



St. Aldhelm's NEWSLETTER

Father Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS
Deacon Steve Boughton
Deacon Rémi Thivet



Laetare Sunday, 15 March 2026

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.](https://st-josephs-malmesbury)

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

yet met!

The readings highlight the theme of spiritual sight. In the first reading, David's anointing shows that God judges by the heart, not by outward appearance, reminding us that human judgments can be mistaken. St Paul urges the Ephesians to live as "children of the light," producing goodness, righteousness, and truth. Psalm 23 celebrates God's care as the Good Shepherd who guides and protects us. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a man born blind, revealing that true vision comes through faith. The humble beggar recognises Jesus, while the learned Pharisees remain spiritually blind. Lent calls us to seek healing from spiritual blindness and to see others as God's beloved children.

Please note that there will be NO MASS ON 16th March Monday, as we have St Patrick's mass on 17th March Tues. You will have mass as usual on Thurs and Fri.

Mass on 14th March Sat 6.30pm will be animated by our Filipino Brothers and Sisters.

A further donation from Malmesbury League of Friends

We are delighted to share some very good news with you. The Malmesbury League of Friends has kindly awarded us a further grant of £20,000 towards our parish hall project. As you may remember, they also generously supported us with £20,000 in July last year.

When we approached them again recently, explaining that we are now nearing our target and that a helping hand at this stage would make a real difference, they very kindly came to our aid once more. We are very grateful for their continued generosity and support.

Our thanks also go to Val for liaising with the League of Friends and for processing the application, and to the Fundraising and Grant Committee for their dedicated work behind the scenes. Above all, we praise and thank the Lord for this wonderful blessing and for the goodwill and support we continue to receive.

Collection figures

Loose	£116.35
Env NGA	£ 27.00
Env GA	£ 10.00

St. Joseph's School News

Thursday 19th March is the Feast of St. Joseph. Mass will be held at 10am in the church and St. Joseph's school children will be leading the readings and singing. All parishioners, parents and friends are warmly invited to join the children in their patronal feast day Mass.

SECOND COLLECTION ON 22 MARCH, PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

This fund provides retirement grants and housing, including care home accommodation, to the priests who have served our Diocese faithfully during their years of active priestly ministry. This money supports them in their retirement and offers them security in their later years. Our gift to them through this fund shows them something of our gratitude and our support.

The Spiritual Adoption 2026

The Spiritual Adoption is a powerful prayer for those children who are in danger of death in the

womb of their mothers. The Adoption starts with the oath taken in church usually on (or close to) Annunciation Day and lasts for nine months till Christmas. In this time you say one decade of the Rosary each day and a daily prayer for your adopted child. You can also decide to do some extra spiritual exercise or an additional resolution, but this is optional.

We do not know who our child is or where she or he might live. Only God knows his or her name. (You can give your child a name of your choice though, so that you feel closer.) Everyone can adopt a child - men and women of every walk of life, even children - providing they are mature enough to keep praying for 9 months.

The Spiritual Adoption has started in our parish four years ago and we would like to keep up the good work. This year we will take the oath on Sunday, 22nd March at 10.00 Mass. If you would like to volunteer and save a life or you just need more information please contact Dora Smereczynska on 07448573976 or e-mail: dorota.smer@gmail.com.

You can also see our parish website to learn more about the subject:

saintaldhelms.com/even

Lenten devotions

13 March Fri 6.30pm: Benediction

20 March Fri 6.30pm: Sacrament of Reconciliation and opportunity for individual confession

27 March Fri 6.30pm: Stations of the Cross

Lent is a wonderful season to deepen and renew our relationship with the Lord. Alongside these Lenten devotions, you might also consider making a small effort to join us for the weekday Masses whenever they are celebrated. These quieter moments of prayer during the week can be a gentle and grace-filled way to reconnect with our faith.

Marriage Encounter. For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment experiences all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and discover God's desire for their marriage. The Marriage Encounter weekend and on-line experience are an opportunity to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter Experience, and our next event is a residential weekend at Swindon Holiday Inn Express from 27th February – 1st March 2026. Please see the poster below for more details and to book to come.

QR code. We are so very grateful for all your kind donations to the hall and to the items we need to buy for the running and safe operation of the hall. We've been asked how to donate to help us, and the details are on the website here [Saint Aldhelms Malmesbury](http://SaintAldhelmsMalmesbury) and if you would like to donate to our parish hall with your phone please just point the camera on your phone to the QR code below and it will take you to the parish Dona page. Thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity and please know that it will have a wonderful effect on generations to come.



Roof Tiles

With the roof works due to begin imminently, the opportunity to secure your family's legacy by purchasing and signing a roof tile for the new Parish Hall will soon be drawing to a close.

