

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together, and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their number those destined to be saved.

RESPONSORY PSALM

Psalm 117

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

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| 1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' | 2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. |
| 3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord
a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. | |

SECOND READING

1Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you loved him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious, that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Alleluia. Alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you", and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you'. After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained".

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord", he answered, "Unless I see the holes the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe". Eight days later the disciples were in the house and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you" he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here, look here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe". Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

St Anthony of Padua

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Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

Priest: Fr. Peter Draper (Tel: 725193)

Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Tue, Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Mon & Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: Saturday: 5.30 - 5.50pm

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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War and Peace

The Covid 19 crisis has been described as humanity's Third World War and it's a war in which we are all 'on the same side' against a common enemy. All war situations have similar core realities: the dead and dying, the wounded, both physically and emotionally, the heroes who work tirelessly on the front line, risking – and sometimes sadly sacrificing - their own lives, 'the homeguard' who also heroically keep the world functioning as best we can. Every war experience results in similar emotions: grief, anxiety, fear, confusion, helplessness, loss Yet in the midst of our outer and inner pain, we have hope. Above all, we hope for peace. In today's gospel, Jesus speaks the words we long to hear: 'Peace be with you.' The word 'Peace' (Shalom) is more than a wish for a good evening or peaceful day. It expresses the desire that the person receiving the blessing might be whole in body, mind and spirit. In the Greek, there is no verb so 'Shalom' can be taken either as a wish or a statement of fact – where Jesus is truly present to us, there is peace.

Today we see in Thomas a transformation from doubt to belief in the presence of Jesus. All that stuff about Doubting Thomas, the fact of his disbelief, is just Thomas' starting place, nothing more and nothing less. It's neither good nor bad, right or wrong. It's a starting place. And we all have our starting places. The starting place for the story of our resurrection is whatever our circumstances are today. If we're dealing with deep loneliness, sorrow, and loss, that's our starting point. That's the room which Christ enters. If we are locked in a house of fear, confusion, or darkness, that's the place in which Jesus stands. If illness, old age, disability, or uncertainty are facts of our life, that's the place in which Jesus shows up. If we feel lost, betrayed, disappointed, overwhelmed, that's the house Jesus enters. If joy, gratitude, and celebration are the facts of our life today, that's the starting point for our story of resurrection.

The walls and the locked doors of the disciples house could not keep Jesus out. At the present time all humanity is in lockdown, standing in the same house together. Whatever our religious belief, may our global community experience the Source of Life stepping into the midst of our house, through our locked doors as he breathes peace and life into us; as he breathes peace and hope into us; as he breathes peace and strength into us. And that breath of peace is the key that unlocks the door. **Resurrection is not just an event or an idea. It is a way of being and living.** (various sources including Michael Marsh and Jane Mellet)

Second Sunday of Easter Year A 19th April 2020

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 18th April 2020

Sat	Family of Donal O'Toole	
Sun	Agnes Dunnaghan	<i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>
Mon	Bernard Moore	
Tue	For our parish	
Wed	Theresa Crook	
Thur	Special Intention	<i>Feast of St. George</i>
Fri	Mollie Mounsey	
Sat	Brooke O'Connor	<i>Feast of St. Mark</i>
Sun	For our parish	<i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>

Masses received this week:

Theresa Crook, Mollie Mounsey;

Although there is no **children's liturgy** at the moment, we do have the sheets the children normally take from the back of church on Sundays. We can send them by e-mail - just ask for a copy.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday – a day when we pray especially for God's mercy on the world.

CANDLE POSTER: Churches Together in England has prepared a candle poster for those who would like to place a symbol in their front windows of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Visit www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope (safer than placing a real candle in the window!)

Some Resources for Children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

Martin at Ten: Ten is making available for free their daily prayers resources:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/daily-prayers->

Please pray for: Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Mary Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank & Norah Stanton, Teresa Clarkson, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Karen Hardman, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers and those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

... for those who have died recently: Graham Tyres, Ann Consiglio; Theresa Crook,

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Winifred Marchant, Ellen Mason, Ronnie King, Gerald Walsh, Christina Gleeson, Sarah Jane Knowles, Vincent Machin, Anthony Proctor, Gabrielle Mills, Carole Nash and Leo McGinty.

Church is closed - but our parish lives!

A couple of weeks ago the word on everyone's lips was 'strange'. It was strange to find church closed, strange there was no Mass, strange because of social distancing, strange because we've no idea how long the present situation will last. Furlough and lockdown became familiar topics.

This week it seems much more 'when all this is over...' Perhaps we've moved from incomprehension to begin looking to the future. Still uncertain, still not knowing what things will be like. The same theme appears in the Gospel accounts of the followers of Jesus after the resurrection. They were afraid; they did not know how things would unfold, but they had the promise of Jesus: 'I will be with you always, yes, to the end of time.' The Lord continues to be with us even when, like Thomas, we would prefer some certainty. "Peace be with you" are the words we hear this Sunday. May the peace of the Lord be with us always.

THANK YOU from Fr. Peter...

to everyone who has sent cards, greetings and prayers over Easter. May you be blessed for your kindness and kept safe.

Weekly video messages to the Diocese from Bishop Paul

Bishop Paul has recorded another short video message for the Diocese.. You can access the video via the Cathedral website www.lancastercathedral.org.uk Bishop Paul hopes to be able to continue recording videos as a way of speaking to the Diocese at this time and these will be posted to the same website and are available on YouTube.

In case you'd missed these regular notices:

- Fr. Peter continues to offer **Mass** on behalf of the parish every morning but this has to be in private. If you wish Mass to be offered for any intention simply ask, either by phone or by e-mail.

- There are **Newsletters** every weekend as usual. Copies will be on St. Anthony's school website (and Holy Family website). If you would like one by e-mail send your e-mail address to parish.priest2@btinternet.com

- we have a group of **volunteers** - More and more requests this week from isolated people just wanting a chat or a bit of reassurance. Ring 724576 for help.

- **Covenant Books at Holy Family** - obviously the shop is closed but they are trying to maintain a mail order service. email: covenantbookspreston@gmail.com facebook: search for 'Covenant Books Preston' Ebay: Covenant Books

- **Funerals** may now only take place at the crematorium or the graveside. Attendance is limited to immediate family on government advice and social distancing must be kept. Later it will be possible to celebrate Mass in church for those who have died.

- **Offertory Collection.** Please hold on to these unless you are suffering financially. If you want to make a standing order to the parish ask Fr. Peter for the bank details. : LRCDT St Anthony 40-27-02 81335308 please use your name as the reference. Thank you

- You can follow **Mass streamed** via the internet
 9.45am St. Kentigern's Blackpool Facebook Group: Parish of Christ the King & St. Kentigern
 10.00am Holy Family Freckleton: Facebook Group: St Anne Westby & Holy Family Catholic
 10.00am, St. Joseph's Lancaster: Facebook Group: St Joseph's Church
 10.00am St. Clare's Preston YouTube Channel: St Clares Church
 10.30am St. Mary's Cleator Facebook Group: St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic parish