

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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Endings and New Beginnings

Today the cycle of liturgical feasts, fasts, and gospel readings begins anew. In Mark 13:31 Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. And today, in verse 33 we are told that we do not know when that time will come. It sounds like the end of the world, the grand finale. What if that's not what this gospel is about? Maybe today's gospel is about an ending and not the end. Maybe there's more to our lives and our world than a single static beginning point and a single static ending point separated and defined by time. Maybe beginnings and endings are two sides or two perspectives of the same event, recognisable moments of growth and transformation in Christ, deepening of our interior life. It's not time that separates and defines our beginnings and endings. It is, rather, that Christ joins and unites them. So every beginning finds its fullness in an ending and every ending is the context for a new beginning. And all that happens in Christ, the one who called himself the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.

Sometimes we need to wake up and face the necessary endings in our lives. Each of us comes to this day with all sorts of stories and experiences which have defined us, shaped who we are, given meaning and direction to our lives, and have been the motives and drivers for what we do, how we think and the ways we relate. They are powerful stories that give structure to our lives. They are central to our lives and identity. They are the stories that shape our view of the world, ourselves, others and God. Some stories have been foundational for us but no longer give us a safe or life-giving place to stand. Today we are asked to be alert, to be aware of those stories which have defined and determined our life in such a way that they have denied us the life we really want, have narrowed our view of God, the world, others and ourselves. All the readings today offer us an assurance that it is safe to name these stories and let them go and when we do so we will experience that this is not the end but the context for a new beginning.

Michael Marsh

First Sunday of Advent Year B
3rd December 2023

Missal: p44

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 2nd December 2023

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kenneth Greig	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Maureen Gilligan Geoff Plumb	First Sunday of Advent <i>Poor Parishes Collection</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	In thanks - Special Intention BL	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Helen Piece	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joy Warwick	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention	<i>Feast: St. Ambrose</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Michael Keane	<i>Feast: The Immaculate Conception</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Dec. memb Osbaldeston & Golder For our parish	Second Sunday of Advent

Last Weekend: Attendance: 213 (85 + 128). Offertory: £585.20. Youth: £68.70
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Michael Keane, Mary & Bob Scott, Helen Piece, In thanks—Sp. Intention, Joy Warwick, Ursula Cooper.

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

Fair Trade

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

Welcome into the family of faith:

Olivia Grace Bentley who was baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

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, Fr. Jim Allen;

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

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Vincent Crook, Helen May, Bernard Swarbrick, Michael Keane, Francis Myerscough, Winnie Rawcliffe, Brenda Gray, Edmund Machholz, Edward Giddens, Mary Kay, Agnes McMillan, Francis Bilsborough, Ava Loughlin, Margaret Mary McFetridge, Mary Dunn, Michael Gildea, Paula Carroll-Montague, Leo Brown, Beryl Gee. May they rest in peace.

The Rwanda Table Top/Car Boot sale

- next one is on Saturday, 9th December, 10am till 1pm in the Annexe. All welcome.

St. Anthony's St Vincent De Paul Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Padua Room, 11am Wednesday, 6th December. All parishioners are most welcome to come along.

Parish Charities

Thank you to everyone who submitted their suggestions for the parish charities, 2024. Voting will take place after weekend Masses next weekend only, with the results announced before Christmas.

Children's Toy Appeal

Many thanks for the very generous response to the children's toy appeal. A large box of gifts and presents has already been taken to the Salvation Army.

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 until 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.

St. Anthony's Christmas Carols Service

Next 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 this Sunday (26th) after Mass.

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.

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.

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.