

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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Love is Who We Are

'In today's gospel Jesus tells his apostles that he is leaving and yet coming. To us, leaving and coming sound like opposites and if we are not careful we will get stuck trying to reconcile or figure this out. It is not, however, something to figure out. It is rather a means to see and live in a different way. Leaving and coming. Absence and Presence. These must be held in tension, not as mutually exclusive. This paradox confronts us with the question of whether Jesus, for us, is a past memory or a present reality, a sentimental story that makes us feel good or a living experience that challenges, guides, and nurtures our lives.' [1]

In her song 'Love Always' Carrie Newcomer sings: It takes some starts and stops to hold a paradox. In our relationship with God that 'starting and stopping' involves a willingness to be open to a constant dislodging of our perceptions, especially our perception of love. It involves a growing awareness that 'our actions do not earn us God's love: they reveal our love for God, a love that originates in the eternal, unconditional loving presence of God within us.' [1] In our relationship with God that 'starting and stopping' involves being at the correct starting point. We are familiar with the story of the traveller who stopped to ask someone the directions to his destination. "If I were you, I wouldn't start from here," was the reply. Jesus' starting point was his awareness that 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me.' (John 14:11) The Spirit of Truth abiding in us will help us grow in awareness of our abiding in God who is Love.

'Love is who we are. When we get the 'who' right and experience the reality that we are created in the image of God who is love, then we will do what we are created to do: to Love God and love all that God has created.' [2] We will keep his commandments. "If you love me, you will (want to) keep my commandments."

On Thursday we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension when Jesus reassures us that he is with us always. 'Jesus' ascension is not about his absence but about his presence. It is not about a location but about a relationship.' [1] In Acts 1:9 we are told that the apostles saw a cloud receive him out of their sight. In the bible a cloud often depicts the abiding presence of God. 'We are always in the presence of God, what is absent is our awareness.' [2]

Adapted : [1] Michael Marsh [2] R.Rohr

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A
14th May 2023 Missal: p385

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 13th May 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Margaret Baldwin Margaret Johnson	6th Sunday of Easter
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For perseverance (DK)	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tony O'Connor	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper Michael Wilson	
Thur 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Sarah O'Donnell Special Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Shaun Carbery	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ellen Fogell	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Bob & Marie Garlington For our parish	7th Sunday of Easter

Last Weekend: Attendance: 216 (101, 115). Offertory: £668.90.
Ecclesiastical Education Collection: £98.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Tony O'Connor, Bob & Marie Garlington, Robbie & Patsy Hasson, for perseverance (DK), Sarah O'Donnell, Shaun Carbery, Francis & Gertrude Dewhurst.

The Catholic Voice

There is a new issue of our free diocesan newspaper at the back of church.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses. Come and join us.

Welcome into the family of faith

- Jennifer Ann Phillips who was baptised in St. Anthony's last Sunday.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, Carole & Gary Adnitt, Maureen Cafferkey, Les Farrer, Margaret Rainford, baby Mairead, Angela Russell;

We pray for those who have died recently: Sarah O'Donnell, Kathleen Webb; and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Eric Welsby, John Dwyer, Peter Kevill, Veronica Chanter, Gerard Walsh, Richard and Mary Murphy, May Dickinson, Dorothy Hedley, Maria Garlington, Marie McCartney, Michael Wilson. May they rest in peace.

Feast of the Ascension

This Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord - a Holy Day. Masses are at 7.30pm (vigil) & 9.15am. (At Holy Family Mass is at 10.30am.)

First Holy Communion

Please pray for the children and their families as they prepare to receive their first holy communions.

Receiving Holy Communion from the Chalice

We are now able to offer Holy Communion from the chalice for those who wish to receive it. We would welcome new readers and eucharistic ministers who can serve our parish.

Parish Afternoon Tea –today at 2.00pm

-with entertainment from Gathered Voices choir . Tickets are on sale after each Mass this weekend. Cost £7.50. Monies raised are for the Parish charity the Hygiene Bank.

St. Anthony's Wednesday Faith Group 7pm in the Padua Room

- D. "The Chosen" series 3. 12th April to 31st May. No breaks.
- E. The Story of the Old Testament: Six meetings in June & July from 7th June.
- F. The Eucharist in Scripture: Six meetings starting in September 2023.

For details—or to suggest future topics please contact Jackie Stopyra 07934 667292 or e-mail jackie.stopyra@gmail.com

'THE UNIVERSE' Catholic Newspaper

For the past couple of years this has been available only in digital form but it is now back in print. To subscribe, and receive your copy direct from the publisher, email michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk Subscription Rates for Print copy 3 month subscription (13 weekly copies) - £42 (£3.20 per copy) 6 month subscription (26 weekly copies) - £75 (£2.88 per copy) Annual Subscription (52 weekly copies) - £140 (£2.69 per copy).

Porch Notice Board

The notice board in the porch is particularly well decorated this Easter-time. It is well worth a look. We thank Bernadette for the weekly updates.

Knights of St. Columba

The Knights of St. Columba are the largest lay Order of Catholics in the UK and have been serving the Church and communities for over 100 years. If you would like the opportunity to help fundraise for charitable causes and make a difference, to have a purpose in life and make lifelong friends, then come and join us! To find out more about the Knights of St. Columba contact Andrew Fowler on 07914 751020 or Cuthbert Culshaw on 07802 473504 or go to www.ksc.org.uk.

Offertory Envelopes — available from the church porch.

New sets of envelopes are available from the back of church. Please let us know if your envelopes are not there, or if you have changed address, or if you would like some envelopes. Thank you to all who support our parish in this way.