

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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A Wider Vision

'We all live with certain categories that make sense to us. We use them to try to make sense of people, circumstances, life, relationships and our understanding of God. Categories by their nature involve definitions, limitations and expectations. There's nothing wrong with that until those categories begin to close us off, narrow our vision and impoverish our life. At some point they always do. We've probably all experienced times when we've thought or said something like "I'm just not sure what to make of this," "I can't figure him/her out." In those times our categories aren't working. The person or situation doesn't fit within our boxes and definitions.

John is one of those people. The wilderness is one of those situations. They are outside the usual categories of the religious authorities of Jesus' day. The priests and Levites are sent to get some answers. When they come to the wilderness and to John with their categories, expectations, definitions and limits, they expect John to fit. He doesn't. He won't allow that. With each negation John refuses to let himself be boxed in or categorised. The priests and the Levites just don't get it. Their categories have kept them from seeing and knowing the one who already stands among them.

Sometimes our categories do that to us. They keep us from recognising the one who stands among us. What if we let the failure of our categories expand our vision? When people, situations, or even God no longer fit the definitions and expectations of our categories maybe it's time to look again, to open ourselves and to consider that there might be something more in the person in front of us and in the situation we are experiencing.' [1] Then we will experience the joy which St Paul speaks of: "Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God." 'This joy proceeds from our surrendering to the Love inside us, a Love that is bigger than we are and by choosing to stay in Love we will pray always.' [2] Love knows no categories; love expands our vision and 'when we recognise the love of God in everything, we will be truly grateful.' [3]

Adapted: [1] Michael Marsh [2] Richard Rohr [3] Thomas Merton

Third Sunday of Advent Year B
17th December 2023 Missal: p52

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 16th December 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	John McDonagh	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Marina Oliver For our parish	Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete
Mon 12noon	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass:</i> Mary Victoria Holland	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	George Dunnaghan	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Mrs Rachel Ballard	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Deacon Graham Lavery	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie & Tom Roberts	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kathleen Jones	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Dec. relatives/friends Whelan families Reed family	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Pray for expectant mothers</i>
6.00pm 8.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Francis O'Gara For our parish	Christmas Vigil Mass

Last Weekend: Attendance: 233 (91 + 143). Offertory: £606.82.
Poor Missions: £31.50 Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Joy Warwick, Frank Machin, Kathleen Jones, dec. relatives, brothers & families of Catenian Province 10, Margaret Burns, Reed family, Kevin O'Neill & O'Neill family.

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

Catholic Voice: New issue is available from the back of church.

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, Irene Atherton, Fr. Jim Allen, Canon Dunstan Cooper;

We pray for those who have died recently: Fr. Bill Bootle, Joy Warwick, Mary Holland, Joan Flintoff;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Richard Jackson, Mary Parker, Monica Crombleholme, Bernard Dewhurst, James Joseph Smith, Hilda Martin, Eileen Bartle, Harry Wane, Melvin Brown, Anne Mulqueaney, Florence Woodruff, Eileen Dwyer, Jack Shaw, William Hartley, Arthur Lovatt, Laura Englishby, Francis Dewhurst, Frank Baron.

May they rest in peace.

Advent and Christmas

St. Anthony's Christmas Carols Service

A staggering £433.70 was raised for this year's charity by the Christmas raffle. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with the raffle. £70 was raised by the auction of the Harrods Teddy bear. It was donated to the Foxtan centre at the request of the lady who generously donated the famous bear. Thanks to all who contributed to a great Advent celebration last Sunday, beginning with the Carols in church and then afterwards in the Parish Centre.

There is a list of Raffle prize winners at the back of church.

Activities in the Padua Room

The Nativity - Wednesdays during Advent until 20th December. 7.00 - 8.00pm - reflect on the familiar story as told in this 2010 BBC drama series.

St. Anthony's School Key Stage 1 Advent Service in church

On Tuesday 19th December at 10am and 2pm. Parishioners are especially welcome to the 10am service.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sun: Vigil Mass at St. Anthony's 6.00pm

Sun: Vigil Mass at Holy Family 8.00pm

Christmas Day at St. Anthony's 9.30am

Christmas Day at Holy Family 11.00am

Christmas Crib Thanks once again to Harry and his elves for erecting and installing the two wonderful cribs inside church and outside the Presbytery. And to Ian for adding the figures and decoration.

And thanks to the Rodrigues family for decorating the church again with such style! A Christmas favourite!

Crib Offerings

- are again for 'Friends of the Holy Land' - a non-political Christian Charity, who work to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan - the part of the world that Christians call the Holy Land. Information can be found at www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Diocesan Directories

New Directories are at the back of church. Ringbound are £7 and ordinary bound are £6. Please put money in the Directories slot in the green safe.

Parish Charities 2024

69 ballot papers were received, and the Mary O'Gara Foundation will be our Domestic charity in 2024, and our Overseas charity will be Sightsavers. Full details are on the board at the back of church. Thank you to everyone who took part in this parish vote.