

# 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

*Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331*

## *Love the Weeds*

Today we continue with Jesus' use of story-telling to help us leave aside our normal ways of thinking about things and help us see with different eyes and hear with different ears. There are several parables in today's gospel reading, with the focus again on the sower and the seed. The servant's normal way of thinking is that wheat = good and weeds = bad so the obvious conclusion is to remove the weeds. But Jesus tells his disciples—tells us, "Listen, anyone who has ears!"

'The reality is that our lives and our world are a field in which good and evil, life and death, joys and sorrows, that which we want and that which we don't want grow and live side by side. The wheat and the weeds stand together in our world and in each of our lives. The parable speaks of a particular weed called zizania. It's sometimes known as darnel or false wheat. It grows with the wheat. It looks like wheat. Its roots intertwine with the roots of the real wheat. The difference between the two is not always readily apparent.' "Let them grow together until the harvest," Jesus says. The words that are translated as 'let them' can also be translated as 'forgive them'. It's the same words Jesus spoke from the cross in St. Luke when he says, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). Forgive the weeds? Love the weeds? The gospel is always a challenge. So, yes, forgive them. Love them. Maybe that's how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds.' [1]

'That's the mystery of holding weeds and wheat together in our one field of life. It takes a lot more patience, compassion, forgiveness, and love than aiming for some illusory perfection that is usually blind to its own faults. Acknowledging both the wheat and weeds in us keeps us from thinking too highly of ourselves and also from dismissing ourselves as terrible. The only true perfection available to humans is the honest acceptance of our imperfection. Only God in us can love imperfect and broken things. It takes uncommon humility to carry both the dark and the light side of things. Learning how to love—which is our life's project—is quite simply learning to accept our messy reality. If you love anyone, then you have learned to accept them despite their faults. You see a few things you'd like to change in your partner, your children, yourself. By the Largeness of God within you, you are able to trust that the good is deeper than the bad, and usually well hidden. This is why so many of Jesus' parables are about hiddenness, seeking, and finding.' [2] "Some things in life cannot be fixed. They can only be carried." [3]

Adapted: [1] Michael Marsh [2] Richard Rohr [3] Megan Devine

***16th Sunday in Ordinary Time*** Year A  
23rd July 2023 Missal: p744

# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 22nd July 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Irene & Frank Atherton	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Ray Cope	<b>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Good Shepherd Fund Collection
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Mary Greatorex	Feast: Martyrs of Cumbria
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Roberts	Feast: St. James
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Celine Reed	Feast: Ss Joachim & Anne
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention	
Fri 9.15am 10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant.</i>	Ian Clement	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Fox	<i>Feast: Ss. Martha, Mary &amp; Lazarus</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Bernard Ward For our parish	<b>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>

**Last Weekend:** Attendance: 254 (105 + 149). Offertory: £668.83.  
Thank you for your generosity.

**Masses received this week:** Celine Reed, Marie Roberts, Mary Greatorex, Bernard Ward.

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

### We welcome into the family of faith

- Zofia Zablocka who was baptised in St. Anthony's last Sunday.

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, Carole & Gary Adnitt, Maureen Cafferkey, Les Farrer, Margaret Rainford, baby Mairead, Angela Russell, Fr. Joe O'Connor;

We pray for those who have died recently: Celine Reed, Tony Fraser, Mary Lawler, Ian Clement;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Letty Lawrenson, Elizabeth Clarkson, Jenny Whiteside, Joseph Rigby, Frank Coates, Mary Winifred Howarth, Dorothy Whalley, Maureen Fraser, Joseph Morrison, Jean McGinty, Margaret Watson, Joan Airey. May they rest in peace.

### Good Shepherd Fund

There is a retiring collection on behalf of the Good Shepherd Fund. This fund supports the bishop's charitable causes.

### End of term

Our schools have now broken up for the summer. 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.

### "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.

### 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).

### Cleator Annual Pilgrimage

'Mother of Christ— Star of the Sea'. On Sunday 10th September, with Mass and Blessing of the Sick - 3.00pm. Principal celebrant and preacher: Bishop Paul Swarbrick  
For further details please contact: St Mary's Priory, Cleator, CA23 3AB (Tel: 01946 810324) email: stmandstj@gmail.com

### 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](http://www.bernardine.org/hyingexperience).