

## FIRST READING

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: **You Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.**

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

"These things the Lord has done".

## SECOND READING

1John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active, only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.**

**Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes it to bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples".

*Scripture readings are reproduced by kind permission of Darton, Longman & Todd,  
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# St Anthony of Padua

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**Priests:** Fr. Peter Draper. (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

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## Being Connected

'Would we rather have a friend who is always right or who is in right relationship with us? Would we rather have a friend who is always correct or who is always connected to us? We know the answer to these questions. Today's gospel is saying that God wants us to be in right relationship with Him, to remain connected to Him. "I am the true vine. You are the branches. Cut off from me you can do nothing." [1] 'In Scripture, the word *true* is often used to describe what is eternal and divine.' [2] 'When we are rooted in the True Vine our lives will produce His fruits of love, intimacy, mercy, forgiveness, justice, truth, generosity, compassion, presence, wisdom, healing, reconciliation, self-surrender, joy, thanksgiving, peace, obedience and humility. When these fruits are not evident in our lives then we are living apart from the Vine.' [1]

When we are disconnected from people and places we love, we can become homesick. When we have become disconnected from the Source of our being, our restlessness or our feeling of dis-ease is an experience of homesickness which can only be eased by responding to Jesus' invitation, "Make your home in me as I make mine in you." 'This is about abiding, not performing. It is about holding on to our core identity more than perfect behavior—which would only make us proud and self-sufficient, even if it were possible. It is a coming home to the divinity in ourselves. The greater our awareness of God-within-us, the more open we will be to God within the people he sends into our lives.' [1]

St Augustine reminds us that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. That restlessness comes from a sense of being incomplete which arises when we have looked in the wrong places for nourishment, enlightenment, direction, leadership, life, community and truth. 'Each of us needs to find what keeps us connected to our true Source and then be faithful to that. It might be art, or poetry, or silence, or being vulnerable in the presence of that person in whose presence we are led home.' [3] When we are home, we will discover that 'we are already one but have imagined that we are not. What we have to be is what we already are.' [4]

*Adapted [1] Richard Rohr [2] John MacArthur [3] James Finley [4] Thomas Merton*

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***

2nd May 2021

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# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 1st May 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Countinho, Fernandes, Rodrigues	Fifth Sunday of Easter
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Joyce Hilton	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Audrey Cross	<i>Feast: Ss Philip &amp; James</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention	<i>Feast: The English Martyrs</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Bridget Rogers	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Arthur Simpson	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jude Fernandes	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Gardner	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Lily-Anna Forrest-Cottam	Sixth Sunday of Easter
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Arthur & Marina Smith	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

**Masses received this week:** John Myerscough, Bridget Rogers.

**Last Weekend:** Offertory: £546.55. Attendance 164 (54,77,33).  
Thank you for your generous offerings.

### BIDDING PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for the Church. As the Mother of God, Mary knew the joy of Christ's birth, and the piercing sorrow of his death on the Cross. We pray that she will accompany and strengthen the Church and all God's people in following Him.

We pray for our troubled world. Tuesday is the feast of The English Martyrs, many of whom were 'locals' from Lancashire. Although we live in different times, we pray that we may truly and fully live our faith, revealing God's love for all in our words and deeds.

We pray for the people of India and all countries ravaged by Covid: may we and our country respond to their plight with love and practical generosity.

We pray for our parish community, especially for those daring to step back out into the world as restrictions are lifted; and those struggling to rebuild after bereavement or hardship; or hoping to recover strength and to 'build back better'.

We pray for those who are sick: Joan Green, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, Theresa Wilkinson, Jo Counsell, Carole Adnitt, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, Frank Stanton, Les Farrer, Marie Gardner, Lydia Worgan, Deacon John Kilshaw;

**those who have died recently:** John Myerscough, Gerard Machin (former school teacher);

**and those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Bridget Rogers, Kenneth McKenzie, Dorothy Hedley, Goy McCann-Moon, Geraldine Fazio, Molly Rogers, Frances Fragle, Marie Coombes, George Ross, Christopher Cain, Audrey Cross, Lily Anna Forrest-Cottam, Moira Madden, Robert Garlington, Michael How. May they rest in peace.

### Baptisms

We can now celebrate baptisms with some restrictions. A number of people have been enquiring but it may take a little while to get through the backlog.

### Weddings

The green Marriage Registers are being discontinued this month as the paper-based system will move entirely online. There will no longer be a requirement to complete a paper-based formal register for marriage, and the legal marriage certificate will not be issued at the time of marriage. Instead, the parties will sign a marriage schedule issued by the register office. This will contain all of the necessary information that will then be entered into the online marriage register, maintained by the Registrar General.

In a further move, the details of the mothers of both the bride and groom (name, surname and occupation) will be included alongside details of their fathers.

### Local elections: Thursday 6th May

The Padua Room will be used as a Polling Station for local elections are taking place on Thursday.

### Churches Together In Fulwood & Broughton:

World Day of Prayer Service. At St. John's, Broughton, on Friday, 14th May at 1:30 pm - covid restrictions will be in place, therefore booking is essential. Please contact Jean Dunsmore on 01772 717083 to reserve your place.

### The Logos & Literature: Elaborating the Divine

A series of Stonyhurst online evening talks exploring some of the great themes of Catholic Christianity in writing old and new, with Catholic scholars and contemporary authors. Every second Thursday at 7:30pm from 29th April. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/logos-and-literature>

### The Gift –a Life in the Spirit:

#a course beginning on Thursday, 6 May from 7pm to 8pm via Zoom. This is an inspiring and practical seven-week series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, and reflections on The Holy Spirit from Pope Francis. If you are interested, please email [alphalancs@gmail.com](mailto:alphalancs@gmail.com) and the Zoom link will be sent to you. See also: <https://stjosephs-lancaster.co.uk/events/2021/5/6/life-in-the-spirit>

### Castlerigg Lottery

To help raise funds during this difficult time, Castlerigg Manor have recently started a lottery! It's just £3 a month to join and the winner takes half the pot each month. To register please go to: [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery). See flyer also.

### Virtual Coffee Morning

Join your fellow parishioners at the Zoom Coffee Morning at 11.00 am this Sunday  
Meeting ID: 895 6995 1776 Passcode: 860518

### 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 Fulwood YouTube page for the link.