

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45: 1.4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled: there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I am you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95

Give the Lord glory and power.

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| <p>1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.</p> <p>2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods:
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.</p> | <p>3 Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name
Bring an offering and enter his courts.</p> <p>4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations . "God is king."
He will judge the peoples in fairness.</p> |
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SECOND READING

1Thessalonians 1 .1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, "Master we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, "You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a denarius, and he said, "Whose head is this? Whose name?" "Caesar's," they replied. He then said to them, "Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God".

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St Anthony of Padua

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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

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Truth Cannot always Take Sides

"Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" Today's gospel is an example of 'either/or' thinking; all or nothing thinking. When presented with two alternatives, most people think that by choosing one we have the total truth. We call this dualistic thinking. The dualistic mind knows by comparison, opposition, and differentiation. We do need the dualistic mind to function in practical life, however, and to do our work whatever that may be. It's helpful and fully necessary as far as it goes, but it just doesn't go far enough. The dualistic mind cannot process things like infinity, mystery, God, grace, suffering, sexuality, death, or love; this is exactly why most people stumble over these very issues.

Jesus unmask the question for what it is: an effort to trip him up rather than an inquiry proceeding from a sincere desire to know the truth. The Pharisees are religious conservatives who abide by the law and do not believe in cooperating with the Romans. Nor do they pay taxes to the Roman government. The Herodians totally compromise themselves with the Roman oppressors and pay all the taxes they want.

Jesus pleases and displeases both sides. He doesn't answer their question. We can't really be sure what he means. That leaves us in the middle, where we don't like to be. It's a place where we can't be absolutely certain that we're right, where the only righteousness is God; where we're never sure that we are good, because only God is good. This is the rare space or place we call faith - where we have to live with a certain degree of darkness, anxiety and ambiguity. Many of us have not been taught how to live by faith. We've just been taught how to live with answers - so that we can prove that our group is right. When we grow in awareness that Christ lives in everyone and in all Creation, we come to realise that whatever choices we have to make, very few alternatives are mutually exclusive when we are listening and responding to Christ who is our Way, our Truth and our Life. (Adapted. Richard Rohr)

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

18th October 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 17th October 2020

at 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Routledge	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter & Barbara Sandwell	<i>29th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Jean Stephenson	<i>World Mission Day -</i>
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	In thanks (AR & family)	<i>APF Collection</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	In thanksgiving (AR & family)	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private intention	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Clare Milligan	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Margaret Mary Turner	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Roland Catlow	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dave Smith	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	John Rigby	<i>30th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	<i>Collection: Sick & Retired Priests</i>
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Last Weekend: Attendance 124. (6pm 47, 9.30am 45, 5pm 32.) Offertory £504.67
Bishops Administration: £32.50 Thank you for your continued generosity.

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

BIDDING PRAYERS

On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the coming of God's Kingdom; with Pope Francis, our Bishop Paul and all the leaders of the Church: may they continue to lead us in our response to God's call to mission.

- We pray for all missionaries, men and women dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus with those who have not yet received it: may they be given the strength and courage to persevere in their mission.

- For those who are suffering, grieving, and anxious: help us to strive together as one family of many nations to help those in greatest need.

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, Moyra Toner.

Pray for those who have died recently: John McDermott

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Pat Nolan, Roland Catlow, Joe Bowers, Richard and Mary Penney, Margaret, Martin McMurrough, William Cosgrove, Lily Morrison, Catherine Mallon, Maria Wilson, Mollie Curry, Gordon Elliott. May they rest in peace.

First Holy Communions

This afternoon we have the third of three first Holy Communion Masses. There is only just enough room for each family so regrettably parishioners cannot be part of this wonderful parish occasion. Please pray for the children and their families at this important stage in their journey of faith.

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

Mass At Christmas?

Thanks for the comments and suggestions. The proposal at present is to add a second Vigil Mass at 8pm and to leave the 6pm Mass for families with children. There will also be the usual 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day but we do not think there would be need for an evening Mass on Christmas Day. It may still be necessary to close the doors once we have reached the maximum number we can take. Its possible we may be able to have an audio or video link, into the Padua Room for those who cannot get into church. We might yet have to take reservations and issue tickets but that would be to the detriment of those who turn up not aware of the system.

St Anthony's Post Lockdown Church Discussion

You are invited to take part in discussion on zoom, (following on from the sessions offered by the Northampton Diocese on Youtube) on Wednesday Oct 21, at 7:00pm.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81080003185?pwd=ZlJCTWZsdzQ2MkNSemNYbzMaWhlUT09> Meeting ID: 810 8000 3185 Passcode: 976711

NHS 'TEST & TRACE' PHONE APP – Many buildings, including our Church, Padua Room, Annexe and Parish Centre now display the QR code which can be read by smart phones (with Bluetooth enabled) to record your attendance. The phone app will notify you if you have spent fifteen minutes or more near anyone who has subsequently tested positive for coronavirus.

We still take phone numbers manually for anyone not using the technology.

Baptisms are now restricted to six people and Weddings to 15 people

Today's Virtual 'Coffee Morn' will be a Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning - bring your own coffee & cake! Same log in details: on Zoom at 11.00am. Log in: Meeting ID: 819 8015 2432 Passcode: 879577 Angie has a link to donate: <https://thyg.uk/BUU004685981>

Masses received this week: Lily Morrison, Joe Morrison, John Rigby, Clare Mulligan.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - Thank you for all the envelopes and donations. They will be counted and sent his week.

Traidcraft Morning

Traidcraft food, crafts, Christmas cards and Advent calendars will be on sale in the hall at Fulwood Methodist Church next Saturday 24th October from 9.30am to 1pm. The catalogue will be available to view and orders taken. The 'New to You' stall will also be open. We will operate a one-way system and ask everyone to observe social distancing. If coming by car, there will be parking at the back of the church. From there make your way via Garstang Road to enter at the front of the church. All welcome.