

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-60.53-54

**My soul rejoices in my God.**

- 1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
- 2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.
- 3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8.19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" he not only declared but he declared quite openly, "I am not the Christ." "Well then," they asked "are you Elijah?" "I am not" he said. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?" So John said, "I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord." Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?" John replied, "I baptise with water, but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*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/

**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*

## *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing ...*

...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God.' St Paul is speaking to the people of Thessalonica who have been colonised by the Romans and certainly don't have any political reason to be happy. It is impossible to rejoice always, unless we pray without ceasing and unless we are ready to be grateful. What do we mean by praying always?

Prayer is a way of being; it's a connected way of love and communion. The deepest meaning of prayer is to be in a state of conscious loving union with God, with what we are doing, with the person we are with, with creation. We have to deliberately, consciously pray always. We can't accomplish this by will-power. It's a surrendering to the Love inside us, a Love that is bigger than we are. It is God loving in us and through us and with us and as us. Joy proceeds from our inner realisation of our union with God. We can so easily lose hope. We have to choose to rejoice, choose to be grateful, choose to not live with a sense of entitlement. We pray always by choosing to stay in Love, to stay in the positive - which is almost the same thing.

We have previously learned that neural science research has found that whenever we have a negative, fearful, accusatory thought our minds wrap around it like Velcro and these thoughts imprint on our minds, actually shaping our neural network, and this creates our impression of reality. We are attracted to the negative. We have to choose the positive. When a loving, positive, or praiseworthy thought comes our way, we have to savour it consciously for at least fifteen seconds before it can imprint itself in our "implicit memory;" otherwise it doesn't stick. It slides off, like Teflon. We must savour the good in order to significantly change our regular attitudes and moods. And we need to strictly monitor all the "Velcro" negative thoughts.' ( Richard Rohr )

'Remembering beautiful things has immense healing power: enjoying the red berries of the holly, we forget the thorns.' (Sister Stan)

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

Year B

13th December 2020

Missal page 51

# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 12th December 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Edmund Machholz	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Paul O'Kane	<i>Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Francis Dewhurst	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Mary Dunn	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Feast: St John of the Cross</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For a stressed family	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Len Stevens	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Private intention	
Fri 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass:</i> Thomas Bell	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ann Bolton	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Daniel Carberry	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private intention	

### BIDDING PRAYERS

With Pope Francis this Advent and at his request, we pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the word of God and a life of prayer.

We pray for all parishes throughout the world who are currently striving to ensure that our Churches will be open, safe and ready to celebrate the coming of Christ on Christmas Day.

We pray for all those who work in the media that they may be messengers of the truth, a voice for the powerless and a challenge to the powerful. We pray that they carry out this duty with wisdom, integrity and truthfulness.

With the great Feast of the Immaculate Conception in mind, we offer all our prayers through the hands of Our Lady.

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

**Pray for those who have died recently:** Beryl Jacobs, Daniel Carberry, Thomas Bell, Michael Gildea, Frank Baron;

**... and for those whose anniversaries are around now:** Canon Michael Geoghegan, Edward Giddins, Stella Parkinson, Margaret Burscough, Bridget Margaret Curwen, Barbara May, Edward Rawcliffe, Winifred Shaw, Francis Harris, Audrey Morgan, Frank Wastell, Jack Shorrocks, Norman Spicer, Ernest Lovatt, Malcolm Mullins, Howard Marshall. Christine Eaves, May they rest in peace.

### Mass At Christmas

We can now confirm that at *St. Anthony's* there will be Vigil Masses at 4.00pm and 6.00pm and then Christmas morning at 9.30am.

At *Holy Family* there will be a Vigil Mass at 8pm and Mass at 11.00am on Christmas morning.

**Advent.** A group of parishioners have produced two linked resources for our parish:

#### 1. Advent Jesse Tree

- telling the Biblical story from Creation to the first Christmas in 25 colourful 'decorations' to be hung on our tree in church. Members of the parish are invited to colour these decorations or add a message. Return it to us and it will be displayed on the Jesse Tree. Please phone Peter on 724576 or email [pjnewsham@aol.com](mailto:pjnewsham@aol.com).

#### 2. Advent video reflections on Youtube and facebook

Tied in with this, members of the parish have recorded a series of 24 short YouTube Advent readings, again featuring the 'Jesse Tree bauble', followed by a brief time of reflection. The lighting of the Advent wreath candles each Sunday will be shown as a separate film -facebook

#### 'O come Emmanuel' - Advent reflection

Preparing for Christmas through song, Scripture and prayer – Taize style. At Holy Family next Sunday at 3.30pm.

**Christmas Raffle** - Tickets for the Parish Raffle are now on sale, in church and by phone. (724576). The raffle prizes are on display in church.

#### Donations of food & toys are welcomed by the Salvation Army

These can be taken direct to the Salvation Army, Harrington St (01772 555425) or left by the SVP bucket at the back of church.

**Masses received this week:** for a stressed family, Anne Bolton, Gerry Allen, Elizabeth Anne Allen, Leonard Stevens, Francis Dewhurst.

#### Lancaster Diocesan Directories 2021

Just arrived! Price is £4.00 or £4.50 for ring-bound. Please put payment in the slot in the green safe.

#### CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

**Today's Virtual 'Coffee Morning'** on Zoom at 11.00am. Log in: Meeting ID: 819 8015 2432 Passcode: 879577