

## FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-28

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: "Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades, for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him, I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body too will rest in the hope that you will not abandon me to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

"Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit."

PSALM 15: **Show us, Lord, the path of life.**

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges every one according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

**Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.  
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-33

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days". What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth", they answered, "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing."

Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us? They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, It is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they recognised him at the breaking of bread.

# St Anthony of Padua

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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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## *The road between the now and the not-yet.*

Today's gospel tells the story of two dazed and distraught disciples travelling along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Although they were probably not aware of it, these disciples were in what is called "liminal space"—a particular spiritual position where we hate to be, but where the biblical God is always leading us. The Latin root 'limen' literally means "threshold," referring to that needed transition when we are moving from one place or one state of being to another. Liminal space usually induces some sort of inner crisis: you have left the tried and true (or it has left you), and you have not yet been able to replace it with anything else. It is a time of waiting, a time of transformation. "Waiting is the passionate and contemplative crucible in which new life and spiritual wholeness can be birthed." (Sue Monk Kidd) It is in this crucible that the solid and fixed material of our lives dissolves and returns to its original state, becoming raw material for transformation. Like the disciples, we will be asked at some point to review the ideas which have accompanied us to this moment in our lives. Even our most sacred beliefs can become encrusted over time, worn out symbols of a living reality that is no longer so alive. We will be invited to bring the old ways into the crucible and heat them with the fire of our desire, vision, passion, and longing.

While we might romanticise this process, it comes with a certain devastation. It is not oriented in what we would ordinarily think of as self-development, but is a required "darkening" we must go through so that we can begin our work anew, with fresh vision. The various "crucible" moments of our lives will not be times of peace, joy, and contentment, but of revolution where we might not be sure if we will make it through to the other side. In many ways, we will not, at least the "me" we thought we were at the start of the process will be gone. If we do not engage consciously in the process of dissolution, as many have discovered, life will bring dissolution to us, by way of transition, change, and psychic upheaval of all kinds: the ending of a relationship we thought would last forever, a shift in our health, the loss of a job, an unexpected depression, the inability to find meaning. This disruption is a forerunner of wholeness but by nature the whole will always include the dark, not only transcend it.

Jesus offered the disciples a completely different lens through which to view their recent traumatic experiences, a lens which was to draw their attention to the nature of the spiritual journey—the paschal rhythm of suffering, death, and resurrection. This necessary suffering leads to new life as the authentic self that God created, that God knows so intimately and that God invites us to live free and unencumbered in his presence. (Adapted: Ruth H. Barton; Matt Licata)

*Third Sunday of Easter* Year A 26th April 2020

# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 25th April 2020

Sat	Brooke O'Connor	
Sun	For our parish	<i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>
Mon	Joanna Dutton Graveside Service for Joanna Dutton	
Tue	Mary Theresa Wilson	
Wed	Fr. Peter Dolan	<i>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena</i>
Thur	Theresa Crook Graveside Service for Theresa Crook	
Fri	Draper family	
Sat	For our parish	<i>Feast of St. Athanasius</i>
Sun	Barbara Twine	<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>

### Masses received this week:

Jackie Sanders, Mary Teresa Wilson, Theresa Crook;

#### Thursday Mass ...

... for the Sick and their Families, NHS Workers and those working in Social Care  
The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity, a Bishop will celebrate mass in his Cathedral at 7.00pm. Where possible, this will be live they streamed for people to join (links available on the Bishops' Conference webpage <http://cbcew.org.uk/> Cardinal Vincent Nichols began last Thursday, on 30th April its Bishop Richard Moth. Bp Paul will be saying Mass in the Cathedral at 7.00pm each Thursday and would urge us all to join him in Spiritual Communion.

**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:** Eileen Jackson, baby Molly Walmsley, Trish Cooper, Dudley O'Gara, Marjorie Flynn, Gertrude & Frances Dewhurst, Alicia Evans, Ann Osbaldeston.

### Church is closed - but our parish lives!

Easter seems behind us. We missed the great liturgies of Holy Week and Easter but we're still in the middle of the Easter season. Easter is not a celebration of a past event. The Lord **is** Risen! And because he is Risen he is with us always. The disciples were downcast as they walked away from Jerusalem, aimlessly heading towards Emmaus. Their world had collapsed - what would their future be? And Jesus appeared to them, walking alongside them. The risen Lord continues to walk alongside us in these difficult days. He listens to us as we tell him what is in our hearts, our worries and our fears. We are not able at present to meet him, to recognise him 'in the breaking of bread' but our hearts can 'burn within us' as we listen to his word, and know that he is listening to us, intimately aware of what is going on in our hearts and minds.

### Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020

It will come as no surprise but still with great regret that the 2020 pilgrimage to Lourdes has been postponed and rescheduled to 23rd July 2021. We hope to be able to come together in prayer during the time we should have been united in Lourdes - within government restrictions. Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us. Fr. Peter Sayer (Executive Director); Linda Wisdom (Director of Operations) Nikki Wisdom (Chief Nurse).

### Share-IT! - Foodbank at Holy Family

Despite the restrictions Share-It! continues to do a great job in providing for those who are in need. However donated food has to be left in quarantine for a week before it can be used. So at the moment they would prefer support by cash which would also enable them to buy the things they need rather than just rely on what people give. Donations can be made to "Sr. Eileen" and dropped in to St. Anthony's or Holy Family church. Thank you.

### Repeat notices

- Fr. Peter continues to offer **Mass** on behalf of the parish every morning at 8am. 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](mailto:parish.priest2@btinternet.com)

We can supply the usual church **Children's Liturgy sheets** by e-mail. Just ask.

- we have a group of **volunteers** - they are dealing with a whole range of requests ranging from getting shopping to providing reassurance. Ring 724576 for help.

- **Bishop Paul's weekly video message** to the Diocese is on the Cathedral website [www.lancastercathedral.org.uk](http://www.lancastercathedral.org.uk)

- **Covenant Books at Holy Family** - obviously the shop is closed but they are trying to maintain a mail order service. email: [covenantbookspreston@gmail.com](mailto: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 the parish bank details are: LRCDT St Anthony 40-27-02 81335308 please use your name as the reference. Thank you