

FIRST READING

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is close to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.
2. 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.
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.

Psalms 144

SECOND READING

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Philippians 1:20-24.27

**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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a land-owner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, 'You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.' So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'Because no-one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You go into my vineyards too.' In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.' So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the land-owner. 'The men who came last' they said, 'have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat.' He answered one of them and said, 'My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am so generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."

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St Anthony of Padua

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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

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Infinitely Generous Love

It's safe to say that the message in today's gospel reading would not be found in the Manifesto of any political party or the Mission Statement of any business enterprise. Nor would it be high on the list of our own tick list of 'Ways to live the Golden Rule'. Too often fairness rather than love, acceptance, mercy, forgiveness, or generosity is the measure by which we act and judge another person or life circumstances.

In Jesus' time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations. God's ways are not our ways. His ways look beyond our productivity, our appearance, our dress, our race or ethnicity, our accomplishments, our failures.

In today's parable we, too, are invited to enter into a process where our perception of God is continually being transformed. Parables are similar to poetry. A good poem doesn't try to define an experience as much as it tries to give us the experience. A poem tries to awaken our own seeing, hearing and knowing; it doesn't give us the answer so much as offers us a process through which we can know for ourselves. To sit with this parable is to sit in the presence of generous Love. James Finley uses the image of a pebble falling down an underwater cliff. "There are little protrusions along this cliff and every so often, the stone lands on one and pauses in its descent. In the movements of the water, it rolls off and it continues on and on." This image of the stone constantly being dislodged by the movements of the water is an image of our inner journey in which our perception of God is constantly being dislodged until we experience the infinite generosity of Infinite Love.

(Adapted from various sources including Fr Kieran O'Mahony, Fr Pat Rogers. Fr Richard Rohr)

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20th September 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 19th September 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Chris & Angie Strickland (25th)	<i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Graham Tyers	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Home Mission Sunday</i>
Mon 2.00pm	<i>H.Family</i>	FUNERAL MASS: Celia Park	<i>Feast: St. Matthew</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Deceased members Brown, Morris & Drake families	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Family & friends of Geoff Holden	<i>Feast: St. Pius of Pietrelcina</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Patrick Parr	<i>Feast: Our Lady of Walsingham</i>
10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Service: Patrick Parr	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private Intention	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Morris	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gary Whittell	<i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	for our parish	<i>Collection: Bishops' Administration</i>
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	

Last Weekend: Attendance 118. (6pm 46, 9.30am 36, 5pm 36.) Offertory c£500.00
Thank you for your continued generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for the Church. On this, Home Mission Sunday, we pray for the courage to live lives faithful to the Gospel as missionaries and disciples of Christ. Lord, in your mercy

We pray for our troubled world. Our world is troubled in many ways. We ask for God's love, guidance and strength and pray: may blessed Mary, mother of God, our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us.

We pray for our parish community. God has blessed us in our families and friends, in the circumstances of our lives, and with the gifts of Faith. May we always remember his loving kindness.

We are the sheep of God's flock – scattered, frightened, and in danger. We pray that the Good Shepherd may gather us together and lead us to green pastures and quiet waters.

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

Pray for those who have died recently: Celia Park, Patrick Parr;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Alfred Kenneth Craven, Eunice Elliot, Gary Whittell. May they rest in peace.

First holy Communions

We have arranged final preparation Sessions for the children in their school 'bubbles'. We cannot have one first holy Communion Day as usual because of the limited capacity in church. Instead we will have three extra Masses at 2pm on Sunday afternoons. Regrettably this will mean that parishioners cannot be part of this wonderful parish occasion but we have no real option.

We will not be starting next year's first holy Communion preparation until after the New Year when things might be a bit clearer.

Virtual 'Coffee Morn' We have another zoom Coffee Morning today. Log in details: Join Zoom Meeting ID:

Masses received this week: family & friends of Geoff Holden, deceased members Brown, Morris & Drake families.

'The Post-Lockdown Parish'

Although our churches have now reopened, we don't know when we shall be able to gather in the way we used to. What different ways do we have to come together for prayer, conversation and Mass? What new opportunities have opened up for us? In order to answer some of these questions, there are a series of webinars starting on 21st September with Bishop David Oakley of Northampton. Book a place on the webinars, or watch the videos and see the resources afterwards:
<http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series>

Parish website: Thanks to the work of Fr. John this has now been revived and updated. Archive photographs are now linked. How about recent ones? Are there any items you think should be added? Let us know.

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

S.V.P. Traditionally, September is St Vincent De Paul Society Awareness month. St Anthony's St Vincent De Paul Society are very grateful to all the parishioners who have donated money to us during the Covid 19 outbreak. We have been able to continue to donate to food banks and people in need. We are now able to accept food donations at the back of church. We understand that not everyone wishes to be a Committee member and meet once a month. However, we would be very grateful for the names of parishioners who would be willing to help us at any events we hold, delivering leaflets, helping transport parishioners to church, catering or fund raising etc in the future. Unemployment, homelessness, loneliness and food poverty are on the rise and we need help in giving assistance to those in need. If you are interested in helping please call SVP St Anthony's Secretary on 01772 723963

Care of Creation

Jesuit Missions are holding a virtual webinar Tuesday 22nd September. Please see: <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation-jubilee-for-the-earth/>
At 7.30pm: An Evening with Leah Casimero and Joel Thompson SJ: On 'Beauty, Justice and Hope in the Amazon— Webinar for Season of Creation'.
You will find a poster <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation/> and a link to the Zoom invitation on <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/our-events/>

Fulwood Farmer's Market will take place on Saturday 26th September 9.30am-1pm at the front of Fulwood Methodist Church on Watling Street Road,