

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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The Hardest Blessing

Today we continue with last week's theme of forgiveness. The heart of forgiveness is not to be found in excusing harm or allowing it to go unchecked. It is to be found, rather, in choosing to say that we will not allow our wounds to forever define us. Forgiveness does not ask us to forget the wrong done to us but instead to resist the ways it seeks to get its poisonous hooks in us. Forgiveness asks us to acknowledge and deal with the damage so that we will not live forever in its grip.

Sometimes we can quickly respond to the grace to forgive. Sometimes our response is more slow and forgiveness can take a long, long time. And so forgiveness often requires practice. It takes choosing to work at it. We might have to chip away at it again and again and again. Seventy-seven times, at least, as Jesus says.' [1] 'The number seven is one of the most significant in the Bible. Scholars say it denotes completeness or wholeness and that $70 \times 7 = \text{Infinity}$.' [2] 'Forgiveness does not originate in us. It begins with God. That's what the servant who refused to forgive didn't understand. When we forgive, we only choose to share the forgiveness we have already received.' [3] MM.

'Forgiveness might well be the hardest blessing we will ever offer—or receive.

If we cannot lay aside the wound,
then let us say it will not always bind us.

Let us say the damage will not eternally determine our path.

Let us say the line of our life will not always travel along the places we are torn.

Let us say that forgiveness can take some practice, can take some patience,
can take a long and struggling time.

Let us say that to offer the hardest blessing, we will need the deepest grace;
that to forgive the sharpest pain, we will need the fiercest love;
that to release the ancient ache, we will need new strength for every day.

Let us say the wound will not be our final home—
that through it runs a road, a way we would not have chosen
but on which we will finally see forgiveness, so long practised,
coming toward us, shining with joy so well deserved.' [1]

Adapted: [1] Jan Richardson [2] Richard Rohr [3] Michael Marsh

24th Sunday of the Year
17th September 2023

Year A
Missal: p772

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 16th September 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Norman Mercer	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Sandra Kay	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Collection: Home Missions</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Lydia Etherington	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Walsh	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Feast: Ss Andrew KimTaegon & Comp</i>
Thur 9.45am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass: Irene Marie Cooper</i>	<i>Feast: St. Matthew</i>
Fri 9.45am	<i>St. Ant</i>	John Talbot	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Geoff & Susan Hall	<i>Feast: St. Pius of Pietrelcina</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Peter Hothersall Lisa Robinson	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Collection: Bishop's Administration</i>

Last Weekend: Attendance: 251 (85 + 166). Offertory: £613.15
Catholic Education Service Collection: £67.60. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: deceased friends, Peter Hothersall, Frank Walsh, Lydia Etherinton

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

Rwanda Group Trust Table Top Sale

'Thankyou to all who supported the first sale last Saturday. We made £206 for Rwanda as well as profits by the other stall holders. Our next sale will be Saturday 14th October. See poster in porch.'

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, Jack Morton, Fr. Joe O'Connor;

We pray for those who have died recently: Maureen Patricia Fegan, Gabrielle Shay, Marie Cooper, Catherine Gane;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Alfred Kenneth Craven, Eunice Elliot, Gary Whittell, Marie Milne, baby Lily Machin. May they rest in peace.

'The Eucharist in Scripture'

Started last week in the Padua Room at 7.00pm on Wednesdays— a short course to explore the meaning of the Mass and Holy Eucharist. For more information contact Jackie Stopyra on 07934 667292 or jackie.stopyra@gmail.com. The first two sessions explore the Mass as the heavenly banquet or supper of the Lamb.

St Vincent De Paul Society

"SVP would welcome anyone who might want to learn more about the work of this group within the community to join our St Vincent De Paul Meeting in the Padua Room 11am on 1st October 2023. The meeting takes up to an hour and we would love to meet you and talk about our work. Mary Ward, President.

Fulwood Farmers' Market

The next one will be on Saturday 23rd September 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. The New to You stalls will also be open. Hope to see you there.

St. Anthony's Social Events Group

There is a planning meeting on Tuesday 26th Sept at 7-15 in the Parish Centre. Suggested ideas include: Halloween party, Christmas carols event, Advent retreat. Then Look ahead to next year: Feb / Aarch adult event eg murder mystery, quiz, Casino night, Race night. Further ideas are always welcome.

Season of Creation

The Ecumenical Season of Creation has begun and lasts until October 4th. Pope Francis encourages: 'in this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again.' To tie in with this, the Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission invite you to a 'Care of Creation' event on Saturday 7th October from 9.30am – 3.00pm at St Bernadette's Catholic Church, Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 4HT. The theme of the event is 'Let Justice and Peace flow'. The keynote speakers include Sr Margaret Atkins, Dr Stephen Garsed, Dr Paul Kelly and John Paul de Quay. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. For further information or to confirm your attendance at the event please contact Sue Grubic on ldfjsue@gmail.com or text 07791444417

Carols Service

Advance notice. On 10th December at 2pm. We will start rehearsing the choir at 10.45 on Sunday mornings from 3rd September. New singers are welcome.

The community choir '**Lost and Found**' re-started on Tuesday 5th September. 7pm till 8.30pm in the school hall. Anyone of any age and ability is welcome to join us.

Celebration of Mass in Royal Preston Hospital

In the chapel every Monday at 5.30pm. Patients, visitors and staff all welcome.

'Messy Church'

In St. Clare's Church Hall on Saturday 30th September from 1.30-3.00pm. Come and join in an afternoon of activities, games and bible stories. All ages and denominations welcome.