

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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How Do We Live?

'Our image of God creates us. This is why it is so important that we see God as loving and benevolent.' [1] Part of today's gospel helps us see God in this way, but we become uncertain and afraid when we fearfully interpret the image of the Son of Man separating people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Our fears are increased when we read about eternal punishment.

To release our hold on these fears, it might help to consider the following:

a. 'Matthew often ends his stories with a threat and all we do is to remember the threat. Matthew's way of teaching is to motivate us by using threatening language. But this is not a definition of God. God who is love, has created us in love to be love and therefore to be like God.' [1]

b. 'In Palestine at that time the sheep and the goats were herded together during the day. At night the goats had to be put into shelter because they coped poorly with the cold. The sheep preferred the open air. Some species of sheep and goats looked rather alike, so care was needed in making the separation. The caring shepherd is a person of compassion.' [2]

c. The word in the Hebrew Bible that we sometimes translate into English as "eternity" is *olam*. In some contexts, *olam* just means "a very long time." [3] 'Yes our actions have eternal significance. It matters what we do. It matters whether we live a life of love or a life of selfishness.' [1] It may take us a very long time to choose to live a life of love. The longer we take to make that choice, the more we punish ourselves.

With the above insights, we allow our negative thoughts to slide away and we free space within us to be open to Jesus' teaching on what it means to live in love. 'In the examples he gives of compassionate caring for the hungry, the stranger, the poor, those in prison of any nature, Jesus focuses on how we live and not just what we believe in our heads. He is also saying that we are going to find the Christ in those that we came to give Christ to. He doesn't say, "It's like..." He says, "What you do to people, you do to me." We are the same. This is the body of Christ.' [1]

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] galwaydiocese.ie [3] Timothy Maness.

A suggestion: Google Timothy Schmalz' "Homeless Jesus," a bronze sculpture depicting Jesus as a homeless person, sleeping on a park bench.

Christ the King (34th of Year) Year A
26th November 2023 Missal: p811

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 25th November 2023

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| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | Kathleen Machin, | |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H. Family</i> | Christina Bolger Ian Talbot | Christ the King <i>Youth Sunday</i> |
| Mon 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Marina Oliver | |
| Tue 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Robert Swan | |
| Wed 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | <i>Eucharistic Service</i> | |
| Thur 9.15am | <i>H. Family</i> | For our parish | <i>Feast: St. Andrew</i> |
| Fri 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Dec. relatives/friends Russell fam. | |
| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | Kenneth Greig | |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H. Family</i> | Maureen Gilligan For our parish | First Sunday of Advent <i>Poor Parishes Collection</i> |

Last Weekend: Attendance: 197 (94 + 104). Offertory: £568.55
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Joe Traynor, Marina Oliver, Maureen Gilligan, Kenneth Greig, deceased relatives & friends Whelan family, deceased relatives & friends Russell family.

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

CAFOD World Gifts catalogues now available at back of church.

TheKidsBulletin - this is a free resource produced by a mother in Canada. You can download your own copy of a weekly Mass leaflet for children. <https://thekidsbulletin.com>

Fair Trade

The Fair Trade stall with Christmas cards will be open next weekend.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

We pray for those who have died recently: Marina Oliver, Leonardo Iozzi, Deacon Graham Lavery, Fr. Bill Bootle;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Francis Hartley, Mary Cottam, Paul Drake, Rosaleen Holmes, Catherine Bond, Bryan Healey, Margaret Keane, Cyril Higginson, Leo Flannigan, Lilian Butler, Andrew Roe. Joseph Holmes, Michael Bell. May they rest in peace.

World Youth Sunday —Our Youth Service

This weekend, we celebrate the young people in our communities and we pray for them. In this diocese, our Youth Service which is based at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick, is working for our young people all year round. We welcome thousands of young people to Castlerigg each year and when time allows we get out to visit them in their parishes and schools around our diocese and beyond. If you want to know more about our work, you can follow us on social media (usually @castleriggmanor) or check out our website castleriggmanor.com. Please keep us in your prayers; please tell the teens in your life about our open retreats and, if you can, consider making a donation.

Castlerigg Manor—Youth Ministry Intern

Interns wanted to join the ministry team to start at the beginning of each term and undertake a one /two year programme.

Castlerigg Manor -Advent Retreat: Open to anyone in Year 7 upwards, December 8th-10th. Reflections, social times, trips out, and more. £65.

Castlerigg Manor -Altar Servers Retreat: £35, January 12th-13th. Open to anyone in Year 6+. Contact jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk or visit www.castleriggmanor.com

Advent Activities in the Padua Room

a) **The Nativity** - Wednesdays during Advent from 29th November to 20th December. 7.00 - 8.00pm - reflect on the familiar story as told in this 2010 BBC drama series.

b) **Stop and Breathe** - Saturday 16th December 11.30 - 3.30pm. An opportunity for reflection in the run up to Christmas. Booking essential for this mini retreat - please contact Jackie on 07934 667292 or Theresa on 07788 402606.

Christmas Carols Service

Sunday 10th December, 2pm. Followed by free refreshments, Raffle & Sing-a-long. Choir rehearsals are at 10.45 on Sunday mornings. New singers are welcome.
- choir practice restarts this Sunday (26th) after Mass.

Messy church

In St Clare's church hall on the 16th December, from 1-30-3.00pm pm. An afternoon of activities, games and bible stories.

Closing soon: - donations to the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal.

- suggestions for the 2024 Parish Charities
Both close at the end of November.

St Anthony's Primary School - Headteacher

Mrs Ballard will be stepping down as headteacher of our school at Christmas. She has been a great leader of our school for the last 10 years and we are grateful for her work in educating the children of our parish. This week we shall be interviewing applicants to be the new head. Please pray for all those involved in this important process.

St Anthony's Primary School – Foundation Governor Vacancy

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop to serve as his representatives on the governing bodies of Diocesan schools to ensure the Church's mission is upheld and. along with other governors, work with the headteacher and staff to support them in providing the best for our children. No specific experience is necessary. just a commitment to help improve the life of the school and training can be provided as appropriate. If you are interested and want to know more, please speak with Father Peter or contact Paul Thompson, Chair of Governors, on 01772 865153.