SAINT EDMUND'S PARISH – CALNE

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – 8th MARCH 2026

Church Cleaning: Week 2 **Divine Office: PSALTER 3, PROPER OF SEASON**

SATURDAY	EVE OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Mass at 6.00pm
SUNDAY	THE THIRD 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 FOURTH 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

100 CLUB: March winners are as follows:

£25 Margaret Connely
£20 Madeline Rodgers
£10 Rosemarie Bray

We will be selling numbers for next year's club, at £24 per annum from the weekend of 14th March. Please continue to support this as funds raised go towards our Parish. Thank you.

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION programme will start next Saturday 14th 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 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**.

LENTEN MEDITATION AT ST ANTHONY'S – SUNDAY 8th MARCH: This Sunday, Deacon Remi Thivet will lead an hour of reflection and meditation in St Anthony's church hall in Melksham, from 3.00 – 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CHRISM MASS: As in previous years, St Anthony's have booked a coach to attend the Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 1st April. If you would like to attend, please ensure that you sign up on the sheet in the church porch **before 18th March.** This will enable any vacant seats to be offered to neighbouring parishes so that the (considerable) costs to our parishes of seats not filled can be kept to a minimum.

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.

ST JOHN'S, TROWBRIDGE: From the 9th -13th March, the Redemptorist Fathers will be preaching a Parish Mission in Trowbridge. Each night the Mission Service is at St John the Baptist church (BA14 9EA) and starts at 7.00pm. They'll look at different aspects of our Catholic Faith (respectively Prayer, Our Lady, Death and Eternal Life, The Eucharist and Healing, Gifts and Service), and it lasts for an hour. Confessions available afterwards.

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.

THE VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS: St Gregory the Great, Cheltenham and the Immaculate Conception, Stroud, will host the relics of St Carlo Acutis from **March 8th to 10th** , during which time we will welcome people from all over the diocese for veneration. Alongside his digital Evangelism, Carlo is revered for his charitable work and great desire to help others. Carlo was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. For further information and to arrange a visit please go to: **The Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis**

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.

DIFFERENCE is a five-session course for Lent that equips you to see transformation through everyday encounters in a complex and divided world. Calne Methodist Church are holding 4 further sessions this Lent led by the Rev Craig Manley and Derek Gard. All sessions are held at 2.30pm at Calne Methodist Church on the following dates (with themes) Thursday 12th March - Crossing divides; Thursday 19th March - Navigating disagreement; Thursday 26th March - Practising forgiveness; Thursday 2nd April - Risking hope. We look forward to seeing you.

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, Nigel Tolley. Please inform Fr Vincent if you know a parishioner is unwell or housebound.