SAINT EDMUND'S PARISH – CALNE

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

Church Cleaning: Week 4 **Divine Office: PSALTER 1, PROPER OF SEASON**

SATURDAY	EVE OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Mass at 6.00pm
SUNDAY	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Mass at 11.00am
	St Anthony of Padua, Melksham, Mass 9.00am	
TUESDAY	Weekday of Lent	Mass at 10.00am
WEDNESDAY	Weekday of Lent	
	St Anthony of Padua, Melksham, Mass at 10.00am	
THURSDAY	Weekday of Lent	No Mass
FRIDAY	Weekday of Lent	Mass at 11.30am followed by Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	EVE OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	Mass at 6.00pm
	St Anthony of Padua, Mass at 10.00am	

Confessions by arrangement with Fr Vincent

To restrict the spread of virus, you may wish to continue to wear a face covering. Please sanitise your hands on entering the Church.

Please join us for refreshments in the hall after Mass on Sunday

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION programme will start on Saturday 5th March. If you wish your child to be part of this programme, please email Fr. Vincent or contact Christine Martin on 07941 617791 as soon as possible.

LENT – LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION: Bishop Bosco invites you to join him during this season of Lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. The nearest venue to St Edmund's is on **Tuesday 10th March at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Devizes at 7.00pm.** There will be priests available to celebrate sacramental reconciliation. You will be most welcome.

THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH will take place from 10th-18th March 2026 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are at 10.00am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11.00am. These Masses will be available to follow on YouTube, via the Mill Hill website: **www.millhillmissionarles.com/novena**. The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email **novenamhm@gmail.com**.

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA will be running two Lent groups every Tuesday from 24th February to 24th March at 10.30am in the Church Hall, and 7.00pm at 16, Sherwood Avenue, Melksham. This year's resources are "We Dare to Ask," five sessions reflecting on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. All welcome – if you would like to attend one of the groups, please email **calne.stedmund@cliftondiocese.com**. Booklets to accompany the course are available for £1.25 each.

ST EDMUND'S IS OCEAN RACING FOR UNICEF (The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund): Parishioner David Clements is joining the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race from January to March - an extraordinary commitment in support of a great cause. The race brings together around 600 people worldwide over 11 months, many of whom have never sailed before, let alone raced offshore. Crews face extreme weather, fatigue, equipment failures, and constant race pressure—think *reality TV meets Formula 1 and The Repair Shop!* David's crew of 16 (made up of two professionals and 14 novices) will live life heeled over at 45 degrees, racing 10,000 km from Australia to China aboard the 70-foot racing yacht UNICEF. It is a high performance but very basic boat! **How you can support:** The race aims to raise £400,000 for UNICEF. Donations are warmly invited, and if you can't give, please pray for David's safety, the race crews, the families at home especially Helen and Hannah) and a successful mission**. David Clements is fundraising for UNICEF UK** or the Pictures & QR code in the porch.

NEW PARISHIONERS are asked to please complete a registration form (available in the porch) and hand to Fr Vincent. If you have never filled in a form, please take one for completion and return to Fr Vincent.

DIOCESAN DAY 2026: Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him on 4th July for our Diocesan Day celebration entitled: 'The Joy of Love' at Downside School & Abbey. We will have Patti Boulaye OBE as our keynote speaker, as well as a children's and young people's programme. Arrivals/refreshments from 10am. A hot lunch will be provided (a lunch box for the children). Our Diocesan Day Mass will take place in the Abbey Church at 3.30pm, with the day ending around 4.30pm. There will be a maximum of 400 tickets. If you would like to join us for the day, please register via: **https://joyoflove.eventbrite.co.uk** for your ticket. For the catering/safeguarding requirements, booking through Eventbrite is essential. The closing date for tickets is 24th June unless fully booked beforehand.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: This Pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Bosco MacDonald with the Catholic Association of Lourdes UK, **21st – 28th August 2026.** Including Airport transfers from Bristol to Birmingham Airport, Flights to Tarbes–Lourdes–Pyrénées Airport, hotel transfers. Full pilgrimage programme, including visits to the Grotto of the Apparitions, Mass each day, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Sacrament of Reconciliation, visits to sites related to St Bernadette, Open air Mass in the Cite-San–Pierre, Water Gesture, Stations of the Cross…Diocesan Day Trip to Bartres (extra charge). Please email **lourdes@cliftondiocese.com** to declare an interest.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026 – Friday 6th March 10.30am: St Mary's Church, Calne, will be hosting the World Day of Prayer this year. The Ecumenical Service has been prepared by the women of NIGERIA, who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. Do join us to pray and hear about the people of Nigeria.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: "Embrace your life together in Love," an invitation to Couples to get away together and join us for a weekend to discover ways to grow deeper in love for a happier marriage and a happier life! The weekend draws on Marriage Encounters' 50 years of wisdom and experience, based on scriptural truths, and might just be the gear change you didn't know you needed or thought possible. Couples welcome whether married or in long term relationships, with faith or no faith. ME Weekend 27th February - 1st March - Swindon - Holiday Inn Express West. To find out more or book, visit our website: **Home - World Wide Marriage Encounter England and Wales**

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Please note that submission of items for newsletters need to be received before the preceding Wednesday of each week. Contact details; please speak to Fr Vincent or email **calne.stedmund@cliftondiocese.com** Thank you.

COMMUNION AT HOME: If any house bound parishioners unable to get to Mass would like Holy Communion brought to them at home, please contact Father Vincent, who will arrange a visit by a Minister of the Eucharist. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS all who are unwell or housebound, especially those members of our parish, including, Clifford Browne and family, Kathleen Drury, Margaret Heard, Michael McNiff, Maggie Murray, Heather Smith, Helen Davies, Carol and Gemma, Laurence Davies, Mary Hardy, Emeritus Bishop Declan Lang, Sean Watermere. Please inform Fr Vincent if you know a parishioner is unwell or housebound.