

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)
Deacons: (retired) Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667); Rev. Tom Butler (07853 777957)

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am, 5.00pm
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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Believing

What if we really believed God is uniquely present and active in the circumstances of each of our lives? What if instead of allowing our circumstances to determine what we believe, we allowed our believing to reinterpret the circumstances? That would be blessed believing, Elizabeth and Mary type of believing, the kind of believing that gives birth to new life. That believing is at the heart of today's gospel reading. Two pregnant women, neither of whom, according to their circumstances, should be or could be pregnant. One is too old. One is too young. One is barren. One is a virgin. Yet, both are pregnant.

Neither Elizabeth nor Mary allowed the circumstances of their lives to define who they were or limit who they might become. Believing for them was not so much about *what* they see but *how* they see. Each one believed she was more than the circumstances of her life. Both women saw, hidden within their particular situation, a deeper meaning and a new life. Each one trusted that the God of the impossible was somehow in the circumstances reshaping, transforming, and fulfilling her very existence. God was at work within these two women changing *them*, not their circumstances. So it is for each one of us. *(Michael Marsh)*

The story of the visitation is not only about pregnancy and physical birth. For Mary and Elizabeth the massive change within them is linked to a radical transformation beyond them. There is a harmony between what God has stirred within them and what God is stirring in the world. Regardless of whether we're called to give birth to physical children, God challenges us to cultivate an interior spirit that is intimately linked with the world beyond us. In this Advent season, what's stirring inside me that connects me with the world around me? What is God seeking to bring forth in my life that enables me to participate in the transformation that God is working in all creation? *(Jan Richardson)*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 18th December 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Paddy Joe McDonagh	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Leonard Stevens	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frances Thompson	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	In thanksgiving (JB)	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	David Hardman	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tony Swarbrick	
Thur 10.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Deacon John Kilshaw	
Fri 4.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES</i>
6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Fitzgerald & Williams family	
8.00pm	<i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention	
Sat 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Edmund Machholz	<i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Draper family	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gerard Knight	<i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Joyce Hilton	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Last Weekend: Offertory £513.20. Attendance 172 (6pm 75, 9.30 60, 5.00 38)
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: John Kilshaw, Gerard Knight, Leonard Stevens, Joyce Hilton, Margaret Smethurst, Brynn Davies.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Mandy Davis, Deacon Tom Butler, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, May Rigby, Theresa Wilkinson, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, Carole Adnitt, Les Farrer, Frank Stanton. May God bring them health and strengthen their faith.

We pray for the souls of those recently departed this life, in particular, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Deacon John Kilshaw, Paula Mary Carroll-Montague;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Richard Jackson, Mary Parker, Monica Crombleholme, Bernard Dewhurst, James Joseph Smith, Hilda Martin, Eileen Bartle, Harry Wane, Melvin Brown, Anne Mulqueaney, Florence Woodruff, Eileen Dwyer, William Hartley, Arthur Lovatt, Laura Englishby, Jack Shaw, Francis Dewhurst. May they rest in peace.

PLEASE NOTE: Face coverings

Face coverings are now compulsory in most public indoor venues including places of worship.

Deacon John Kilshaw

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Deacon John Kilshaw. John has suffered ill-health for a number of years and finally succumbed. May he rest in peace. His funeral Mass will be on Thursday this week at 10.00am. Pray for him and for his beloved mother Marie.

Becoming A Catholic

This is a good time to offer preparation for anyone who wants to know more about how to become a Catholic. We have a couple of people enquiring at the moment. Does anyone else want to have a word about this? See Fr. Peter.

Carols Service

A big thank you to everyone supporting the carol concert and sing along at the club afterwards. Both choirs were in fine voice, able assisted by Angie, the musical director. The raffle raised £265.00 which will be divided between this year's charities, Preston Parkinson Society and Aid to the Church in Need. There is a list of winners at the back of church. Karen H.

St. Anthony's Singers rehearse in church after 9.30am Mass on Sundays.

'Lost and Found' choir meets in St Anthony's school hall from 7.00 to 8.30 each Tuesday. People of all ages and abilities are welcome.

Church Repository

Christmas cards are on sale at the back of church. Please put money in the green safe - slot marked 'shop'.

Lancaster Diocesan Directories

The Directories have now arrived - same price as last year - £5.25 for the ring-bound, £4.50 for the ordinary copies. Please put money in the slot in the green safe marked "Books". Thank you. A last-minute Christmas present?

'Catholic Voice' - new issue available - free.

There is more information about the Synod of bishops in the latest Catholic Voice paper. There will be more news in the New Year. A Synod of Bishops, considered as an advisory body for the pope, is one of the ways in which the bishops render cooperative assistance to him in exercising his office.

Coffee Mornings - after 9.30am Mass on Sundays.

Virtual Coffee Morning on zoom on Sundays at 11.00am. Access codes: 879 1587 6429 Passcode 766018

Children's Liturgy: On the first Sundays of the month at 9.30am Mass.

Christmas Mass times.

With the rise in covid cases and the fact that Christmas Day falls on a Saturday we are proposing the following Mass times:

Fri 24/12 Christmas vigil - 4.00pm (especially for children) and 6.00pm

Sat 25/12 Christmas Day - 9.30am (no Saturday Vigil)

Sun 26/12 Feast of Holy Family - 9.30 and 5.00pm

At Holy Family: Fri 24/12 Christmas vigil - 8.00pm

Sat 25/12 Christmas Day - 11.00am

Sun 26/12 Feast of Holy Family - 11.00am