



St Aldhelms Roman Catholic Church

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

Gaudete Sunday, 15 Dec 2024

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

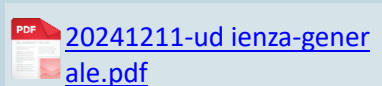
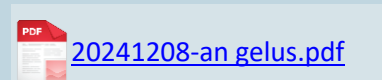
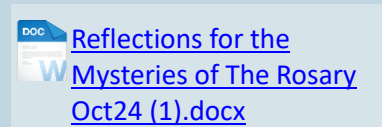
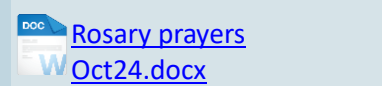
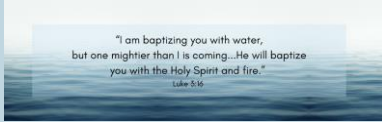
saintaldhelms.com/new-

Wednesday Word

www.wednesdayword.org

St Joseph's School Website

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



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 Summarised

Today's readings guide us toward joy and transformation through God's presence and our response to His call.

The first reading from Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to rejoice in the Lord's promised deliverance, celebrating His presence among His people.

The Responsorial Psalm, from Isaiah, echoes this call to exultation, proclaiming the greatness of God in the midst of His people.

In the second reading, St. Paul writes from prison, urging us to "rejoice in the Lord always," a joy rooted in faith despite adversity.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist's call to repentance revealing joy as the fruit of justice, generosity, and living according to God's will.

Please do join us for school christmas mass on 18th Dec Wed at 10am in the Church.

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:

1. You can write a cheque made payable to 'Father 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. Please add a note to let Father Thomas know what it is for (Christmas Offering), even if you do not want to leave your own details.

2. Or Alternatively, you can use our Dona payment method using our website or the machine in the church porch: saintaldhelms.com/dona

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Join us for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on 13th Dec Fri at 7pm, during which time there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A perfect opportunity to ready your heart for the joy of Christmas!

Children's Advent Activity in Church

As we prepare for Gaudete Sunday and the joy of Advent, we invite children and parents to take part in two meaningful activities, continuing until the Christmas Eve Children's Carols (5pm) and Mass (5.30pm):

1. The Jesse Tree: Displayed in church, this activity helps children explore God's plan of salvation, from creation to Jesus' birth, and the key roles of Mary and Joseph. Resources for creating a Jesse Tree at home, along with free Advent activities, are available online.

dynamiccatholic.com/ad

shininglightdolls.com/

amazon.co.uk/Picture-B

2. Advent 'Action Stars' Giving Tree: Children are encouraged to take an Action Star during Mass, complete the task, and return it by the 5pm Christmas Eve Children's Carols. These thoughtful actions help share the joy of giving this Advent season.

Missio Red Boxes: If you have money in your Red Box please bring it in to be emptied well before Christmas so that the amount can be credited to this year's total.

Christmas Cards designed by our parishioner, Anna Longridge, featuring St Aldhelm's Church are available for sale in the porch at £5 per pack of 6. All proceeds will go to the Parish Hall fund so please purchase these cards to send to your family and friends and help our fundraising efforts.

More of the new missals have been ordered and will also be found in the church porch as soon as they arrive. The cost is £20.

Payments may be made for all items via the DONA machine or, if using cash, via envelopes through the presbytery door.

[Beyond the Threshold](#) – creating safe spaces for people to find out who we are, what we believe and what we're like!

A day for all! On Saturday 18 January we will explore the key principles that we need to employ before we embark on any specific programme of catechesis. Our day at St Brendan's College, Brislington, will start at 10am (9.30am refreshments) and will be led by International Speaker and Author, David Wells as our keynote speaker. In addition, there will be a series of workshops to look at

how we apply the principles of creating a safe space, enabling others to know who we are, what we believe and what we are like!

To register for the day please click on the Eventbrite link: [beyondthethreshold.eve](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-threshold-tickets-75484241144)

Jubilee of Hope: Holy Door opens on 24 December

Only a few days remain until the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, marking the beginning of the Holy Year 2025.

The Jubilee offers a special moment for plenary indulgence, conversion, and grace to rekindle hope in the daily journey of life and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Follow the opening of the Holy Door on December 24 at 7:00 PM (Rome time) and all events of the Holy Year 2025 with Vatican News and Vatican Radio via our [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook Live](#).

"Hope does not disappoint."

Christmas Eve Carols for Children 5pm and Mass 5.30pm

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we await your joyful presence at the **Christmas Eve Carols for Children 5pm and Mass 5.30pm!** We'd be delighted for children/young people to animate the liturgy by taking part in any of the roles in the sign ups below, for either the Carol Service or Mass; we particularly need singers!

Alternatively, give your child's name to the announced contact at end of Masses over the next two weekends, to tell us if your children/young people would like to participate.

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

Please note, there will be a staggered timing rehearsal, as below:

Rehearsal timings Monday 23rd December 2.30 - 4.00pm

Musicians and Singers: 2.30 - 4.00pm

Readers of readings and prayers: 2.30 - 3.30pm

Welcomers; Offertory Procession, or Offertory Collection: 3.00 - 3.30pm.

