

FRST READING

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared in a dream to Solomon. God said, "Ask what you would like me to give you." Solomon replied, "Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. "Since you have asked for this," the Lord said, "and not for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118

Lord, how I love your law!

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight.

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They said, "yes." And he said to them, "Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old."

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.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

Priest: Fr. Peter Draper (Tel: 725193)

Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331



Hidden Treasure

"Our vocation is to appreciate ourselves as the pearl of great price. We get to discover ourselves as the treasure in the field and to rejoice with God in the wondrous work that God does in each of our lives. I will never exhaust the mystery that is me. So, the good news is I can never figure myself out. I can always surprise myself." [1] There is a story of 2 brothers who each asked for the gift of a horse for their birthday. When the day arrived, they ran outside – and found two large piles of manure! One brother walked away in disgust; the other started digging excitedly into the manure shouting, "There has to be a horse in here somewhere!" How do we see ourselves?

'My highest ambition is to be who I already am- hidden with Christ in God from before the origins of the universe.' [2] Our True Self is who we objectively are from the beginning, in the mind and heart of God, "the face we had before we were born," as the Zen masters say. It is our substantial self, our absolute identity, which can never be gained nor lost by any technique, group affiliation, morality, or formula whatsoever. The surrendering of our false self, (selling all that we have) which we have usually taken for our absolute identity, yet is merely a relative identity, is the necessary suffering needed to find "the pearl of great price" that is always hidden inside this lovely but passing shell. We are afraid to believe in our own greatness. We are afraid of the unknown. Or perhaps it is more true to say that we are afraid of losing the known. [3]

The psychologist Rollo May believes that the neurosis of our age is that we're afraid to be all that we are. That is, we're afraid to accept the full potential of who we are and what we're called to be, because if we accept it, we just might have to stand up and bear witness to it. But the price paid for the half-lived life is bitter. [4]

The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to reveal to us the truth of our being so that the way of our being can match it. (Wm. Paul Young)

[1] Mary Beth Ingham [2] Thomas Merton [3] Richard Rohr [4] James Finley

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

26th July 2020

Missal page 748

Eucharistic Prayer 2

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 25th July 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Harry Murphy	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	William Farrell	<i>17th 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>	Grrwhd Lewis	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe Morrison	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Brenda McNamara	<i>Feast: St. Martha</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Special Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jean McGinty	<i>Feast: St. Ignatius of Loyola</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O' Neill	<i>Feast: St. Alphonsus</i>
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>	For our parish	

Masses received this week:

Kevin O'Neill, Joe Morrison, Brenda McNamara, Bernard Ward.

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

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for all those responsible for teaching the faith, who try hard to unearth the hidden treasures of personal faith, good works and prayer, that Our Lord may make their efforts fruitful

We pray that world leaders govern with wisdom and integrity and place the preservation of all human life and the upholding of the common good at the forefront of their mission.

We pray for those, both in our parish community and in the wider community, who are suffering from coronavirus or other infirmities, from loneliness, isolation or depression, or from uncertainty about what the future holds for them. May they be blessed by Our Lord's healing and strengthening touch.

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.

We pray for those who have died recently: Pamela Wareing, Kevin O'Neill;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Letty Lawrenson, Elizabeth Clarkson, Jenny Whiteside, Joseph Rigby, Frank Coates, Mary Winifred Howarth, Dorothy Whalley, Maureen Fraser, Joseph Morrison, Jean McGinty. May they rest in peace.

Fr. John Moriarty

Next week we will 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 resident with us for the next few months as he awaits a new appointment.

Preston 5km Challenge for CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal.

The target was £2500 but the different challenges people undertook actually raised £4045 plus Gift Aid for CAFOD. Well done to everyone who took part and to Peter Towers for organising it.

For anyone who doesn't use 'social media' like Facebook and who were unable to donate there will be collection buckets at Mass today for the Coronavirus Appeal.

Families who have been forced to flee their homes and have lost everything in places like Syria, South Sudan and DR Congo are particularly vulnerable to the virus. In countries that have had years of conflict, people will struggle to access healthcare. Lockdown in these countries means that many people will suffer a huge loss in income, pushing people further into poverty and putting millions at risk of hunger and malnutrition. For refugees, such as the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, overcrowding and a lack of hygiene facilities in refugee camps means that the spread of the virus will be devastating. 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.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Sadly our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot take place this year. However our Pilgrimage Committee will present a virtual pilgrimage during this week 24th July - 1st August, when we would have been in Lourdes. The virtual pilgrimage will primarily be accessed through the pilgrimage Facebook page with prompts and reminders being posted before events: <https://www.facebook.com/LancastersLourdesPilgrimage>.

Sun 26th 3pm Testimonies and Messages (video)

Sun 26th 4pm Mass (live streamed Lourdes)

Mon 27th 11am Grotto Mass (live streamed Lancaster)

Mon 27th 2pm Rosary (live streamed Lourdes)

Tues 28th 10am Mass for the Sick (live streamed Lancaster)

Tues 28th 7pm Holy Hour (livestreamed Cathedral)

Wed 29th 12 noon Mass for Vocations (live streamed Castlerigg)

Wed 29th 3pm Youth (video with Castlerigg Director, Jack Regan)

Wed 29th 9pm Marian Procession and Rosary (video) Please light a candle in your home during this event

Thurs 30th 11am Mass of Farewell (live streamed with Bishop Paul)

Thurs 30th 1pm Thank you and see you in 2021 (video with Linda W)

Sat 1st Aug 1pm Photo Memories of Diocesan Pilgrimages (video)

You can follow all services at www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Church is open!

We are now open for Mass. The congregation last Saturday evening reached capacity 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 into a routine with the new normal.

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

Virtual 'Coffee Morning' We have another zoom Coffee Morning today. Log in details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84682373049> Meeting ID: 846 8237 3049
Thanks again to Angie for facilitating and hosting this.