

DIARY

SAT	1 st Mass of Sunday at 5.30 pm.
SUN	<u>SUNDAY 5 OF THE YEAR</u> Mass at 9.30 am, followed by refreshments in the hall.
MON	No Morning Prayer or Mass. Mothers' Prayers in the hall, 10.30 am
WED	Extended Morning Prayer NB at 9.00 am , followed by refreshments in the hall and Breaking Open and Sharing the Word.
THU	Adoration 10 am – 7 pm.
FRI	Morning Prayer at 9.15 am; Mass at 9.30 am.
SAT	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11-11.30 am. 1 st Mass of Sunday, (6 of Year) at 5.30 pm.

Sundays Year B; Weekdays Year 2; Psalter Week 1.

MASS COMMEMORATIONS: Fri: Mrs Bridie Little RIP.

READINGS

Reading 1: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7.

Psalm (146) Refrain: ***Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.***

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 29-39.

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

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

SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY, 2018

Dear Friends,

In such spare moments as I have around Christmas time, I often read one or more of Charles Dickens' Christmas stories. One of the ones I read this year, although I had read it before, conjured up some very negative feelings in me.

One of the characters in this particular story, The Cricket on the Hearth, is called Caleb, and he had a daughter called Bertha, who was blind. What particularly struck me was that in the chapter that focussed on their house, it took several pages before Dickens revealed Bertha's name. In the meantime, he referred to her constantly as Caleb's Blind Daughter or the Blind Girl – yes, complete with capitals! It seemed as though it didn't really matter that she was an individual human being with her own unique personality; but all that mattered was her disability!

Of course, I think such attitudes towards disabilities were worse in the 19th century; but perhaps we are a bit inclined to be like this, too. Do we see the disability, the defect, before we see the person? Do we perhaps even define them by their disability – “that man with the limp”, “the lady in the wheelchair”, “the man with the artificial arm”? I am not suggesting that we have to pretend that the disability does not exist; but it is possible that we may fail to see beyond that, to see the real person who just happens to have that particular disability, a person with his or her own personality, characteristics, talents, and so on. The disabled person is just as much a real person as any of the rest of us. Let us not be tempted to accept only what we see on the surface, but to try to discover the real person that they are.

In the love of Christ,

Richard Northey

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: £184.75

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 FUNDRAISING EVENING: Thank you to all those who supported John Doyle's talk. We raised £312.15. There are some of John Doyle's books for sale in aid of our charities, obtainable from Judy Churchill. A big thank you for John for his time and generosity.

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.

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.

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.

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.

