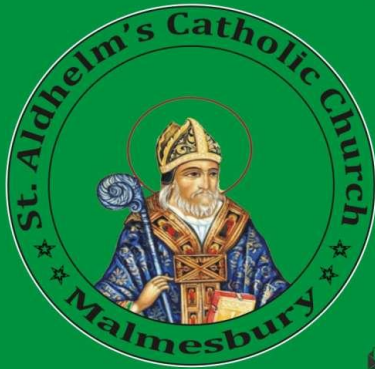


# St. Aldhelm's Newsletter



Father Thomas Kulandaisamy MSFS  
Deacon Steve Boughton

 - [www.saintaldhelms.com](http://www.saintaldhelms.com)

 - <https://www.facebook.com/saintaldhelm>

 - Aldhelms RC Malmesbury

 - [malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

 - 01666 822195

26 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wilts, SN16 9BG

**XXIII Sunday in OT, 7 Sep 2025**

**Live Webcam Link for all our Masses**

[churchservices.tv/malm](http://churchservices.tv/malm)

**To Make your Weekly Contribution Online**

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

**New Parish Hall Project**

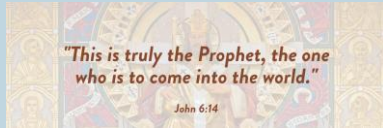
[saintaldhelms.com/new-](http://saintaldhelms.com/new-)

**Wednesday Word**

[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

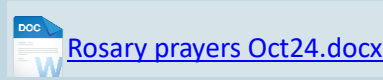
**St Joseph's School Website**

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

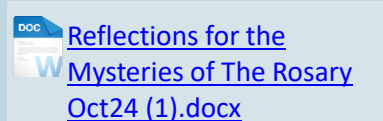


## Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Aldhelm's,

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!



## Readings this Sunday

The readings remind us that true discipleship demands discernment, detachment, and courage. The Book of Wisdom urges us to seek the Spirit's gifts of strength and discernment to follow God's will. Psalm 90 teaches that life is brief and uncertain, so disciples must live holy lives. St Paul's letter to Philemon shows the sacrifices discipleship requires: Paul gives up Onesimus, his helper, while Onesimus faces his master as a renewed Christian. The Gospel calls us to "count the cost" of following Jesus, for discipleship is demanding. Jesus sets out four conditions: placing God above family ties; living free from attachment to possessions; carrying the cross through suffering, sacrifice, and witness; and thoughtfully accepting the lifelong commitment discipleship entails. Christian life is therefore a radical surrender of self to Christ, who loves us and leads us to eternal life.

## Collection Figures

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Collection Loose | £151.92 |
| Env NGA          | £ 31.00 |
| Env GA           | £ 40.00 |
| Tiles            | £ 25.00 |
| P H donation n   | £ 20.00 |
| Repository       | £ 4.70  |

## Our Gratitude to Sophia di Stazio and Alice Nicolas

We offer our thanks to Sophia di Stazio, who has been a dedicated member of our livestreaming team, faithfully running the camera since the very beginning of our broadcasts. Sophia now begins her studies at Oxford University, and we wish her every blessing for this new chapter.

Our gratitude also goes to Alice Nicolas, who has so faithfully played the organ at our 6.30pm Masses. Her music has greatly enriched our liturgy and lifted the hearts of the congregation. Alice is heading to Southampton University, and we send her with our prayers and good wishes.

Both Sophia and Alice have been wonderful examples of young people serving generously in the Church. We thank them warmly and assure them they will always be welcome when they return to Malmesbury.

### **School Mass**

Please do join us for the start of the year school mass in the church on 10<sup>th</sup> of Sep, Wed at 10am.

### **Mission Appeal – 13/14 September at St Aldhelm's**

Next weekend, we welcome one of the **Missionary Sisters of England and Wales**, who will be visiting our parish as part of a diocesan-wide appeal across the St Aldhelm Deaneries.

The Sisters represent women religious from England and Wales who have been sent out in mission to different parts of the world. They will share a short reflection at the end of Mass, speaking about their work and the mission projects they support — including their own ministry with vulnerable and disabled children in London, and their retreat centre in Gloucestershire.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear firsthand about the Church's missionary work and to support it in a small but meaningful way. A retiring collection will be taken after Mass to support the Sisters and the many missionary communities they represent. Your kindness and generosity will be deeply appreciated.

