



Welcome to the Parish of St Anthony of Padua

Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Curtis

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Parish Website: <https://st-anthonyofpadua.weebly.com/>

Follow us on Instagram: @stanthony0fpaduachurch

Facebook: St Anthony of Padua Melksham

Alternative phone numbers for emergencies: Trowbridge 01225 752152 or Chippenham 01249 652404

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 9th and Saturday 12th December at 10.00 am, and Sunday 3th December at 9.00 am.

Please do not arrive at church hoping to attend Mass if you have not booked in advance. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is currently rescinded.

It is mandatory for face coverings/masks to be worn in places of worship unless you have an exemption from wearing one (Children under 11, illness, disability, etc.)

Please note that Covid regulations require young children to be supervised by an adult, remaining with them at all times in and around the Church. Thank you.

To pre-book your attendance at Mass, contact Anne Doyle telephone 01225 707486 or email anne.doyle16@blueyonder.co.uk on the following days:

Monday, Tuesday or Thursday of each week

Please note: Toilet facilities will remain closed; please remember this when planning your visit. Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteer stewards and cleaners who make reopening possible.

Prayer for Melksham - you are invited to spend some time on Wednesday in prayer for all who live and work in Melksham, our Council, industry and shops, hospital, care homes and surgeries.

Sunday 6th December: Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Year B; Psalter week 2, Proper of Season

Reading 1 – Is 40: 1-5, 9-11

Psalm refrain: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Reading 2 – 2Pt 3: 8-14

Gospel – Mark 1: 1-8

Prayers of the Faithful, Second Sunday of Advent

Father, we bear in mind that in preparing for Christmas we also prepare the second coming of Christ. We pray that we may await him with faithfulness and joy.

We pray for our world that the distribution of the vaccine will be for all people, rich and poor alike.

We pray that the Church may always be faithful to the Lord and that our parish will always be a loving and caring community.

We pray for all prison and hospital chaplaincies, and for St Barnabas Church, Beanacre.

On this Bible Sunday we pray that all will have access to the Word of the Lord.

God, our Father, gathered together we pray that we will always be faithful to the word of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Anne Doyle

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

Word: Is 35: 1-10; Ps 84; Lk 5: 17-26

Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

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

Word: Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Ps 97; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26 -38

Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Wednesday 9th December: Word: Is 40: 25-31; Ps 102; Mt 11: 28-30
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Thursday 10th December: Word: Is 41: 13-20; Ps 144; Mt 11: 11-15
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Friday 11th December: Word: Is 48: 17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11: 16-19
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Saturday 12th December: Word: Ecclus 48: 1-4, 9-11; Ps 79; Mt 17: 10-13
Hours: Psalter 2, Proper of Season

Retiring Collections: There will be retiring collections weeks beginning Saturdays 5th and 12th December for Christmas flowers for the Church.

Wednesday 9th December – PPC: There will be a socially distanced PPC meeting on 9th December, 10.45 am in the Hall after Mass. If you have anything you would like discussed, please contact a PPC member, or phone or email the parish office.

Mr John Learoyd: The funeral Mass for Mr John Learoyd will take place at 1.00 pm on Thursday 10th December. Due to Covid regulations, attendance is restricted to family and personal invitation only.

Advent Prayer Candles: To replace our Tree of Remembrance, there will be an Advent Prayer Candle display at the back of the church from 1st December. Paper “candles” will be placed on the board, and will show names of friends, family and loved ones that you wish to pray for – especially those who you are unable to be with due to Covid regulations. Everyone is invited to write names on coloured paper candles which will be available in church for you to take away and write names, then return them to church or Presbytery, where it will be added to the display. If you are unable to attend church, please send names to Sharon (using the email at the foot of the newsletter, leave a message on the parish answer phone, or pop them through the presbytery door) who will write a candle for you. **Please do not add candles to the display yourself;** this will compromise our Covid infection control systems.

Instagram and Facebook: We are excited to announce St Anthony’s new Instagram account: **stanthony0fpaduachurch.**, and new Facebook page **St Anthony of Padua Melksham**. Follow us for reflections, prayers, news and events; and spread the word!

Christmas Cards and Parish Charities 2020: This year, the usual practice of parishioners leaving Christmas cards at church for friends to collect is not practical. Instead, why not make a donation to one of our parish charities? **Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Mary’s Meals**, like all charities this year, are suffering reduced income. If you would like to make a donation to **Wiltshire Air Ambulance**, please use the following link: <https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/donate/>

Mary’s Meals also has an internet “Giving Page”: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/donate>

Melksham Food Bank: There has been a huge rise in the number needing the Food Bank. To donate food items, please use either the 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.

Please pray for the following: Don d’Cruz, Mrs Kathleen Murphy, John Doyle, Mrs Marian Frawley, Geoff Blwyddin, Mrs Jean Irwin, Mrs Jeanette Allsop, Zofia Clarke, Chris Bate, Andrew Bate, David Coughlin, Katja Lubina, Patrick Egan, Mrs Jonasz. Deacon David Wakefield, Rebecca Matthews, Paul Hogg, Keith Healy, Alan Glass, Tricia Rigg, Henie Dixon, Brian Hillhouse, June Carey, Janet Ruddick, Judith Curtis, Keith Healy, Janice Kuranlu. All who are suffering from coronavirus, and those finding isolation 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

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from **September 2021** onwards. You must complete an application form available from the school admissions team of **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 concerned – contact the school for full details. Our parish school is St Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, Corsham <http://www.stpatricks-wilts.co.uk/> telephone number **01249 713125**; email admin@st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk . Please ensure you apply by the closing date of **15th January 2021**.

Wordsearch – Second Sunday of Advent



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|--------------|------------|---------------|
| APART | HAND | RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| ATONED | HEAR | SANDALS |
| CONSOLE | HEAVENS | SHOUT |
| CRIS | HIGHWAY | SINS |
| DESERT | HONEY | SKY |
| ELSE | JOHN | SLOW |
| EWES | JORDAN | SPOT |
| FAITHFULNESS | JOYFUL | THOUSAND |
| FLAMES | LAMBS | VOICE |
| FORGIVENESS | LOCUSTS | WITHOUT |
| GLORY | PLAIN | YEARS |
| GOOD | REPENTANCE | |

Cross through only the words given in the list. No word should be entirely inside another. The remaining letters give something that we should all want to hear –

____ / _____ / _____

Last week’s words were “WAITING FOR THE LORD”

Hilary Clifton

Words of Wisdom:

True liberty is to do what we ought to do.
It is not the liberty to do what we would like.

Field- Marshall Montgomery

Just some thoughts:

More notices in a church bulletin:

The sermon this morning will be “Jesus walking on the water”. The sermon this evening will be “Searching for Jesus”.

The Church will be hosting an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.

Holy Joke

Could you be a School Foundation Governor? The Diocese is recruiting people to serve on school governing bodies. If you believe in Catholic education, have enthusiasm and commitment, you can make a valuable contribution to a Catholic school. It also provides the opportunity to use your life/work skills and experience for the benefit of the children in our schools. Please contact bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com 07710 094976 for more information – he would be delighted to hear from you.

Any Comments? *Is there anything you would particularly like to see included in the weekly newsletter? Please send any comments to the email address below, phone the office on 01225 702128 and leave a message, or put a note through the Presbytery door. Thank you.*

Contact: comms.melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com

If you know of any parishioners who do not have access to email, please print this newsletter for them.