

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no gods except me. You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath and made it sacred.

"Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.**

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| 1 The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. | 3 The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. |
| 2 The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. | 4 They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. |

SECOND READING

1Corinthians 1:22-25

And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,

whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man: he could tell what a man had in him.

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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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Temple: a Consecrated Space

Today's first and third readings speak about rules, sacred buildings and rituals which 'are meant to bring us into the awareness of the divine presence in us and in all of those around us.' [1] 'The gospel isn't about what is *present* in the temple but is about Jesus' deep concern with what is *missing*.' [2] 'The gospel tells us what the temple had become: totally aligned with the king, the collecting of taxes and monies and the selling of forgiveness. Jesus takes a revolutionary approach to religion: from an emphasis on *sacrifice* by which we *earn* God's love, to *trust* through which we *know* God's love. And that trust happens in the human heart. Jesus is redefining 'the temple'. He speaks of the temple of his body. The temple is transferred from any kind of physical building to the human person. Years later, Jesus' words will echo in Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth. "Do you not know," the apostle will ask them—and us—"that *you* are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" [3] 'The temple was the centre of Jewish life. It is what structured their community. It gave identity and meaning. We all have temples: things that we think give structure and order to our lives, provide security and stability. At least we think they do, until they fall.' [2] We will only find new strength in our growing awareness of our divine identity, in our growing awareness that God is within us, that we are temples of God.

*In a building that is not a building but the dusty halls of my spirit,
in a heart that is not just a heart but an intended-to-be-holy temple,
there are sheep and there are cattle that are not sheep and cattle
but the worries and concerns and the sorrows of life,
and there are dulled coins and doves that are not coins and doves
but the tarnished hopes and dreams of an aging mind,
and they clutter and crowd the courtyard,
cloud the air with their smells and voices,
their noises of stress and hunger overpowering the words of prayer.
Lord, come into the spaces of this yearning-to-be-holy temple,
cleanse this heart of distractions, help me clear the clutter, the noises.
Make it more of a place of listening, open to the mystery of your presence. [4]*

Adapted: [1] Brian McLaren [2] Michael Marsh [3] Richard Rohr [4] Andrew King

Third Sunday in Lent Year B

7th March 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 6th March 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jim Hamlet	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish Private intention William & Ellen Kelly	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	George Keane	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Taylor	
Wed 1.00pm	<i>H.Family</i>	Funeral Mass: Patricia Heys	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Private Intention	
Fri 9.15am 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Pauline Harvey	<i>Stations of the Cross. on zoom</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Imelda Salisbury	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Mary Teresa Wilson For our parish Private intention	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> <i>(Laetare)</i>

Masses received this week: In thanksgiving (KH & DH), George Keane.

Last Weekend: Attendance 130. (43,54,33.) Offertory £692.78.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

BIDDING PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for all God's people, that we will have the strength to be faithful to his commandments at all times.

We pray for ourselves and all those keeping the season of Lent. May our prayer and reflection, fasting and almsgiving bring renewal, reconciliation and closer unity with Christ, our Saviour.

We pray for all those in need: those who are sick in mind and body, those suffering from coronavirus, those awaiting treatment for other ailments postponed on account of the pandemic, those in distress on account of family or employment difficulties, those separated from loved ones. We ask Our Lord to bring them His healing.

We remember in our prayers those of the parish who are suffering ill-health just now, and 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, Theresa Wilkinson;

those who have died recently: Patricia Heys, Thomas Butler, Joan Bleakley;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Charlotte Snalam, John Cooke, Dorothy Pickles, Bert Smith, John & Lucy Swarbrick, George Keane, Luke Kehoe, Maureen Berry, Imelda Salisbury, Joan Taylor, Alan Kenny, Lucia LaValle, Mary Teresa Wilson, Bernard Simpson, May they rest in peace.

LENT

Stations of the Cross.

We are not able to have the Stations in church as usual but some members of the parish will present them on Zoom every Friday. 'Doors open' at 5.45. Session starts 6.00pm prompt. Meeting ID: 860 7625 5774 Passcode: 068559

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Our parish CAFOD Group have produced a video for this: <https://youtu.be/bxWgyBI7svE>
CAFOD Lent Fast Day envelopes can still be returned today. Envelopes are at the back of church. You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent, or by texting LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10, (or substitute any other amount e.g. LENT 20). NB If you do not wish to receive marketing communications text LENTNOINFO. You may also telephone 0303 303 3030 or send to CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7JB.

Livestreaming Mass

As well as normal Mass in church we now livestream the 9.30am Sunday Mass from St. Anthony's church. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page for the link.

Virtual Coffee Morning

Join your fellow parishioners at the Zoom Coffee Morning at 11.00 am this Sunday
Meeting ID: 898 4267 4110 Passcode: 229935

Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal

Marie Curie Nurses have been on the front line of the pandemic providing vital care for dying people and their loved ones. At the same time, normal fundraising has been greatly restricted. Helen Sheldon is selling daffodils at Masses this weekend. (donation)

Readers at Mass

Would you consider Reading the Scriptures at Mass? Several of our Readers are isolating or not yet back at Mass so we need a few more to supplement the current Readers. It may be a bit daunting to read for the first couple of times but that soon eases, and now is a good time when there are fewer people at Mass than usual. Holy Week and Easter always calls for more Readers too. Have a word with Karen Hardman (01772 464110) or one of the priests. Thank you.

Mass Cards

The Repository at the back of church has been closed since the beginning of lockdown almost a year ago. However we now have a selection of Mass cards available.

Virtual pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Fr John is joining volunteers and Young Leaders from Metanoia Project on a virtual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Over the course of Lent they will run, walk and cycle 3,266 miles, the distance from Preston to Jerusalem. Their aim is to raise funds to support Metanoia Project's work in Preston, and you can sponsor Fr John and find information online at <https://gofund.me/5afc5a0a> or bring money in a marked envelope.

Vacancy: Diocesan Faith & Justice Worker

Lancaster Diocese is looking for a part-time Faith and Justice worker and co-ordinator with the Commission Team to work throughout the Diocese to engage with parishes, schools and other institutions in order to advance the understanding of, and active engagement in Catholic Social Teaching and issues arising from it.

Further details can be obtained from: Margaret McSherry. Administrator Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission, Email: lfjcm@gmail.com Tel:07864012385