

FRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty. though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 144

You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love,
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35.37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ our Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves." But they answered, "All we have with us is five loaves and two fish." "Bring them here to me," he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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St Anthony of Padua

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Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Sunday Mass: 6.00pm (St vigil); 9.3-am, 5.00pm

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Abundance

The story of the feeding of the 5000 is the only miracle that appears in all four Gospels. In Matthew and Mark there are additional accounts of feeding 4000 people. In all accounts, the disciples query how the crowds could be fed with the small amount of food provided. In some accounts, as in today's gospel, the disciples wanted to send the people away to take care of their own food.

In the Gospel stories of 'multiplication' Jesus' response is not only an act of compassion but it is primarily a revelation of the nature of divine compassion. He wants to create a new understanding of 'enoughness', of more than 'enoughness'- as we see in the twelve baskets left over. The human mind is actually incapable of imagining anything infinite or eternal. So it cannot conceive an infinite love or a God whose mercy and compassion is everlasting. Every multiplication story emphasises abundance, that there is always much left over. It is a major mental and heart conversion to move from a scarcity model to an abundance model and to live with an attitude of gratitude. Our little tiny lives are connected with something bigger, something that matters, something eternal. Suddenly our ordinary lives have a transcendent and universal meaning. Whether we realise it or not, that is the hunger and thirst within each one of us. [1]

Like the disciples, we count what is there though we too often focus on what is not there. And pretty soon the reality of our circumstances blinds us to the possibilities of what might be. Our vision becomes narrow and the world small. We see through the lens of scarcity or lack and not through the lens of abundance. The problem is not a lack of fish and bread but a lack of vision. We see things not as they are, but as we are. The abundance of God's loving presence is hidden in plain view and often within the illusion of scarcity. Abundance is less a resource to be counted and more an interior quality, a presence, a way of being and seeing. [2]

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] Michael Marsh

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

2nd August 2020

Missal page 752

Eucharistic Prayer 2

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 1st August 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O' Neill	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Maureen Fraser	<i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention (EMD)	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O' Neill	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Cartmell	<i>Feast: St. John Vianney</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ann Henrys	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Special Intention	<i>Feast: The Transfiguration</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jim McReynolds	<i>Feast: Martyrs of Lancaster</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Davis	<i>Feast: St. Dominic</i>
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ken Hatch	<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Masses received this week:

Kevin O' Neill, Anthony Peers, Ann Henrys, Jim McReynolds, family & friends O' Neill family, Ken Hatch, Joan Green.

BIDDING PRAYERS

For the needs of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and the Church throughout the world.

For all health care workers and those that provide support services to them, grant them the health and strength they need during the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic.

For those who are suffering from illness or stress: for those whose livelihoods are threatened, for those experiencing stress at work, and for those faced with redundancy.

For our parish community, for those who minister to us, for our teachers, our friends, for the young people who have been preparing to receive the sacraments.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank Stanton, Betty Murphy, Joan Green, Marie Gardner, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer.

May they be blessed by Our Lord's healing and strengthening touch.

Pray for those who have died recently: Kevin O' Neill;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Winifred Jenkinson, Joe & Winnie Morgan, Ernie Mainwaring, Mary Molloy, Lillian Gray, Ruby Marie Ashworth. May they rest in peace.

Fr. John Moriarty

We welcome Fr. John Moriarty to St. Anthony's. For the past few years he has been responsible for Castlerigg Youth Centre but he will be living at St. Anthony's for the next few months as he awaits a new appointment.

Face coverings

The Prime Minister has now announced that face coverings must be worn in places of worship (as well as other public places) from next weekend. We will still keep the 2-metre distancing but please bring face coverings with you.

Baptisms

We have our first baptism this weekend since March. There are some restrictions and we are limited to 30 people and of course where necessary masks will have to be worn. But as always we'll try to make things as normal as possible. Weddings are similarly restricted though people are naturally being cautious about arranging weddings because of the uncertainty about how and when the situation might change.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are now available. Thank you to those who have already collected them, and thanks also to everyone who brought the offerings they'd saved up from previous weeks.

Virtual 'Coffee Morning' We have another zoom Coffee Morning today. Log in details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81026949450> Meeting ID: 810 2694 9450 Thanks again to Angie for facilitating and hosting this.

Offertory Counters

Can we ask those who count the offertory to resume duties? We'll count a week in arrears and we will ensure social distancing.

Acknowledgement

Recent Cafod donations (excluding last week's Sponsored effort) came to £295.00. Thanks also for further donations of £75 for Cafod and £25 for SVP.

CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal.

Thanks for further donations to this Appeal. CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. To donate, go to: cafod.org.uk/coronavirus & help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or post to CAFOD Head Office, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. There is also a collection bucket at Mass today for the Coronavirus Appeal.

Church is open!

We are now open for Mass. The congregation last Saturday evening reached capacity again but everyone who came was able to get into church. The other two Masses at St. Anthony's were well within capacity. You might like to consider coming to Mass on a weekday rather than Sunday if you want to minimise contact with other people. Although we have to do things differently we're getting used to it.

THANKS again to our wonderful volunteer stewards. If you are able to join them we'd be very glad to hear from you. The wider we can spread the load the better. Unless there are sufficient stewards public Masses are not allowed. Contact parish.priest2@btinternet.com OR pjnewsham@aol.com OR phone: 01772 724576