

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 Covenant Books: 07396 796969

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Discovering the Image in the Stone

'Using the image of a block of stone, we are invited to consider how we see each person we meet. Our response may be: "He does not speak, think look or act like the members of my group. That is not the way we do things. We can't allow that. She does not have the authority to speak and act that way. She will get in the way of our agenda." We exclude others, creating a stumbling block which prevents them, and us, from becoming who we truly are. 'Stumbling blocks are the patterns of life we have created for ourselves or to which we have been subjected by others but which we perpetuate. They are the habits of seeing, thinking, and acting that blind us to who we, our neighbours and God really are. They distort reality so that we cannot respond appropriately.' [1]

We may choose to respond in a different way to each person we meet. Our response is a reflection of how we see ourselves. Again, using the image of the stone, we can find inspiration in Michelangelo's words: "Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it." Michelangelo believed the sculptor was a tool of God, not creating but simply revealing the powerful figures already contained in the marble. There is a story of a young boy who would daily visit a sculptor's workshop and silently watch the sculptor chisel away at a block of marble. One day the boy arrived at the shop to find that the sculptor had finished his work. The block of marble had been transformed into a magnificent lion, poised and powerful and larger than life. For a long time the boy stood in amazement, just looking at the lion. Finally, he turned to the sculptor, his face full of wonder, and asked: "How did you know there was a lion inside that marble?" "The lion in my heart recognised the lion in the marble." [2]

It may take many years of chiselling for us to experience God's hidden Life within us but when we do, we will then find Him within everyone we meet and we will respect how God works through everyone. We will recognise and support the working of the Spirit in each other, knowing that wherever there is love there is God.

"The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material." [3]

Adapted: [1] M. Marsh [2] from Henri Nouwen: *Clowning in Rome* [3] Michelangelo

26th Week in Ordinary Time
29th September 2024

Year B
Missal 924

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 28th September 2024

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Julie McLaughlin	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Saeed Patel & family For our parish	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Collect Cafod Fast Day envelopes</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Walsh	<i>Feast: St. Jerome</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Adam Goldhawk	<i>Feast: St. Therese of the Child Jesus</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Leonard Airey	<i>Feast: Guardian Angels</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Canon McConnell	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe & Mary Traynor	<i>Feast: St. Francis of Assisi</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Marjorie Garside Special Intention	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Cafod Fast Day envelopes</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory: £571.72.00. Bishop's Administration Fund £97.40
Attendance: 281 (109 + 172). Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Joe & Mary Traynor, Frank Walsh, Leonard Airey, Adam Goldhawk;

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

Welcome into the family of faith:

Jason Vila who was baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

Catholic Voice Newspaper

Copies of the October issue are at the back of church – please take one.

Fairtrade Stall: Please support our Fairtrade stall this weekend.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, Angela Russell, Michael Connors, John Mulholland, Deacon Tom Butler, Karen Gunter;

We pray for those who have died recently: Margaret Muriel Newton;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Michael Crompton, Jack Kilshaw, Thomas Gielty, Agnes & Joseph Billington, James Nickson, Kathleen Morton, Raymond Whittle, George Fegan, Aaron Junior Worgan. May they rest in peace.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal – Harvest (Friday 4 October)

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Planning our Annual Carol Concert

If you enjoy singing carols, please join us as we practice for our Annual Carol Concert. We will start rehearsing at 10.45 on Sunday after Mass from 29th September.

Wednesday Evening Group.

Wednesday Film Night this week is 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat'. In the Padua Room at 7pm. All are welcome.

Choirs in Harmony

- will be performing next Sunday 6th October at 2pm in St Anthony's church and afterwards for refreshments and a raffle in the Social Centre. The tickets are £5.00 and can be purchased after the evening or morning Mass, or direct from Karen Hardman 07954575548. All proceeds are for the Parish Charities.

St. Anthony's Social Events

Social events coming up are ...'Choirs in Harmony', Christmas Carols Social and several more. There is a good group of people involved. If any parishioner would like to help with any of these social events on a rota basis, either by baking/buying cakes or by light kitchen duties please contact Karen Hardman 07954575548

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

Wherever Mary appeared she always told us to pray the rosary for Peace on Earth. We will do this after morning Mass on Mondays and Fridays throughout October.

Season of Creation ends on 4th October 2024.

Following on from Bishop Paul's letter last week you might find the Faith and Justice Commission's new website interesting. See in particular the Joyful Mysteries for the Care of Creation. <https://lancasterfaithandjustice.org.uk/>

Day of Renewal

at St. Clare's, Preston, led by Mary Hardiman, on 'Forgiveness – Following the Example of Jesus Christ', Saturday 5th October, 10am – 4pm. Please see poster in church.

Two Courses at The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst

1. St Thomas More and Religious Freedom, 18th October. Join Lord Alton and Dr Marcus Cole for a free evening lecture exploring the legacy of the great saint and martyr of the English Reformation, St Thomas More. Registration required:

<https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/st-thomas-more-and-religious-freedom/>

2. Praying with St Dominic, 1st – 3rd November 2024

This retreat explores the life and faith of St Dominic de Guzman, founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). His Marian devotion and the place of the rosary in Christian prayer will be a special focus of this retreat preached by Fr Lawrence Lew, OP. For information and to register, click here <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/praying-with-saint-dominic/>