### **A note about parish hall build**

During the build you are asked not to interfere with any of the builders fencing or equipment. In addition, please do not communicate directly with the builders or Mr. Nurden. If you have any urgent items that need to be communicated to them, please call Terry Fox or Brian Cuming. Day to day the build is controlled by our architect.

### **Formation Day for singing and music in liturgy**

Holy Rood parish in Swindon have invited Jo Boyce with CJM Music to lead a formation day on all things to do with singing and music in mass and the liturgy. Jo is an extremely experienced musician and liturgist who works full time in church ministry. We'd like to extend the welcome to those of you involved in parish music ministry and music at mass in schools.

Date: Saturday 4th October 2025

Time: 11- 5ish

Venue: Holy Rood Primary School, Upham Road, Swindon SN3

For more details or to register, please contact Marguerite 07505 368  
[218/laudatemusicgroup@gmail.com](mailto:218/laudatemusicgroup@gmail.com)

**MARRIAGE HELP** - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next dates: 17th-19th Oct. [retrouvaille.org.uk](http://retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

**Education Mass:** The Diocesan annual Education Mass will be celebrated this year on Education Sunday. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bosco at SS Peter & Paul Cathedral, Bristol, at 6.00pm on Sunday **14 September**. The singing will be led by the pupils of Downside School. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass, particularly teachers, pupils, governors & anyone else who is involved in our schools & colleges in any way. Catholic education is a wonderful achievement – and

so should be celebrated!

### Confirmation 2026



Our next Confirmation celebration will take place on Tuesday 19th May 2026. If you have a child currently in Year 8 or 9, or know someone who would like to join the Confirmation preparation classes starting in February 2026, please sign up using the link sent to your email by 31st August 2025. We will be in touch in the autumn with further details.

[Confirmation](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[19 May 2026 Tuesday](#)

### First Holy Communion – June 2026

We are now welcoming enquiries from parents of children who will be in Year 3 or above from September 2025, and would like them to prepare for First Holy Communion in June 2026. Preparation will begin in November 2025. Please express your interest before the end of the summer term by emailing:  [mary.lillis@outlook.co](mailto:mary.lillis@outlook.co) and copying:  [malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

Kindly include your child's name and age as of September 2025.

[FHC June 2026](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[28 June 2026](#)

### **Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis, Sunday 7th September**

As you are aware, Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonised in Rome on Sunday 7th September. This is a joyful and historic moment for the whole Church and particularly special for us, as our church is home to the only known stained-glass window dedicated to Carlo and we share a deep devotion to him.

To mark this occasion, our 10am Sunday Mass on 7th of Sep will be celebrated in his honour. Following the Mass, we have booked the Town Hall for refreshments and a reception to celebrate this event. To help with catering, it would be a great help if you could sign up in advance to indicate your attendance at the reception.

[Carlo Acutis Celebration](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[7 Sep Sun 11.45am](#)

### **Ordination of Remi Thivet to the Permanent Diaconate, Saturday 20th September**

After four years of preparation and formation, Remi Thivet will be ordained a permanent deacon at

Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 20th September at 11am.

We have organised a coach to take parishioners to the ordination, with around 45 seats available. The coach will depart from here at 9.15am, allowing plenty of time to arrive, settle in. If those who sign up can be ready in the churchyard by 9am, it will greatly help with boarding and preparations.

If you wish to travel on the coach, please sign up only if you are certain you can attend, so as to avoid confusion or last-minute cancellations (except of course for serious reasons). Please keep Remi, Frances, little Agathe and Clément in your prayers as they prepare for this beautiful moment in their lives and the life of the Church.

[Remi's Ordination](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[20th Sep Sat 11am](#)

### **Thanksgiving Mass for Rem, Sunday 28th September, 10am**

We will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for Remi on Sunday 28th September at 10am, followed by a reception at the Town Hall. Once again, we would be grateful if you could sign up for the reception so we can plan accordingly. Your presence will be a great encouragement to Remi and his family, and a visible sign of our love, gratitude and support as a parish community.

