



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

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Parish Office: 22, West End, Melksham, SN12 6HJ Tel: 01225 401265

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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 3rd December First Sunday of Advent (year B): Mass 9.00am

St Edmund's, Calne: Mass 11.00 am

Wednesday 6th December: Morning Prayer 9.45 am; Mass at 10.00 am

Thursday 7th December: Adoration 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Friday 8th December - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3.00 pm

Saturday 9th 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

Sunday 3rd December - Children's Liturgy of the Word

Next week – Retiring Collection for the Poor Missions of the Diocese

Thank you from CAFOD: CAFOD have written to thank the parishioners of St Anthony for the donation of £359.00 for Family Fast Day. The full letter is on display in the Hall.

Red Missio Boxes: If you have a red Missio box, please hand it in to Patrick as soon as possible, so that the count can be done before the end of December. Thank you.

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.

St Anthony's Fundraising Gift Wrap Workshops – Next Saturday 9th December in the Hall, £10 to include paper. Come to either our morning session 11.00 am – 1.00 pm or in the afternoon from 1.30 – 3.30pm. Attendance by Ticket only: contact Jennifer on 07341 986569.

Advent Services: St Anthony and St Edmund are holding Advent Services in the coming weeks; St Edmund's Advent Service is next Sunday, 10th December at 3.00pm, and St Anthony's will be held

First Holy Communion

Parents of children in primary school year 3 and above whose children would like to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion are invited to put their contact details and names of children on the sheet in the porch. Regular church attendance at Mass is required. First Communion classes will begin in January following an initial meeting with parents and children.

here on Sunday 17th December at 3.00 pm. We hope you can come!

Christmas Cards are now available to purchase – £2.00 per pack of 10. Please see Sheila Likely-Ayling after Mass

Starting School? If you have a child born between **1st September 2019 and 31st 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 **15th January 2024**.

Also this week: Monday 4th December: Mothers' Prayers in the Hall, 10.30 am

Tuesday 5th December “Move it or Lose It” keep fit exercises in the Church Hall at **1:30 pm**. Please feel free to call Jennifer on 07341 986569 if you have any questions.

Wednesday 6th December: 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, Val Stiles, Dawn Holt, Dave Disney, Gay Harris, Fr Vincent, David Harris. 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

DIOCESAN NEWS

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star - Shafts of Light, Shafts of Hope in Advent: Advent is a time of light, of waiting and hope, of light and joy. Join us as we reflect on these great themes with music, art, and scripture. See it as a mini retreat to give some focus to this busy time of present buying, food shopping, baking and wrapping of gifts. The mini retreat will be run twice online, just click on your chosen session link below:
Thursday 14th December 7-8pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/bef05e7a-38d9-4349-8c6c-39c0d79dda93@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>

Repeated on Tuesday 19th December 3-4pm:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/e1cc27ee-0fba-403e-a6a4-86c34a930b1a@f10b8f13-604e-4fa2-9e12-04a7fad22e94>

Vacancy for Part-time (21hrs per week)

Safeguarding Officer, Clifton Diocese: The successful applicant will need to have a good knowledge and experience of safeguarding legislation, policy procedure and best practice guidance and come from a background of either Social Work, Policing, Health or Probation. For further information about this role please visit www.cliftondiocese.com/Diocese/working-for-us or contact Janice Pearson or Tracey Holford, Clifton Diocese on **0117 954 0993**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 5th January 2024**.

OTHER

Christmas In Melksham Churches

Saturday 9th December – Melksham United Church – Choral Society Concert 7.30 pm

Sunday 17th December – Melksham United Church Candlelight Service 4.00pm

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 16th December – Christmas Carols outside Melksham United Church 10.30 am for 11.00am start.

Monday 18th December, St Edmund's – Carols and Christmas Songs performed by children from St Edmund's school, 11.30 am to 12.00 noon.

AND FINALLY –

Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent - Hope
CAFOD

Eternal God,

You will come when we will not expect you.
Help us to welcome you now in one another,
to reach out to our sisters and brothers
in need of care and support,
and in this way may we be found ready, when
you come again in glory.

Amen

Did you know?

The world's oldest dog lived to 29½ years old. While the median age a dog reaches tends to be about 10-15 years, one Australian cattle dog, “Bluey” survived to the ripe old age of 29½. www.sciencefocus.com/science/fun-facts

Wordsearch: First Sunday of Advent

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| CATCH | HARDEN | SHINE |
| CHERUBIM | INCREASE | STRONG |
| CLAY | INTEGRITY | TEAR |
| DAWN | LIFT | THRONE |
| DISCIPLES | NAME | TURN AGAIN |
| FATHER | POTTER | UNCLEAN |
| GOD | REVEALED | UNEXPECTEDLY |
| GRACE | ROUSE | WAITING |
| GUARD | SHEPHERD | |

Eliminate only the listed words. The remaining letters give an urgent request

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The word from last week (Christ the King) was
 "THIRSTY" Hilary Clifton

Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday Year B; Psalter 2

Reading 1: Is 63: 16-17, 64: 1-3

**Psalm Refrain: God of hosts, bring us back;
 let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

Reading 2: 1Cor 1: 3-9

Gospel: Mk 13: 33-37

Monday 4th December: Memorial of St Osmund, Bishop

Word: Is 2: 1-5; Ps 146; Mt 8: 5-11

Hours: Psalter 1, Common of Pastors

Tuesday 5th December: Word: Is 11: 1-10; Ps 71; Lk 10: 21-24 **Hours:** Psalter 1, Proper of Season

Wednesday 6th December: Word: Is 25: 6-10; Ps 22; Mt 15: 29-37 **Psalter 1, Proper of Season**

Thursday 7th December: Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Word: Is 26: 1-6; Ps 117; Mt 7: 21, 24-27

Hours: Psalter 1, Common of Doctors

Friday 8th December: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Reading 1: Gn 3: 9-15, 20

Psalm Refrain: Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

Reading 2: Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12

Gospel: Lk 1: 26-38

Saturday 9th December: Word:

Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Ps 146; Mt 9: 35-10: 1, 6-8

Hours: Psalter 1, 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