

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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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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Sight-restoring Questions

There are questions that seek to keep us in our place, and there are questions that help us find the place where we belong. Our Gospel invites us to hear both kinds of questions and to notice the vast difference between them. There is a sense of mounting tension in John's story, a steady escalation of frustration and fury on the part of the questioners each time the man responds. Their questions are not doorways into conversation: they are walls designed to reinforce the boundaries of what these people already know, and to keep their landscape of belief, experience, and knowledge safely contained. The newly-sighted man is telling them nothing they want to hear, nothing that fits into the beliefs and experiences that they carry. He possesses a remarkable sense of calm, answering in the only way he knows how: from his own experience. "One thing I do know," he says, "that though I was blind, now I see."

One of the best practices we can engage in is to ask questions of others and ourselves that expand our vision rather than confining it. Good questions carry something of a ritual within them, a sense of the sacramental: they help wash the metaphorical mud from our eyes. They help us see and love things as they are—and not just as we want them to be. They clarify our perception of what is present in our lives and of what is possible. John wants to make sure that we know that Siloam, the name of the pool in which the man washed his eyes, means sent. We are all being sent. Sometimes we are sent beyond the limits of our own vision. Whether or not we know where we are going, we are ever needful of learning how to see.

John closes this story with questions that are good eye-clearing questions. Jesus finds the seeing man and asks him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answers Jesus' question with another question: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." His question leads not to a law, but to worship.' [1]

In our relationship with ourselves, with others, with creation what are the questions that help us see as God sees. 'Man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' (First reading. I Samuel 16:7)

Adapted: [1] Jan Richardson

Fourth Sunday of Lent
19th March 2023

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 18th March 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gerard Knight	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Mihaj Mocanu For our parish	Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare)
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Victoria Franics	<i>Feast: St. Joseph</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Patricia Lavery	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Robert Dobson	
Thur 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass: Catherine Welsby</i>	
Fri 12.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass: Francis O'Gara</i>	Stations of the Cross 6pm
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Fogell	<i>Feast: The Annunciation</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Joyce Hilton	Fifth Sunday in Lent

Last Weekend: Attendance: 222 (86 + 136). Offertory: £548.95.
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Ellen Vitone.

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

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2023

Bishop Paul Swarbrick is leading the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 21-28 July 2023. For more info, please see posters at the back of church or go to the Diocesan Pilgrimage website www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Lourdes volunteer raffle

One of our senior altar servers, Galvin, is going to Lourdes as a volunteer this year. We will be selling raffle tickets and coffee with Easter cakes after Mass to support his fare.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Theresa Wilkinson, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Bill Embery, Maureen Cafferkey, Carole & Gary Adnitt, Les Farrer, Rev. Tom Butler, baby Mairead, Marie Morris, Sarah O'Donnell.

We pray for those who have died recently: Anne Thornton, Francis O'Gara, Catherine Welsby, Robert Dobson;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Marjorie O'Reilly, Edith Rigby, Mary Toase, Margaret and Arthur Wignall, William Devereux, Frances Kilshaw, Winnie Ollerton, Jack Houghton, Gertrude Turner, Darren Kaye, Jean Clarkson, Paul Worthington, Helen Smith, Bernard Fisher, Richard Yates, Denis Danson. May they rest in peace.

LENT—Stations of the Cross During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 6.00pm in St. Anthony's church led by parishioners.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

Last Friday was Lent Fast Day. The total donated was £880.82 which brings the total this financial year (including the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal) to an amazing £4,167.60 Thank you for your great generosity to the poor and needy.

Lent Service of Reconciliation

In St. Anthony's at 7.00pm on Thursday 30th March.

Next Farmers' Market

The end of March sees the next Fulwood Farmers' Market - Saturday 25th March from 9.30am-1pm at Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road, PR2 8EA. Come and stock up on fresh local produce and Fairtrade products, and stay for a drink and a snack.

Receiving Holy Communion from the Chalice

Bishop Paul writes: After consultations within the Bishops' Conference, I am now in a position to give permission to parishes to offer Holy Communion from the chalice. This will take effect from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday. Whilst this is a return to the norm, it is not something being imposed on parishes. You remain free to reintroduce this practice when and where you feel able."

Easter Retreat at Castlerigg Manor: 6th – 9th April.

Open to anyone from Year 10 up to age 25. A chance to journey through the powerful story of Easter, having fun and making friends along the way. £65 but Castlerigg may be able to assist. See castleriggmanor.com email jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

'Mater Ecclesiae' Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

The Catholic schools in Preston (as in other parts other Diocese) are forming together into an Academy. Seven primary schools signed up in December 2022 and further schools will join shortly. The Directors of this Multi-Academy Trust wish to appoint a Chief Executive Officer with effect from Sept 2023. For an informal and confidential chat about the post, please contact Julie Ingham, HR Officer by email julie@justpeoplehr.com or downloaded application pack from website <https://mater-ecclesiae-trust.co.uk/>

"Doing Christianity: How religion is about what you do, not what you believe"

Paul Higginson is a former parishioner and altar server at St. Anthony's and recently retired from teaching R.E. in Catholic High schools. He has written this book which is available from Amazon and good bookshops.

John Bradburne Pilgrimage Walk 2023.

John Bradburne was an amazing character. He was born on 14 June 1921 in Skirwith, Cumbria, and after a career in the army and a journey through many religious houses, he spent the last 10 years of his life caring for lepers in Zimbabwe until he was murdered. His cause for canonisation is currently in progress.

On Saturday 15th July the John Bradburne Memorial Society who support Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre in Zimbabwe are leading this year's pilgrimage walk on Cross Fell with Bishop Paul Swarbrick joining and saying prayers along the route. Visit www.johnbradburne.com to learn more about him. Pilgrimage leaflets are in church.