Nb No rehearsal for altar servers Monday 23rd December; arrive 4.30pm Christmas Eve.

During rehearsal Monday 23rd December 2.30 - 4.30pm: Parent assistance required please to engage children in relevant fun activity sheets.

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)

[Christmas Eve Carol Service for Children 5pm - 5.30pm](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[Returning Advent 'Action Stars' - before start of Carol Service](#)

[Readers for Carol Service Readings](#)

[Christmas Eve Mass for Children 5.30pm](#)

[Sign Up](#)

Christmas Eve Mass for children 5.30pm

[Altar servers](#)

[Welcomers](#)

[Musicians](#)

[Singers](#)

[Lighting Christmas Candle in Wreath](#)

[Readers for Readings](#)

[Readers for Prayers](#)

[Taking up Offertory Gifts](#)

[Carrying a tea light at offertory](#)

[Offertory Collection](#)

Bishop Nicholas Hudson touched to be at Solemn Reopening of Notre Dame

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Episcopal Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, represented Cardinal Vincent Nichols at the Solemn Reopening and Dedication of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Saturday, 7 December 2024.

Bishop's Reflection

I have known Notre Dame Cathedral all my life. My mother was Paris-born; and used to take us there as often she could. So I was touched to be asked to represent Cardinal Nichols and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales at the Solemn Reopening and Dedication.

As children, we were deeply fond of Notre Dame. But we were always surprised at how dark it was – both inside and out. For those of us privileged to witness its reopening it was a joy to enter now a cream-white cathedral, brighter than one could ever have imagined it – and yet still the same dear Notre Dame. We told one another, "This is what it must have been like to enter a new Gothic cathedral in the Middle Ages!"

The new elements I immediately liked. We were welcomed at the West Door by a massive bronze font which carries the eye upwards and forwards to the equally imposing bronze altar – and still further up to the great gold cross which survived the fire and surmounts the newly dedicated tabernacle. To the right of the altar stands a yet more unlikely survivor, the 14th century statue of Our Lady of the Pillar – unlikely, because she stood only feet away from where the spire had crashed to the Cathedral floor that fateful night in 2019. Surely it was Divine Providence which had saved her, we told one another. She was rightly the main focus and channel of our prayers in the Reopening ceremony.

cbcew.org.uk/bishop-ni

Pilgrimage of Hope: Join other Jubilee pilgrims in September 2025

The *Hearts in Search of God* project has announced a new walking pilgrimage for England & Wales during the Jubilee, called The Pilgrimage of Hope, on Saturday 13 September 2025.

It is a national walking pilgrimage, with four main Ways converging at the Cathedral of St Barnabas, Nottingham, on Saturday 13th September 2025, the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Ways start at the Catholic cathedrals in Cardiff, Leeds, Norwich and London and will bless our nations with a Sign of the Cross. The routes use established hiking routes and are off road as much as possible. A small group of 'perpetual pilgrims' will walk the full distance of each Way, with day pilgrims joining for stages.

cbcew.org.uk/pilgrimag

Masses Requested

14 Dec Sat 6.30: For the repose of the soul of Deirdre Bryan – Brown RIP (beloved cousin of Sarah McNeil)

15 Dec Sun 8.30am: Missa pro populo

16 Dec Mon: In thanksgiving for many blessings (offered by Bernice and Jimmy Irving)

Wisdom from Saints

"The devil fears hearts on fire with love of God." St. Catherine of Siena

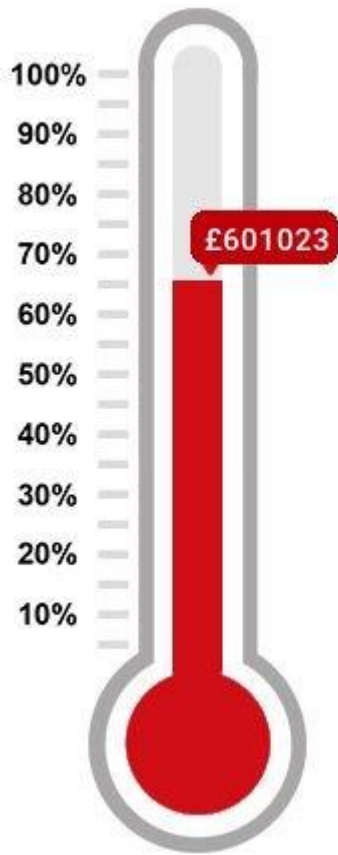
PS: Newsletter items to be in by Thursday noon (malmesbury.staldhelm@cliftondiocese.com)

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

Goal: £925000





November and December 2024, Liturgical Schedule

St Aldhelm's, Malmesbury

1 Nov Fri: All Saints Day (Holyday of Obligation)

10am – Mass

7pm – Mass

2 Nov Sat: All Souls Day

10am - Mass

13 Dec Fri, Reconciliation Service and Confession

7pm

18 Dec Wed, Christmas Mass in the Church for the School

10am

24 Dec Tue, Christmas Eve

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

7.30pm Carols by candlelight, 8pm Mass of Midnight

25 Dec Wed, Christmas Day

8.30am – Mass of Dawn

10am – Mass during the Day

26 Dec Thurs, St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)

10am - Mass