[Thanksgiving mass and reception](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[28th Sep Sun 11.45am](#)



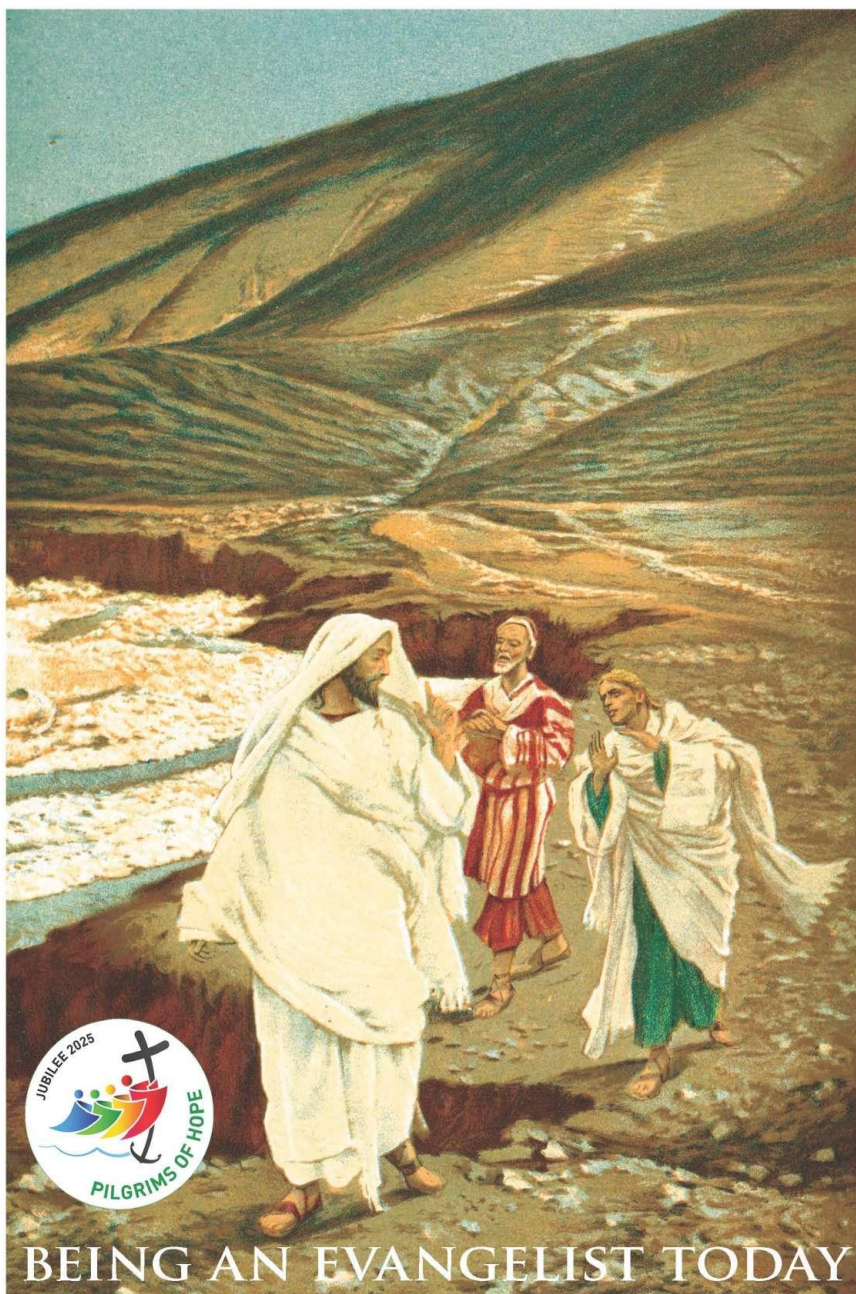
DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION



A FUTURE full of

# HOPE

FORMATION DAY



BEING AN EVANGELIST TODAY

## THE TOOLS REQUIRED TO BE A JOYFUL WITNESS OF JESUS

Our annual Formation Day will take place on **11 October** at **St. Brendan's College, Brislington**, with Mgr John Armitage (Parish Priest, Former Rector of the National Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham and Master of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom) as our keynote speaker. He will be reflecting on the theme of **'Being an Evangelist Today: the tools required to be a joyful witness of Jesus'**.

In addition, there will be several workshop options for you to attend. You may choose two workshops when booking your ticket. Please bring a packed lunch for the day.

You can register on the Clifton Diocesan website (latest news) or on the Eventbrite link:

[diocesanformationday.eventbrite.co.uk](https://diocesanformationday.eventbrite.co.uk)





## Temporary Road Closure Order Town Police Clauses Act 1847

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, which section gives Wiltshire Council ("the Council") the power to make an Order for roads within its administrative area to be closed temporarily to all vehicular traffic (and for alternative routes to be observed) for the purposes of preventing obstruction.

