

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord." Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

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|--|---|
| 1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land | 2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. |
| 3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. | |

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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 14:22-23

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But at once Jesus called to them, saying, "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid." It was Peter who answered. "Lord," he said, "if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water." "Come," said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. "Lord! Save me!" he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. "Man of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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St Anthony of Padua

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Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening); 9.30am, 5.00pm.

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

Confessions: on request

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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It is I. Do not be afraid."

More often than not we cry out to be rescued from the circumstances of which we are afraid. We want to escape the storm. We want to be picked up and set down somewhere else, somewhere that is safe, calm, and comfortable. Jesus didn't do that for the disciples and he doesn't do that for us. Instead, Jesus reveals himself in the very midst of the storm itself. Where else would he be, this one we call Emmanuel, God with us?

Jesus uses the 'crossing the lake' experience to show that the disciples are being invited to cross to a new level of faith, a new level of consciousness and to cross boundaries of understanding. He is always teaching them, journeying with them and using the real experiences of life to deepen their awareness of who he is and who they are. The very elements that threatened to destroy the disciples became the environment in which they recognise Jesus as the Son of God. What they first perceived as certain death they now recognise as new life and hope.

It makes no sense to think that the very elements that threaten our lives are the same elements from which new life comes. Almost everyone on our planet is finding it difficult to recognise God in the midst of so much suffering, uncertainty and fear for the future. It is when we hear Jesus' words, "It is I. Do not be afraid," and we respond to his invitation to "Come," we will experience our sharing in his life, his energy. We will be able to walk through any storm knowing that "God is a presence that spares us from nothing, but unexplainably sustains us in all things." (James Finley)

We will often drown in our attempts to understand our painful circumstances or search for 'quick-fix' solutions. The secret is to trust in God who leads us to the edge of our own resources and we then surrender to the Absolute Source of perfect Love and infinite Life. When we surrender, we begin to discover an enormous space outside of our narrow experiences and plans. We discover the expansiveness and spaciousness of God, and of life, and it becomes possible to find peace in the midst of chaos.

Various sources: Sharon Grussendorff, Michael Marsh, Richard Rohr.

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

9th August 2020

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Eucharistic Prayer 2

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 8th August 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Davis	
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	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Brenda McNamara,	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O'Neill	<i>Feast: St. Lawrence</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Smethurst	<i>Feast: St. Clare</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Francis Dewhurst	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Kitchen	<i>Feast: St. Maximilian Kolbe</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Anthony Peers	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Family & friends Kevin O'Neill	<i>The Assumption of Our Lady</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Last Weekend: Offertory £448.20 Attendance 126 (6pm: 57; 9.30am 41; 5.00pm: 28).
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Parish Centre - St. Anthony's Parish Centre has now reopened.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray that the Church may ever more effectively proclaim the true and lasting riches found for all people in Jesus Christ.

We pray to the Father that we be bestowed with a generous heart and recognise that, to live the life of Jesus, we too must have compassion for the poor and feed the hungry.

We thank our Loving Father for the gift of the Holy Eucharist and pray that this manna from Heaven be appreciated by all as the true food of life and spiritual nourishment for the soul.

We pray for our parish and church that it be a special place of spiritual enlightenment for all who worship here.

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, Moyra & Larry Toner. May they be blessed by Our Lord's healing and strengthening touch.

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

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Fernanda Fry, Pat King, Norah Mathews, Joe O'Kane, Mary Atherton, Bill Carling, Michael Ashworth, Patricia Roe, Terence Beirne, Ken Hatch, Brian Clarkson, Peter Allen. May they rest in peace.

Face coverings

Face coverings must now be worn in places of worship (as well as other public places) from this weekend. We will still keep the 2-metre distancing but please bring face coverings with you. If you have forgotten to bring a mask we can let you have one. Remove your mask to receive holy communion.

There are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

You do not need to wear a face covering if you have a legitimate reason not to. This includes (but is not limited to):

- young children under the age of 11 (Public Health England do not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- if putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- if you are travelling with or providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.

- Priests in the sanctuary do not need to wear face coverings during Mass, except when distributing holy communion, provided they are at least two metre distance. Similarly Readers do not need to wear face coverings when proclaiming the scriptures.

Preston in lockdown: and with some people just emerging from Shielding, don't forget that volunteers are available for shopping, prescription, hospital appointments etc. Contact 01772 724576. Tell your neighbours also. Again we thank our wonderful volunteers for their continued service.

Baptisms We can now celebrate baptisms though there are some restrictions and we are limited to 30 people and 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.

Alston Lane: The Annual Mass for Deceased in Alston Lane cemetery which normally takes place in September has had to be cancelled this year.

Offertory Envelopes: 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/84405523880>. Meeting ID: 844 0552 3880 Thanks again to Angie for facilitating and hosting this.

Offertory Counters Thank you to our Offertory Counters for getting back into routine. We count a week in arrears and we ensure social distancing.

Acknowledgement Thanks for the donations in the CAFOD Disaster Appeal bucket. We'll publish the total next week. Thanks also for further donations of £75 for Cafod and £25 for SVP.

Masses received this week: Francis Dewhurst, Margaret Smethurst, Ellen Buck, Joan Green.