

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

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331

Coming Home

In St John's gospel, Jesus used the words "I AM" in seven declarations about Himself. Seven is the symbolic number of wholeness and perfection. 'Whenever we reflect on the 'I AM' statements of Jesus we are being invited to rest in His presence, to experience true wholeness. Mutual presence or intimacy is the ultimate goal of the spiritual journey. "Make your home in me as I make mine in you." It is about abiding, not performing. It is about holding on to your core identity more than striving for perfect behaviour — which would only make us proud and self-sufficient, even if it were possible.' [1] 'Homecoming is a coming home to the divinity in ourselves. Our homeland is not in a faraway heaven: it is to be found at our own postcode.' [2]

'St Augustine reminds us that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. That restlessness comes from a sense of being incomplete which arises when we have looked in the wrong places for nourishment, enlightenment, direction, leadership, life, community and truth. At these times we experience homesickness, a desperation to find a sense of sacredness within us, not outside us. Our restlessness will ease whenever we visit our true home. As our 'visits' become more frequent and longer, we will begin to experience the death of only visiting God and the birth of living with and through God.' [3]

'When we come home to the divinity in ourselves, the more open we will be to the divinity within the people God sends into our lives. We will be rooted in the True Vine.' [1] RR 'In Scripture, the word *true* is often used to describe what is eternal and divine.' [4]

'When we are rooted in the True Vine our lives will produce His fruits of love, intimacy, mercy, forgiveness, justice, truth, generosity, compassion, presence, wisdom, healing, reconciliation, self-surrender, joy, thanksgiving, peace, obedience and humility.' [1]

'Home is not always a place.' [5]

Adapted: [1] R.Rohr [2] Daniel O'Leary [3] Brene Brown [4] John MacArthur [5] Charlie Mackesy

FIFTH SUNDAY of ***EASTER*** Year B

28 April 2024

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 27th April 2024

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | For our parish | |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> | Neuza Maria Seles Paulino Stella Reid | <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> |
| Mon 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Chris Thomas | |
| Tue 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Darren Towey | |
| Wed 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | Sarah O'Donnell | |
| Thur 9.15am | <i>H.Family</i> | <i>Eucharistic Service</i> | |
| Fri 9.15am | <i>St. Ant</i> | <i>Eucharistic Service</i> | <i>Feast: Ss Philip & James</i> |
| Sat 6.00pm | <i>St. Ant</i> | Gerard Machin | <i>Feast: The English Martyrs</i> |
| Sun 9.30am 11.00am | <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> | Juliette Banks For our parish | <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> |

Last Weekend: Offertory. £ 5 Attendance: 210 (84+126).
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Gerard Machin, Vincent Machin, Juliette Banks, Chris Thomas, Patrick Oppedisano, James Masheter.

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

No Mass on Thursday or Friday.

On Thursday the funeral of Fr. Tom Forster is in Carlisle and on Friday the funeral of Fr. John Heaney is in Barrow so there will be no Mass at Holy Family or St. Anthony's on those days.

Welcome into the family of faith:

Noah Paul Petrila who was baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Les Farrer, Marie Morris, Angela Russell, Maureen Cafferkey, Deacon Tom Butler, baby Mairead, Michael Connors, Karen Gunter, Fr Ossie Aisbitt, Fr. Harry Holden, Fr. Michael Murphy, Mgr. Patrick Mulvaney, Fr. Gerard Dakin, John Mulholland;

We pray for those who have died recently: Fr. John Heaney, Fr. Tom Forster, Brenda Loughran, Darren Towey, Helena Galvin;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Eileen Jackson, Trish Cooper, Dudley O'Gara, baby Molly Walmsley, Marjorie Flynn, Gertrude & Frances Dewhurst, Alicia Evans, Ann Osbaldeston, Theresa Crook, Adrienne Hurley. May they rest in peace.

Vocations Sunday

Following last week's figures about the number of priests world-wide here are other statistics:

Deacons

The permanent diaconate continues to increase in popularity, growing from 49,176 to 50,150 (2%) worldwide, in 2022. Every continent exhibited growth in the number of permanent deacons, with the Americas and Europe in the lead at 2.1% and 1.7%, respectively.

Bishops and religious

From 2021-2022 the number of bishops worldwide rose from 5,340 to 5,353. The lion's share of bishops were named to Africa and Asia, growing the number of bishops on those continents by 2.1% and 1.4%, respectively.

Religious

The number of non-priest professed religious men was also shown to be on the decline. The year 2022 saw their ranks drop from 49,774 to 49,414. This was, however, not a universal drop, with Europe, Africa, and Oceania citing decreases in numbers, while Asia and to a lesser extent the Americas experience growth.

While it was found that female religious outnumber Catholic priests by 47%, their numbers are also in sharp decline, falling from 608,958 to 599,228, or 1.6%. Africa saw the largest increase of professed women (1.7%), but the only other continent to show a positive figure was Southeast Asia at .1%. South and Central America, which were taken together, saw a decrease of 2.5%, but the largest declines in professed women were seen in Oceania (-3.6%), Europe (-3.5%), and North America (-3.0%).

Extracted from articles in Vatican news & in Aleteia

Music at 9.30am Mass

For the next few weeks Angie will be unable to lead the singing at Sunday Mass. Have we any other musicians who can stand in—at least for one week? We thank Angie for playing every Sunday and Patrick for playing on Saturday evening Mass. It is a great contribution to our parish worship.

Fairtrade stall is operating next weekend.

S.V.P. Lunch

Saturday 4th May at Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Centre there will be lunch commencing at 12 noon at a cost of £6 in aid of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Tickets and details from Frank on 07779436279.

Wednesday Evening Group

Over the next few weeks, we will be watching The Chosen - series 3. Padua Room, Wednesdays at 7.00pm. Each session lasts around one hour. This drama tells the story of Jesus and his followers. It explores the background of 1st century Judea and the life stories of the disciples. You do not need to have seen the first two series. Come and try! All are welcome.

A Year of Encounter

A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on 25 April and 4 May to learn more.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We're hoping to start preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation next week. If you have registered watch out for an e-mail. If you haven't, have a word with Fr. Peter.