The Council HEREBY ORDERS

On: **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025** between the hours of **16.00** and **20.00**

Purpose: **Malmesbury Carnival Procession**

That the following roads and streets in the town of **Malmesbury** are to be closed (save in any case of emergency) to all vehicular traffic at the approximate times set out below:

Between the hours of **16.00** and **20.00**:

- a) **Park Road (Part)**; from its junction with Old Alexander Road to its junction with Gloucester Road;

Between the hours of **17.00** and **20.00**:

- b) **Gloucester Road (Part)**; from its junction with Old Station Mews to its junction with The Triangle;
- c) **The Triangle (Part)**; from its junction with Gloucester Road to its junction with Abbey Row;
- d) **Abbey Row**; from its junction with The Triangle to its junction with Gloucester Street;
- e) **Gloucester Street**; from its junction with Abbey Row to its junction with Oxford Street;
- f) **Oxford Street (Part)**; from its junction with Gloucester Street to its junction with Cross Hayes Lane;
- g) **Market Cross**; from its junction with Oxford Street for its entire length;
- h) **Cross Hayes Lane**; from its junction with Oxford Street to its junction with St. Dennis Road;
- i) **St. Dennis Road**; from its junction with Cross Hayes Lane to its junction with High Street;
- j) **High Street (Part)**; from its junction with St. Dennis Road to its junction with Oxford Street.

Nothing in this Order shall prevent vehicles from proceeding in the said lengths of roads when being used in connection with the event stated above.

**This Order is made the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025**



**PP**

Signed by  
**SAMANTHA HOWELL**  
Director Highways and Transport

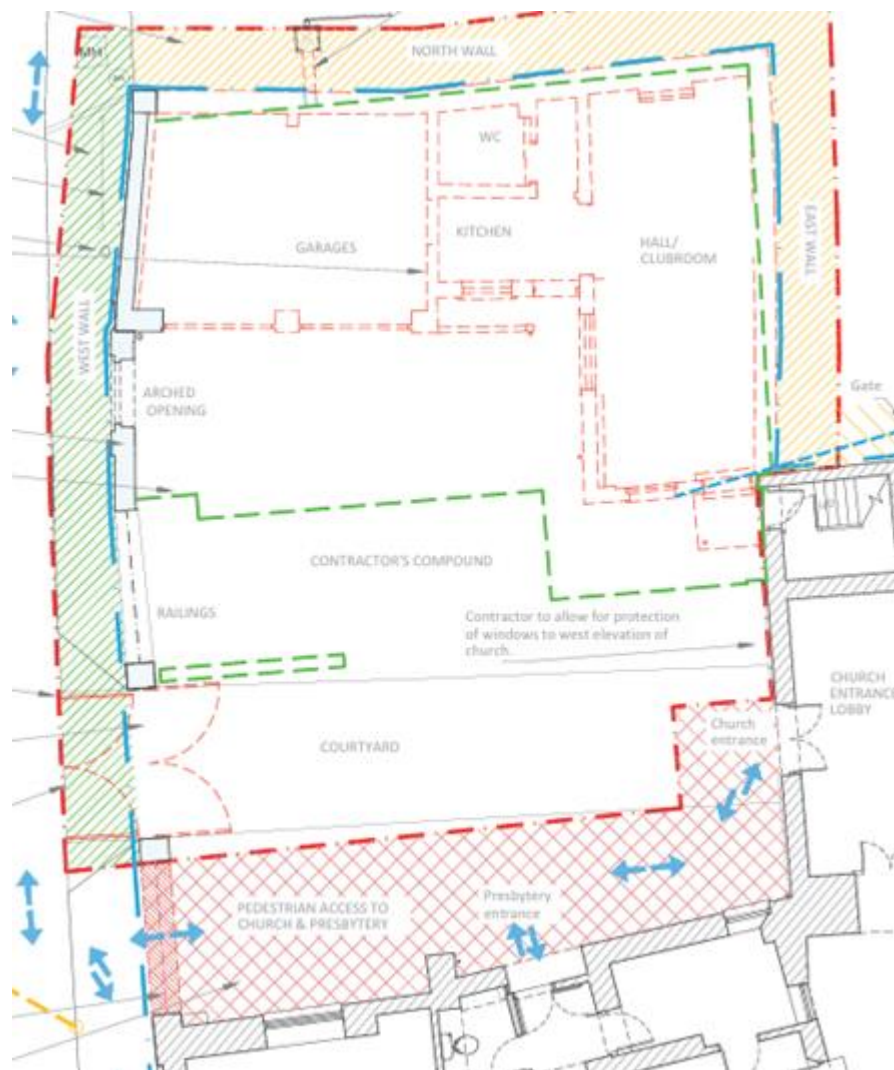
**IMPORTANT:** It is an offence to wilfully breach the terms of this order and anyone committing such an offence shall be liable on summary conviction in the Magistrates' Court to a penalty not exceeding £1,000.

