

## DIARY

<b>SAT</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm.
<b>SUN</b>	<b><u>SUNDAY 3 LENT</u></b> Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments in the hall.
<b>MON</b>	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. Mothers' Prayers in the hall, 10.30 am
<b>TUE</b>	Deanery Reconciliation Service at 7 pm at St. John's, Trowbridge.
<b>WED</b>	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments and Breaking Open and Sharing the Word.
<b>THU</b>	Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
<b>FRI</b>	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am. Prayer Group, hall, 7.30 pm.
<b>SAT</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am. 1 <sup>st</sup> Mass of Sunday, (4 Lent) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Psalter Week 3 + Lent readings etc.

**MASS COMMEMORATIONS: Sat(3):** Joe Farussia RIP.

### READINGS

**Reading 1:** Exodus 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17.

Psalm (18) Refrain: ***You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.***

**Reading 2:** 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25.

**Gospel Reading:** John 2: 13-25.

**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, 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**

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**Parish Website:** [www.st-anthonypadua.com](http://www.st-anthonypadua.com)

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

### **SUNDAY 4 MARCH, 2018**

Dear Friends,

I was looking at my picture of Rublev's icon, The Trinity. The picture of course is based on the story of Abraham in Genesis 18 who gives hospitality one day to three men who pass near his tent. In those days and in that part of the world, this was the normal hospitality of the nomadic peoples. They would invite total strangers to stop and rest, have their feet washed, provide a meal for them and then accompany them for a short distance on their journey. As far as Abraham is concerned initially, these are three perfectly ordinary passers-by on a journey. It is only while they are eating the meal that Abraham provides them that it is gradually revealed that Abraham is in fact entertaining God. Although in probability only one of them was God, and the other two angels, there is enough ambiguity about the story for the possibility of interpreting all three persons to be God; and some Christians have therefore seen in this story an early hint of God as Trinity.

In the icon, then, all three persons are seated around a table, each representing one of the persons of the Trinity. Abraham has disappeared; it looks as though these three persons are now the hosts of the meal. There is only one item on the table – a cup, which somehow seems to be Eucharistic. There is a gap between the two persons nearest our side of the table; and the three persons by their eyes and postures seem to be offering a welcome to the person looking at the picture. It reminds us that at Mass, we are invited to share at God's Table and in some way to participate in the very life of the Trinity. At Mass, we tend to imagine that it is *we* who have gathered, *we* who have taken the initiative in our worship, inviting God, like Abraham. In reality, it is *God* who takes the initiative, the Table of the altar and the Sacred Banquet is *God's*, and *we* are the invited guests!

In the love of Christ,

*Richard Northey*

**LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION:** £171.35.

**BUILDING/MAINTENANCE FUND:** Again, I forgot to remind you last week, so we will hold this collection next weekend.

**DEANERY LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** *This* Tuesday, 6 March, 7 pm, at St. John's Trowbridge. This will replace the individual parish ones. Do take this opportunity of celebrating Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. Several priests of the deanery will be available for individual celebrations of the Sacrament.

**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.

**CAFOD LENT FAST:** Thank you so much for supporting CAFOD Lent Fast Day. This Lent Fast Day our parish raised £673.95 to help end hunger and poverty around the world. This has been doubled by the UK Government, meaning a total of £1347.90 has been raised so more of our brothers and sisters can live lives free from hunger. Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent. If you missed the collection last weekend you can still donate. Spare CAFOD envelopes are available at the back of the church and place donation in the regular offertory collection.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday 14th March 7.30pm** Agenda for this meeting is on the notice board at the back of the church. If there are any issues you would like to bring to this meeting please see a member of the PPC. Names of PPC members also displayed on the notice board at the back of the church.

**MASS OF ANOINTING:** Thank you to all those who helped with this celebration or the refreshments afterwards.

**LENT GROUPS:** These will continue on the appropriate days this week.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** This had to be postponed because of the weather. It will now be held on Friday 16 March at 10.30 am at Melksham United Church.

**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](mailto: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.

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

**SUMMER CAMPS:** The annual Clifton Diocese Summer Camps have launched for 2018 and bookings are now being taken. This year, the camps have moved to a new location at the Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean and are being held between 13-17 August (ages 7-11) and 20-24 August (ages 12-16). The camps promise to be a week full of fun, faith and friendship. If you are interested in finding out more, or to book a place for your child, please visit <http://livingyourfaith.co.uk> or email [livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:livingyourfaith@hotmail.co.uk).

**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](http://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.

