

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)
Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 9.30am.
Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)
Confessions: 5.30—5.50pm

Annexe: 725544 Social Centre: 735963 Primary school: 726621
Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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Love is the Answer

There are several versions of the story of a man who prayed to God to be rescued from the rising levels of a flood. A rescue team in a rubber raft called to him, and he refused their offer of help, saying God would save him. When the power of the water was later crashing through the windows of his home, he sat on his roof. A helicopter came and he still refused help, saying yet again that God would save him. The flood did what floods do and he drowned. When he met God, he started complaining and accused God of not helping him. "I was so faithful and I waited for you. Why did you abandon me?" Perplexed, God replied, "I sent a raft and a helicopter. Did you not see them?" [Source: Mark Nepo, *The Book of Awakening*]

The above story illustrates one example of our understanding of prayer: we make our repeated requests for help but we have our own preconceived ideas about what that help should look like. Today's gospel could lead to another misconception of prayer: that our persistent requests could change God. Prayer is meant to be: 'an interior practice to change the one who is praying.' [1] St Augustine tells us that when we pray 'we are always holding our hearts open for whatever God always wants to give us.' When we pray consistently and with persistence 'our hearts are being enlarged to divine proportions. In those fleeting moments it is not that we intuit something more is being given to us, but we fleetingly glimpse the abyss-like nature of the love that every moment really is.' [2]

All three readings today emphasise persistence. 'It is strange that we have come to understand the importance of practice in sports, in any successful business and in any creative endeavour, but for some reason most of us do not see the need for it when we want to develop a personal relationship with God.' [1] How we 'practice' prayer is a very personal choice and throughout the course of our lives we may make several changes to the way in which we pray. 'Our task is to find the way which moves us to love and to give ourselves to it in love.' [2]

When we pray we are not negotiating a transaction. We surrender to transformation in ourselves and in whoever and whatever we bring to God in prayer. 'We do not wait for God. We wait with God.' [3] 'It is not that God answers our prayer, but that God is the answer [1] And since God is love, then love is the answer. Being rooted and grounded in love, we will then pray always and not lose heart.

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] James Finley [3] Michael Marsh

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS for the week beginning Saturday 15th October 2022

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joseph Henry Thompson	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For a very sick husband Private Intention	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>	<i>Feast: St. Ignatius of Antioch</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Feast: St. Luke</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Intention	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Intention	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Routledge	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Roland Catlow For our parish	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. <i>Mission Sunday— APF Collection</i>

Last Weekend: Attendance: 216 (83, 133) Offertory: £614.95
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: none in Fr Peter's absence

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. served in the Padua Room after weekend Mass.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Mandy Davis, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, Theresa Wilkinson, Bill Embery, Les Farrer, Rev. Tom Butler, Maureen Cafferkey, baby Mairead.

We pray for the souls of those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Pat Nolan, Joe Bowers, Richard and Mary Penney, Margaret, Martin McMurrough, Gordon Elliott, William Cosgrove, Lily Morrison, Catherine Mallon, Maria Wilson, Mollie Curry, Roland Catlow, John Gardner.

May they rest in peace.

Catholicism - A Journey to the Heart of the Faith.

More than a dozen people watched the first of this series last week on God's Incarnation as Man. This Wednesday at 7pm in The Padua Room the episode is on Jesus's teachings, exploring the Beatitudes and some parables. Each episode stands alone, and they do not need to be watched in sequence. Further details on the flyer at the back of church, or from Jackie: 07934 667292.

St. Anthony's Singers have started rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Service Sundays at 10.45 in church. New members are welcome.

Keep fit - and help a good cause

Exercising for over (and under!) 50s. To boost rapidly depleting Rwandan funds, there is a weekly exercise session, following a DVD, each Wednesday morning in the Padua Room at 10am. 'No lycra or sweatbands needed!!! Simply watch the DVD and decide if it is for you.

Cadley Causeway Traffic

Lancashire County Council Highways Department are proposing significant changes to traffic management outside the church and presbytery. Amongst the proposals are a new zebra crossing where the bus stop is currently; the bus stop to move very close to the exit from the church car park. These changes will impact anyone using the car park. There is a plan at the back of church.

Fair Trade Stall – Bernadette reports that the proceeds from the Stall at the start of the month were FairTrade £42.45, Christmas cards £13.45 and donations to CAFOD £2.30. Thank you all for your support.

Notice Board: New items every week. Take a look at it in the porch.

Livestreaming Mass

The 9.30am Sunday Mass from St. Anthony's church is livestreamed. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page for the link.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

— Last chance to return your envelopes today. Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. See cafod.org.uk/fastday

Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (S.P.U.C.)

There is a Preston office from which they operate their telephone work. They are seeking volunteers to assist their work. The office is at 10 Lockside Road, Preston. PR2 2YS. Email caroleadamson@spuc.org.uk or call 01772 258580