

St Anthony of Padua

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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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God, the Ground of our Being

The dictionary definition of a parable is that it is a short simple story illustrating a moral or spiritual truth. Richard Rohr compares parables to Zen koans: they're meant to split apart our normal ways of thinking about things and help us see with different eyes and hear with different ears. 'We speak of getting lost in a story, but part of what draws us to a story is the promise of finding: finding a different world, finding another time, finding ourselves.' [1]

'The story of the sower and the seed is very familiar to us as are the various interpretations of the nature of the soil which symbolise the state of our heart. We have rightly been encouraged to lead lives which have all the ingredients of lives rooted in good 'soil': lives of love, of prayer, of forgiveness, of gentleness, of compassionate action.' [2] If we only consider this interpretation, we may only focus on what we do and especially on our many failures to be 'good soil.' We may be tempted to think that our weaknesses 'have the authority to name who we are. Only infinite generosity has the authority to name who we are.' [3]

'What if this parable is not about our own successes and failures but about the extravagance of a sower who does not seem to be fazed by such concerns, who flings seed everywhere, wastes it with holy abandon? If this is really the parable of the Sower and not the parable of the different kinds of ground, then it begins to sound quite new. The focus is not on us and our shortfalls but on the generosity of our maker, the prolific sower who does not obsess about the condition of the fields, who is not cautious or judgmental or even what we would call practical, who is not stingy with the seed but who casts it everywhere, on good soil and bad.' [4] This parable, like all the other parables, is meant to jolt us out of any understanding that would limit God's love to the good or the worthy. [2]

This interpretation of the parable focuses on God, the ground of our being. As we grow in awareness that 'the infinitely generous love of God is our origin, our sustaining ground' [3], as we become rooted in God's love, we will share that unconditional love with everyone we meet.

'When we pare away the layers of familiarity in the stories of our faith—those layers that can lull us into thinking we know what a story is about – we may find the story beneath the story; we may find where the story begins. When we reach for the threads that a good story offers, we are returned to ourselves.' [1]

[1] Jan Richardson [2] Lisa Hunt-Wotton [3] James Finley [4] Barbara Brown Taylor

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
16th July 2023 Missal: p740

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 15th July 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom Gardner	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	David Plater For our parish	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention (M.O.)	
Tue 11.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Tony Fraser	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Patrick Callaghan	Feast: Martyrs of Lancashire
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Winnie Poland	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Celine Reed	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Irene & Frank Atherton	<i>Feast: St. Mary Magdalen</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Ray Cope	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Good Shepherd Fund Collection

Last Weekend: Attendance: 94+167 = 261. Offertory: £7.
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Celine Reed, Irene & Frank Atherton.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses.
You are welcome to come and join us.

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, Tony Fraser, Fr. Joe O'Connor;

We pray for those who have died recently: Celine Reed, Tony Fraser, Mary Lawler; and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Barbara Fraser, Ronald Whitby, Frank Coates, Robert Whittaker, Winifred Chadwick, Charles Hodson, David Noon, Kathleen Warburton, Gary Clarkson, Mary Molloy, Margaret Stopyra, Harry Murphy, Harry Costar, Norah Matthews, Collette Rigby, Peter Meade, Eneas McNulty, Roy Anderton, Bernard Ward, Graham Irving, James Stott, Bridget Coulton, Brian Maguire, Patrick Mason, Joan Green. May they rest in peace.

"Share IT" Food Bank at Holy Family

During the six week holiday there will be a lot of "Fridge Raiders" so parents will be very pleased to have extra groceries in the cupboard. Thank you for your donations to the holiday food bags so far. If you wish to help us further we would appreciate please, packets of pasta, pasta sauce, tinned fruit.

End of term

As schools break up this week we thank God for all who work in our schools for the education and well-being of our children. May they enjoy a time of rest and recuperation after the daily pressures of school life. We ask God's protection on the children during the holidays, and for guidance and encouragement for all those who are moving on to a new stage in their education.

Parish Charities

By popular demand, WaterAid has now been added as one of our parish charities for 2023, alongside the HygieneBank. WaterAid works to provide clean water and decent sanitation throughout the world. 1 in 4 don't have a decent toilet at home; 1 in 10 don't have access to clean water; 1 child dies every minute from diarrhoea. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Stonyhurst Summer Courses

Catholicism and Contemporary Culture, 3rd-6th August (will be of particular support to teachers of RE, catechists and those working with youth and young adults). Human Nature, Gender and Identity, 25th-28th August (of particular interest to those teaching theology and those providing training and CPD to other educators and catechists).

Fair Trade

Last week: Fair Trade £83.20, CAFOD donations: £5.20; Rwanda £12.00.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Our annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes leaves very soon. Bernadette will happily take any petitions / requests. We are delighted that Galvin, one of our senior altar servers is going as a volunteer also. We pray for them and for all the pilgrims.

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

'The Story of the Old Testament.' Join us at 7.00pm on Wednesdays for to explore the basic narrative of the Old Testament. Bring a Bible. For more information contact Jackie Stopyra 07934 667292 or e-mail jackie.stopyra@gmail.com

A Monastic Experience at Hying

The Bernardine Sisters at the Monastery of Our Lady of Hying, would like to welcome young men and women (18 – 45- year-olds) for one to two weeks, between mid-July and December 2023, as volunteers and/or for a monastic experience. Opportunity to share in the prayer, work and life of the community. Free board and lodging in return for some work and help each day. Further details: www.bernardine.org/hyingexperience.

Porch Notice Board

The notice board in the porch is like a weekly magazine. It well worth a look. We thank Bernadette for the weekly updates.