We are pleased to report that good progress has been made with our parish hall project, and we have met the conditions from the diocese to allow us to start the build. We have resolved the VAT issue with HMRC. Raised sufficient funds to make a start and agreed a firm price with the contractor.

Yesterday the 20th of August we have had formal approval to proceed. We still need £40,000 so we will continue to fundraise through events, our applications to donors and grant giving bodies. We will also continue to [sell tiles for the roof](#).

It is planned to start the build on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. We will at that stage lose the use of the clubroom and garages. Access to the choir loft will also not be available during the build.

We will lose most of the courtyard to the contractor during the build. Our access to the church will be via a path cut down adjacent to the presbytery shown crosshatched in red on the diagram below. The church will be open as usual. In addition we must be prepared dust and the noise in the courtyard.



**Masses Requested:**

6 Sep Sat 6.30: For the intentions and good health of Michael Lee (offered by Lillis family)

7 Sep Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

7 Sep Sun 10am: For deceased members of the extended Gilchrist family (offered by Frank and Hilary Gilchrist)

8 Sep Mon: For the intentions of Madge as she celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

11 Sep Thurs: For the intentions of Charlton family

12 Sep Fri: For the repose of the soul of Derek Tilney RIP

**Uncover the treasures of faith:**

"By its very nature, Christian faith is a faith that seeks understanding. The believer who does not seek to understand more deeply the One in whom he believes, or to understand better the truths He has revealed, is not living with the full vigor of the faith." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 158)

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

Please do join us for coffee on Sunday after 10am mass, and on Thursdays after 10am mass.

**With every blessing**

Father Thomas and Deacon Steve

**Retreat Handouts for Weekly Reflection**

During our annual retreat this year our preacher kindly provided a set of handouts, one for each talk, designed to support our personal reflection and prayer. Just sharing with you here in case you find them helpful for your own reflection and meditation.

## Chastity

### 1 Corinthians

'He himself will be saved, but only as through fire.' 3:15

'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,  
which you have from God, and that you are not your own?  
For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. 6.19-20e

'No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone.  
God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength,  
but with the testing he will also provide the way out  
so that you may be able to endure it. 10.13

### Chastity as Charity

[Chastity] is patient; [Chastity] is kind; [Chastity] is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.' 13.4-7

'Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love'

*Pope Francis*

'Lust is the attitude to things and people with treats them as stopgaps to resolve our short-term needs and shrinks the world to the dimensions of my urges and fantasies.'

*Rowan Williams*

'The beginning of living chastely in the world is to see it as it is, with reverence, desiring to encounter what I see, but freed from the need to possess. Such seeing is grace.'

*Erik Varðen*

'God's love is one single fire  
experienced as hell, purgatory or heaven  
according to the state of the one plunged into it.'

*St Catherine of Genoa*

'Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love,  
love one another earnestly from a pure heart.'

*1 Peter 1.22*

'Give beauty back, beauty, beauty, beauty, back to God, beauty's self and beauty's giver.'

*Gerard Manley Hopkins*

'To the pure  
all things are pure.'  
*Titus 1.15*

'Purity prepares the soul for love,  
and love confirms the soul in purity.'  
*St John Henry Newman*

'Before his gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves...His gaze, the touch of his heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation "as through fire". But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of his love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God.' *Pope Benedict XVI Spe Salvi 47*

**From Erik Varden, Chastity: reconciliation of the senses**

'To inhabit the world chastely is to see it in truth  
and to see myself and humankind truthfully within it  
- that is, to become a contemplative.'

'States of grace are something we can grow into.  
'Innocence' is more than pristine immaculateness.  
In the logic of grace it is something that can be restored.  
The same principle applies symbolically...to virginity.'

Matthew 6.22 'A good case could be made for translating.  
'So if your eye is chaste, your whole body will be full of light.'

'Happily, chaste seeing can be re-learned.  
Or rather a simple, unmingled eye can be re-acquired.'

'The contemplative gaze, become virginal, is relieved of preconceptions.  
The beholder is free to encounter the other *as* other, with wonder.  
Thereby life is released from monotony, infused with freshness.'

'Thank God ahead of time!'  
*Blessed Solanus Casey*