richard Northey

22 West End, Melksham. SN12 6HJ.

Tel: 01225 702128

Email:

richardnorthey@blueyonder.co.uk

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:

www.cliftondiocese.com



Parish Website: www.st-anthonypadua.com

Alternative phone numbers for emergencies: Trowbridge: 01225 752152; Corsham: 01249 712136

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY, 2018

Dear Friends,

Someone suggested that it might be helpful for me to re-iterate in a newsletter some of the things I was saying regarding Eucharistic Adoration in last week's homily.

First, let me say that there are no absolute rights or wrongs about all this; but my task is surely not just to teach rights and wrongs, but to try to direct people towards what is better! Every Christian is required not just to serve God, but to know and love him. This is no new teaching; the "penny" catechism said the same. To me, one of the very best ways of coming to a more personal and intimate relationship with God is through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Because Eucharistic Adoration, like any kind of prayer, is not easy, many people feel uncomfortable and start to look around for things to occupy them. They might start visiting statues, spend time preparing petitions, or reading books; someone recently asked for us to provide topics to pray for during Exposition. Now, none of these things are *wrong*; and we may need such things to occupy us while we get used to Adoration. But in doing so, we can rather miss the point that in the exposed Sacrament, Jesus is personally present, and it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know him more personally. So try, if you can, to focus your attention completely on that presence rather than look for other things to occupy you. Look, as it were, into the face of Christ present in the Sacrament. Whoever you are, however you have failed, he truly loves you. Focus on his love for you and allow that love to touch your heart, and try to love him in return. Don't give up because it is difficult at first; if you continue to progress, then I believe you will discover a new and deeper relationship with Jesus and the Father; and your faith will begin to come more alive.

In the love of Christ,

Richard Northey

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £211.45

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.

PARISH CHARITIES 2018: This year our parish will be supporting two new charities. The overseas charity will be Mary's Meals and the local one will be Julia's House.

Mary's Meals provides a daily meal in a place of education for more than 1,000,000 of the poorest children in the world. Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus by its founders who were inspired by their Catholic faith. Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. A daily meal in school has a positive impact on enrolment, attendance and performance in class, and could hold the key to eradicating child hunger altogether. The global average cost of feeding a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals is just £13.90.

Julia's House is a children's hospice in Devizes which was opened in May 2017. It is the only children's hospice in Wiltshire. It provides practical and emotional support for families caring for a child with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition, providing frequent and regular support in their own homes, in the community or in the hospice. Julia's House receives just 6 per cent of the income needed to run this service from the government. For the rest they rely on the generosity of the community, private donations and trusts.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: All married couples are invited to join Bp. Declan for a Mass to celebrate Marriage on Saturday 3 February at 12 noon at Clifton Cathedral. If there is anyone celebrating a significant anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70) who would like to be personally invited to this, please let me know asap.

ANNUAL MELKSHAM FAMILY OF CHURCHES COVENANT SERVICE: St. Michael's, 11 am today. Do try to support. There will be no refreshments here today after Mass..

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.

PARISH CHARITY FUNDRAISING EVENING AT ST ANTHONY'S AT 7PM ON SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY IN THE HALL. JOHN DOYLE WILL BE GIVING A TALK. THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AND MULLED WINE SERVED. TICKETS £5 FROM JUDY.

LENT GROUPS: There is a list in the porch for you to sign up for one of the Lent groups. There is also a list of groups of other local Churches if you prefer to try one of them.

MASS OF ANOINTING: our next Mass for the Housebound and the Anointing of the Sick will be on Sunday 25 February at 2.30 pm.

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.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION: this Friday, with candle procession. We will therefore meet in the hall and have Morning Prayer in there.

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

PREPARING FOR MISSION - Life in the Spirit Seminars Tuesday evenings Lent: Clifton Cathedral is hosting Life in the Spirit seminars for 5 Tuesday evenings in Lent starting on Tuesday 20th February at 7.30pm. This is a great way to help us all prepare for mission. The speakers are: Mgr David Oakley of Oscott Seminary, David Payne and Jenny Baker of Café, Fr Richard McKay from our diocese and Fr Chris Thomas from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. For more information, email renewal@cliftondiocese.com or call 07815 751 556.

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.