As the Bishop has done we warmly encourage you to take part in this special moment in the life of our parish. By adding your name — or your family's names — you become a visible part of the Church's future here in Malmesbury, while also supporting the vital fundraising effort for this exciting new space. There will be more tiles available in the porch in the next few days.

Tiles are available for £25 each and can be purchased and signed after the weekend Masses, when volunteers will be on hand to assist you. Where appropriate we will also claim the Gift Aid on your donation.

To donate: donate.myдона.com/st-a

About our parish hall: saintaldhelms.com/new-



2026 Curia Conference – Saturday 25th April

Following the successful event held back in March 2025, we are hosting a Curial Conference this spring to provide an opportunity for parish colleagues and volunteers to meet with members of the Curial departments and attend a variety of presentations and workshops. The event is being held on

Saturday 25th April 2026 at St Brendan's Sixth Form Catholic College, Bristol from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Eight different topics will run consecutively throughout the event, providing the chance for individuals to attend three different workshops which include the following –

- Communications – Parish website
- Property Services – Estate management of the Church site
- Safeguarding – Safer Recruitment processes
- Finance – Curia Budget and Parish Share
- Schools & Colleges – Catholic Social teaching
- Human Resources – Recruitment of parish colleagues and 2026 HR Law updates
- Cyber Security – Update on Cyber security and protecting systems
- Evangelisation and Discipleship – Reimagining Pastoral Councils

Booking for the conference is via Eventbrite, which can be accessed by the link below, and further details on each workshop is available on the booking pages.

The Curia team look forward to welcoming you on the day.

eventbrite.co.uk/e/cur

St Francis and “Save the Sea” – Clifton Cathedral leads the way

The Jubilee Year of St Francis, 800 years after his death, is being marked with a focal point in the cathedral featuring two banners designed by a parishioner and manufactured by “rollupbanners.com”, a company based in East Yorkshire.

The banners show a 13th century fresco of St Francis from the lower basilica of St Francis in Assisi, and the crucifix of San Damiano, Assisi, which spoke to St Francis in 1205, asking him to rebuild the Church.

The banners are made from discarded plastic collected from the Andaman Sea in Southeast Asia. Local fishermen are trained and paid to collect, sort, wash, and shred ocean plastic, which is then recycled. The material is thoroughly cleaned to meet health and safety standards and has a 100% water-based acrylic coating. By being the first in the UK to purchase “Save the Sea” banners the cathedral demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and concern for the planet.

Bishop Bosco issues Statement on the War in Iran

Bishop Bosco MacDonald has issued the following statement regarding the War in Iran:

The widening war involving Iran is a grave cause of sorrow and alarm. After the long agony of Ukraine and the appalling suffering in Gaza, the world now faces another conflict whose consequences are unpredictable, and whose cost is already being paid first by ordinary people. Families are displaced, the fearful live in uncertainty, and the vulnerable once again carry the heaviest burden.

In these days of Lent, I renew my call to prayer across the Diocese for peace, for restraint, and for the protection of human life. I ask especially for prayers for children, the sick, the elderly, refugees, and all who have no safe place to go, in Iran and throughout the region. I also ask prayer for those serving in our armed forces, that they may be kept safe and act with integrity, and for those working for humanitarian relief, for diplomats, and for political leaders, that they may choose the hard work of dialogue over the terrible ease of escalation.

cliftondiocese.com/new

Mass Intentions Requested:

14 March Sat 6.30pm: For the repose of the soul of Ellen Jane Creighton and John Creighton RIP

15 March Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

15 March Sun 10am: For the intentions and good health of Nick and Lucille Gamble (offered by Mary Lillis)

17 March Tue: For the repose of the soul of Jim Westman RIP (offered by Sheila Stephens)

20 March Fri: For the repose of the souls of Ellen and John Creighton RIP

Wisdom from Saints

“Faith means putting up with God’s incomprehensibility for a lifetime”. KARL RAHNER (1904-1984, German theologian)

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



“Embrace your life together in Love”

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment experiences all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and discover God's desire for their marriage.

The Marriage Encounter weekend and on-line experience are an opportunity to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter Experience.

Our next experience is:

Residential weekend at Swindon -Holyday Inn Express
27th February – 1st March 2026

To find out more or book an experience:

[Book on Marriage Encounter weekend - Swindon 27th Feb-1st March 2026](#)

enquiries@wwme.org.uk

wwme.org.uk



**Why Not Donate Your
Unwanted Silver and Gold?**



For Funds Towards the Parish Hall

**Place your Donations in
a Self-Addressed Envelope for
Collection at All Masses During
February**