

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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Time in the wilderness

Time in the wilderness, it seems, is the norm for God's people. After the Israelites left Egypt they went to the wilderness. It was their preparation for the promised land. After Jesus was baptised he went to the wilderness. It was his preparation for his public ministry. And it was in the wilderness that "the word of God came to John son of Zechariah." (Luke 3:2) It was his task to prepare "the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem" to become aware of the one who "stands among you whom you do not know." (John 1:26) The word of God and the wilderness always go together. That was true for John the Baptist and it is true for us. We could name any wilderness in our lives and find a corresponding word of God.

- In the wilderness of exile the word of God speaks of coming home.
- In the wilderness of broken relationships the word of God speaks of reconciliation.
- In the wilderness of self-doubt the word of God speaks of your being beloved.
- In the wilderness of scarcity the word of God speaks of generosity and abundance.
- In the wilderness of sin and guilt the word of God speaks of mercy and forgiveness.
- In the wilderness of loss and sorrow the word of God speaks of healing and joy.
- In the wilderness of emptiness and barrenness the word of God speaks of fullness and fruitfulness.
- In the wilderness of death the word of God speaks of resurrection.

The word of God is the divine presence that sustains us in and carries us through our wilderness. It is a creative word, a word that calls us to examine our lives, to turn around, to change our way of being; to see the world, one another and ourselves in a new way. This is the repentance to which John the Baptist calls us. Ultimately, it is the call to love and be loved.

Adapted: Michael Marsh

Second Sunday of Advent Year B
10th December 2023 Missal: p48

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 9th December 2023

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
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ann Bolton	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Francis Dewhurst	<i>Feast: St. Lucy</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention	<i>Feast: St. John of the Cross</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Philip Brady	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dec. relatives/friends Whelan fam	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Marina Oliver For our parish	Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete

Last Weekend: Attendance: 213 (85 + 128). Offertory: £582.02.
Poor Missions: £78.05 Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Francis Dewhurst, Marie & Tom Roberts, Marina Oliver, Gerry Allen, Marion Hughes, Joyce Warwick.

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.

CAFOD World Gifts catalogues now available at 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: Marina Oliver, Leonardo Iozzi, Deacon Graham Lavery, Fr. Bill Bootle, Joy Warwick, Mary Holland, Joan Flintoff;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Canon Michael Geoghegan, Deacon John Kilshaw, Edward Giddins, Stella Parkinson, Margaret Burscough, Bridget Margaret Curwen, Barbara May, Edward Rawcliffe, Winifred Shaw, Francis Harris, Audrey Morgan, Frank Wastell, Jack Shorrocks, Christine Eaves, Norman Spicer, Ernest Lovatt, Malcolm Mullins, Howard Marshall, Leonard Stevens, Mary Frances Thompson. May they rest in peace.

Advent and Christmas

St. Anthony's Christmas Carols Service—TODAY

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.

Christmas Concert Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after each Mass this weekend and in the Parish Centre before the afternoon festivities. The raffle will be drawn during the afternoon. £1.00 a ticket. Lots of prizes.

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 School Key Stage 1 Advent Service in church

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

Fair Trade

Last week Fair Trade stall sales were £125, Donations to CAFOD £1.50, Rwanda sales £21. CAFOD donations throughout this year amounted to £45 which have paid for a World Gift: 'Help a Refugee Child'.

Diocesan Directories

New Directories have arrived and 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

Vote this weekend for our Parish Charities 2024. The candidates are: Domestic charities: Mary O'Gara Foundation (suicide awareness); St Catherine's Hospice (end of life care); The Foxton Centre (homelessness). Overseas charities: Sightsavers (eyecare); CAFOD (international development aid). Please vote at the back of church today!

Messy church

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

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

St Anthony's Primary School – Foundation Governor Vacancy

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor of St. Anthony's school and want to know more, please speak with Father Peter or contact Paul Thompson, Chair of Governors, on 01772 865153.