

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 Infinite Generosity of Infinite Love

The core of today's Gospel parable is prefaced in God's word to Isaiah: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." [1] It's safe to say that the message in today's gospel reading would not be found in the Manifesto of any political party or the Mission Statement of any business enterprise. Nor would it be high on the list of our own tick list of 'Ways to live the Golden Rule'. 'Too often fairness rather than love, acceptance, mercy, forgiveness, or generosity is the measure by which we act and judge another person or life circumstances.' [2]

'In Jesus' time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations.' [1] 'God's ways are not our ways. His ways look beyond our productivity, our appearance, our dress, our race or ethnicity, our accomplishments, our failures.' [2]

'In today's parable we are invited to enter into a process where our perception of God is continually being transformed. Parables are similar to poetry. A good poem doesn't try to define an experience as much as it tries to give us the experience. A poem tries to awaken our own seeing, hearing and knowing; it doesn't give us the answer so much as offers us a process through which we can know for ourselves. To sit with this parable is to sit in the presence of generous Love. James Finley uses the image of a pebble falling down an underwater cliff. "There are little protrusions along this cliff and every so often, the stone lands on one and pauses in its descent. In the movements of the water, it rolls off and it continues on and on." This image of the stone constantly being dislodged by the movements of the water is an image of our inner journey in which our perception of God is constantly being dislodged until we experience the infinite generosity of Infinite Love.' [3]

Adapted: [1] Association of Catholic Priests [2] M. Marsh [3] Richard Rohr

25th Sunday of the Year
24th September 2023

Year A
Missal: p776

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 23rd September 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Geoff & Susan Hall	
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>
Mon 1.30pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Joan Pollard	
Tue 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Catherine Game	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For a sick husband	<i>Feast: St. Vincent de Paul</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For a sick friend	<i>Feast: Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Geoff & Susan Hall	<i>Feast: St. Jerome</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Peter Hothersall Lisa Robinson	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>CAFOD Family Fast envelopes</i>

Last Weekend: Attendance: 239 (97 + 142). Offertory: £666.20
Home Mission Sunday Collection: £73.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Lawrence Doyle, Bill York, for a sick husband, for a sick friend.

Carols Service Advance notice. On 10th December at 2pm.
Choir rehearsals are at 10.45 on Sunday mornings. New singers are welcome.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses.
Today pupils from Our Lady's High School will be helping and will hold a Raffle — with the proceeds going to help with the cost of going to Castlerigg for families who are struggling financially.

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: Marie Cooper, Catherine Game, Joan Pollard; and those whose anniversaries fall about this time:

Michael Crompton, Thomas Gielty, Agnes & Joseph Billington, James Nickson, Kathleen Morton, Jack Kilshaw, Raymond Whittle, George Fegan, Aaron Junior Worgan.

May they rest in peace.

St. Anthony's Pram Club

Baby & Toddler Group meets on Tuesdays from 1.30-3.00pm (term time only) in the Annexe (St. Anthony's Drive). £2 per family including refreshments. Play * Music * Crafts * Chat

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 / March adult event eg murder mystery, quiz, Casino night, Race night. Further ideas are always welcome.

"Two October Saints"

Join us on Wednesday in The Padua Room to explore the lives and teachings of two saints with feast days in early October. Sessions start at 7.00pm and will last an hour. On 27th September we will watch a short film about St Therese of Lisieux. On 4th October, we look at St Francis. 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.

Church Music

We are blessed to have Patrick and Angie playing music for the two weekend Masses most weeks. It would be good to involve other musicians from the parish, especially younger members. A number of our children receive tuition in school. Come and put your skills to good use, even if you don't feel particularly confident. Angie is very happy to give encouragement and support. If you want to speak to her ring 07581 629798.

More Daffodils!

Last Autumn the parish raised money for CAFOD when we planted daffodils in the church lawn, and they made a great display when they bloomed in April. We are planning to 'top up' the existing bulbs with another another bag of bulbs (about 450-500) from Grow Preston, with the proceeds once again going to CAFOD. Planting will be on Sunday October 8 - which ties in with MiniVinnies running the coffee morning that day. The bulbs will be on sale at the back of church (50p, or 3 for £1.00) after the weekend Masses 23/24 Sept; 30Sept/1 Oct; and 7/8 October.

'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.

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.

Season of Creation

The Ecumenical Season of Creation lasts until October 4th. Pope Francis encourages us as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, to 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, Lancaster, LA1 4HT.