

FIRST READING

Apocalypse 11:19;12:1-6.10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 44

On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven;
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? From the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever'. Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

Scripture readings are reproduced by kind permission of Darton, Longman & Todd,
Responsorial Psalm from *The Psalms: A New Translation © The Grail (England)* published by Harper Collins

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX

Tel: 01772 725193 E-mail: parish.priest2@btinternet.com

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

Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957)



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

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

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331

Blessed Believing

What if we really believed God is uniquely present and active in the circumstances of each of our lives, speaking a word? What if we truly believed there would be a fulfilment of the word spoken? What if instead of allowing our circumstances to determine what we believe, we allowed our believing to reinterpret the circumstances?

That would be blessed believing, Elizabeth and Mary type of believing, the kind of believing that gives birth to new life. That believing is at the heart of today's gospel reading. Two pregnant women, neither of whom, according to their circumstances, should be or could be pregnant. One is too old. One is too young. One is barren. One is a virgin. Yet, both are pregnant.

Neither Elizabeth nor Mary allowed the circumstances of their lives to define who they were or limit who they might become. Believing for them is not so much about what they see but how they see. Each one believed she was more than the circumstances of her life. Elizabeth believed she was more than just a barren, childless, old woman. Mary believed that God loved her in her nothingness, in her littleness. Mary found favour with God. In Greek, 'favoured' means undeserved love, unmerited, totally free from the giver's side. Mary doesn't argue about her worthiness. She simply accepts that God can do what God can do.

Both women saw, hidden within their particular situation, a deeper meaning and a new life. They believed through the circumstances of their lives. Each one trusted that the God of the impossible was somehow in the circumstances reshaping, transforming, and fulfilling her very existence. God was at work within these two women changing them, not their circumstances. So it is for each one of us.

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled".

Michael Marsh

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

16th August 2020

Missal page 1175

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 15th August 2020

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	
Mon	9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private intention	
Tue	1.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Margaret Watson	
Wed	9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Maria Davis	
Thur	9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Private Intention	<i>Feast: St. Bernard</i>
Fri	9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private Intention	<i>Feast: St. Pius X</i>
Sat	6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Mary Turner	<i>Feast: Queenship of Mary</i>
Sun	9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Penney	<i>Twenty-first Sunday of the Year</i>
	11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	For our parish	
	5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Last Weekend: Attendance 125 (6pm: 46; 9.30am 50; 5.00pm: 29). Offertory £418.75
Thank you for your continued generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS

For a spirit of repentance among all believers, we pray.
For peace with justice, particularly where it is most lacking, we pray.
For the people of Beirut who are struggling to cope following the recent explosion, we pray.
For the protection of unborn children, we pray.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Joan Anderton, Bill Embrey, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Kathleen Kelllett, 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: Doreen Davis, Margaret Watson, Herbert Rushton, Joan Anderton;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Ellis Eastham, Betty Evans, David Forest, Brian Clarkson, Robert Lakeland, Patricia Roe, Anthony Peers, Mary Crook, Mary Elizabeth Flannigan, Dick Drain, John Joseph Donaghy. May they rest in peace.

Today we celebrate the great Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. Let us grasp this opportunity and offer all our prayers through the hands of the Blessed Virgin

Face coverings

Face coverings must now be worn in places of worship (as well as other public places). 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.

- 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.

Acknowledgement The donations in the CAFOD Disaster Appeal bucket came to £436.15. Thank you for your generosity. Thanks also for two donations for the SVP.

Masses received this week: Maria Davis, Norman Mercer, Elizabeth Anne Allen, Elizabeth Lawler, Margaret Watson.

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 are 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: 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 Morn' We have another zoom Coffee Morning today. Log in details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83239824529> Meeting ID: 832 3982 4529 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.

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

Special Collections

The Holy See and Bishops' Conference have requested that the special collections that were not taken during the pandemic should be rescheduled for the autumn. Parishioners who have already given donations in the relevant special collection envelopes are not asked to give a second time. The Bishop will circulate a list of dates for our diocese, when these become available. Thank you.

The Holy See has sent a letter of gratitude for our diocesan collection of £11,068.45 in favour of the Holy Land. Bishop Paul writes: "Please pass my personal thanks to your parishioners for their generosity to this worthy cause".

Growing Old Gracefully

Caritas Social Action Network has produced a free guide called "Reaching Out" which has resources available on care in an ageing Society. See <https://www.csan.org.uk/guidance/reaching-out-for-catholic-parishes-and-groups/>