

St. Aldhelm's Newsletter



Father Thomas Kulandaisamy MSFS
Deacon Steve Boughton

 - www.saintaldhelms.com
 - <https://www.facebook.com/saintaldhelm>
 - Aldhelms RC Malmesbury
 - malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com
 - 01666 822195
26 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wilts, SN16 9BG

IV Sunday of Advent, 21 December 2025

Live Webcam Link for all our Masses

churchservices.tv/malm

To Make your Weekly Contribution Online

<https://www.saintaldhelms.com/donate>

New Parish Hall Project

saintaldhelms.com/new-

Wednesday Word

www.wednesdayword.org

St Joseph's School Website

[st-josephs-malmesbury.](http://st-josephs-malmesbury)

**HAPPY ADVENT
SEASON**



Rosary prayers

Oct24.docx

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Aldhelm's,

We hope you are ok wherever you are. We are delighted to be in touch with you through this newsletter.

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and thank you for joining us in celebrating the Lord's love for



Reflections for
the Mysteries of
The Rosary
Oct24 (1).docx

us in the Holy Eucharist. There are no strangers here, just new friends you have not yet met!

Readings Summarised

The readings highlight the fulfilment of God's promise in the coming of Christ. In the first reading, Isaiah announces God's sign to King Ahaz: a virgin will conceive and bear a son called Emmanuel, "God-with-us". Matthew recognises this as a clear prophecy of the Messiah, born as a descendant of David. The Responsorial Psalm invites us to welcome the "King of Glory", reminding us that God enters our lives only by our free consent; we must open our hearts, surrender ourselves to him, and allow his grace to shape us into his likeness. In the second reading, Paul affirms that Jesus is the promised Messiah, descended from David according to the flesh, yet revealed as the Son of God in power through his Resurrection. The Gospel focuses on Joseph's vital role. By freely accepting Jesus as his son, Joseph gives him legal descent from David, fulfilling the prophecy. Though not Jesus' biological father, Joseph's obedience makes God's plan a lived reality.

Mass Schedule over the Christmas Period

22nd Dec Monday, Mass at 10am

23rd Dec Tuesday – No Mass

24th December Christmas Eve, Wednesday

5pm Carols, 5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass (Children's Choir),

7.30pm Carols by Candlelight, 8pm Mass of Midnight

25th December Christmas Day, Thursday

8.30am: Mass of Dawn

10am: Mass during the Day

26th Dec Friday - No Mass

27 Dec Saturday - 6.30pm Vigil Mass, Feast of the Holy Family

28 Dec Sun, 8.30am and 10am, Feast of the Holy Family

29 Dec Mon, 10am Morning Prayer

Christmas Offering

As you are aware, Christmas and Easter offerings go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the priest in the parish. Here are ways you can make this offering: You can write a cheque made payable to 'Thomas Kulandaisamy', or you can also insert cash into any envelope or the envelopes kept at the church porch for this purpose and deliver it through Presbytery door, or brought with you when you come to any of the Christmas masses or any other mass and put in the collection bags. Alternatively, you can use our Dona payment method using our website or the machine in the church porch: saintaldhelms.com/dona Thank you in advance for your support and contribution.

Please join us for Carols in the Abbey porch on 21 Dec Sun at 4pm. It is by Churches Together in Malmesbury.

Spiritual Adoption of Unborn Babies

As Christmas is approaching so is the birth of our spiritually adopted children. We will celebrate this very special occasion on Sunday, 28th December at 10.00 Mass which will be offered for the intention of our new born babies and their families. Everyone is welcome to join us to thank God for these lives and pray for their future. With this Mass we end our Spiritual Adoption programme for this year. If you would like to hear more about the subject contact Dora on 07448573976 or e-mail: dorota.smer@gmail.com

Mary Sargent RIP

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Mary Sargent, aunt of Deacon Steve (his father's sister), whose funeral took place yesterday. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers at this time. May she rest in peace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Monday, 22nd December, at 6:00 pm. Please do take this opportunity to prepare yourselves spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

St. Joseph's School News

New Headteacher Appointed - governors were successful recently in recruiting a new headteacher for St. Joseph's. Mr. Nick Morrell is currently deputy head at Beaudestert Park school in Michinhampton and prior to that held the same post at Westminster Cathedral Choir school. He is also a trustee of Clifton Diocese on the Schools and Colleges committee. He will be taking up post after the February half term.

RE Inspection - St. Joseph's was recently inspected by Clifton Diocese and is delighted to report that the overall grading for the school was 'Good'. The school was graded 'Outstanding' in the category of Catholic Life and Mission. Congratulations to staff, governors and pupils for this very positive outcome.

End of Term Mass - this will be held in church on Wednesday 17th December at 10am. All parishioners as well as parents of children at the school are warmly invited to join pupils and staff.

Collection figures

Loose	£162.50
Env NGA	£ 21.00
Env GA	£ 10.00
Repository	£ 10.00
Candles	£ 264.92

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Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Recommended to use sign up for Christmas Masses

To help us manage numbers safely across all four Christmas Masses, and to follow our health and safety guidelines, we thought it would be helpful to use our sign-up feature.

Please be assured that signing up is not a requirement to come to Mass, everyone is most welcome. It is simply a way for us to gauge numbers, distribute attendance more evenly, and avoid crowding, especially as the Children's Mass and the 10am Mass on Christmas Day are usually very full.

If you are able, we kindly encourage you to consider one of the other Mass times. This will help us keep everyone comfortable, especially as access to the choir loft is limited while our hall project is underway and we can only accommodate a certain number in

the church at any one Mass under health and safety regulations.

Below are the Mass times and the sign-up buttons. If you can use the sign up button, it would be a great help to us in planning and ensuring a smooth and joyful celebration for all. We look forward to welcoming you and your family at the Christmas Masses this year.

Christmas Masses		Sign Up
Children's carols 5pm, Christmas Vigil Mass 5.30pm		
Carols by candlelight 7.30pm, Mass of midnight at 8pm		
25th Dec, Mass of Dawn at 8.30am		
25th Dec, Mass during the day at 10am		

Christmas Eve - Youth Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

As we prepare ourselves during this time of Advent to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we'd be delighted to welcome you to the Christmas Eve Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm, animated by young people of the parish.

Young people are particularly invited to share their joyful presence by participating in any of the roles below, for either the Carol Service or Mass or possibly both.

When parents initially sign up, their name and linked email will be used in place of the first young person they wish to sign up; additional names of siblings may then be added. Sign up for any role as reader, musician or singer, should be complete by Sunday 14th December, allowing for timely distribution of readings and music and rehearsal at home.

Please also sign up any younger children who would simply like to carry a tea light (battery operated) to the altar during the offertory procession, so they are not missed out on the night.

This year we particularly need young musicians and singers!
Altar servers are always welcome to serve at any Mass.

Please note, there will be a rehearsal:

Sunday 21st December 11am (after 10am Mass).

Christmas Eve arrival timings:

Musicians: 4.30pm

Singers: 4.45pm

Readers for Carols and Mass: 4.30pm

Welcoming, Offertory Procession, or Offertory Collection: 4.45pm

Altar Servers: 4.30pm (Carols start 5pm)

We look forward to your participation in this joyful celebration!

Christmas Eve - Youth Animated Carol Service 5pm and Mass 5.30pm 24th December		Sign Up
Altar Servers		
Welcomers		
Musicians		
Singers		
Readers of Carol Readings		
Readers of Readings in Mass		
Readers of Prayers of the Faithful (in Mass)		
Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle		
Taking up the Offertory Gifts of Altar Breads, Water and Wine		
Taking up the Offertory Collection (with parental support)		
Carrying a Tealight/Candle (battery operated) in Offertory Procession		

Masses Requested:

20 Dec Sat 6.30pm: Private Intention

21 Dec Sun 10am: Missa pro populo

22 Dec Mon: For the intentions of Nuala (Val's sister) and her parents

24 Dec Wed 5.30pm: For the intentions of young people and their families

24 Dec Wed 8pm: For our parishioners who died in 2025

25 Dec Thurs 8.30am: Missa pro populo

25 Dec Thurs 10am: For all the guests, friends and visitors who joined us for Christmas this year

Uncover the treasures of faith:

"The Christian's life is deeply affected by the teachings of faith. It is through living out the call of faith that we come to see its richness, beauty, and transformative power. Faith is not meant to be confined to belief alone but must be lived out. It must impact our daily choices, relationships, and actions, as we seek to grow in holiness and charity. A life of faith is a life that continuously seeks to follow Christ and live in accordance with His will." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 154)

PS: Newsletter items to be in by Thursday noon
(malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

With every blessing

Father Thomas, Deacon Steve, and Deacon Remi

DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



A FUTURE full of

HOPE

LIGHT of Truth



Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering 'What is Prayer?'



Light of Truth

Catholic Faith Formation for Everyone

Join us on:

9 January 2026

7pm to 8pm for an online session where we will discover what prayer is, how to pray and why it is important to pray.

To register, please click on the Zoom link found on the Light of Truth website:
www.lightoftruth.uk/join



WHAT IS PRAYER?

 **CLIFTON
DIOCESE**
cliftondiocese.com

Safe Spaces



is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can support you.

Call our free helpline

 **0300 303 1056**

 **safespaces@firstlight.org.uk**

Opening hours
Mon- Fri- 9am-9pm
Sat- 9am-1pm
Sun- 1pm-5pm



WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

List of items you might consider contributing towards their purchase

As many of you know, our parish hall project is now underway. Although the builders have begun the work, progress has slowed slightly due to a delay in the steel delivery.

We are now at a stage where a few essential items, the practical, everyday things that will allow the hall to function smoothly from the moment it opens – will eventually need to be purchased. These items were understandably expected to be handled separately from the main build, and they are the sorts of things that turn a finished structure into a welcoming, working space for our parish community.

With this in mind, we wanted to reach out to you. Some parishioners prefer contributing towards specific items, and so we are sharing a list, with the cost of each. We'll be very grateful if you're able to sponsor an item in full, contribute towards part of it, or simply offer a small donation. Every contribution, however modest, makes a real difference. If you know of any friends, family members, or businesses who might like to support us, please do feel free to pass this message on.

As you can appreciate, it is often the final stretch that tests a community's resolve. Yet, for a parish of our size, it is truly inspiring to see how far we have come, through the hard work, generosity, and commitment of so many. Each one of you has played a part in bringing us to this moment, and for that we are profoundly grateful.

If you would like to talk about anything, ask a question, or clarify details, please do not hesitate to call, email, or simply reply to this message. And if you can help us spread the word, that too would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, from the heart, for your continued support, kindness, and faith in this project.

List of items you might consider contributing towards their purchase

Item	Cost
AV System	£5,752.00
Intruder alarm	£3,348.00
CCTV	£1,428.00
Live feed camera	£3,291.00
Vehicle charging point	£2,300.00
60 Chairs	£4,968.00
7 Tables	£ 858.00
Flat screen TV	£ 3,000.00
Extendable screen	£ 478.00
Projector and stand	£2,144.00
Committee room tables and chairs	£ 999.00
Carved wood statue of Our Lady and Child	£ 3,800.00
Sharp combination microwave oven	£ 399.00