

# St Anthony of Padua

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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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## *Kingship*

Each 'Nowadays, democracy, with all its complexities, is the preferred form of regulating society. We may have great respect for royalty but the position of kingship no longer demands the same obedience as it did in past years and from that point of view it is no longer a relatable image for our modern world. What then can we make of today's feast, celebrating Christ as our king?' [1] 'To guide our reflection the Gospel of John offers us a picture of Jesus at his physical and emotional worst: arrested, dishevelled, hungry, harassed, abandoned, sleep-deprived — and standing before Pontius Pilate for questioning. If I were going to write Jesus into a kingly scene, this would not be the one I'd write. This week, our king is an arrested, falsely accused criminal, a dead man walking. His chosen path to glory is humility, surrender, brokenness and loss.' [2]

And yet, standing before Pilate, Jesus says, "Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice." 'This was in response to Pilate's question, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He really wants to know if Jesus is a threat to his identity, his power, his rule. "What have you done," he inquires. Behind that question lay his real concern. "Have you upset the status quo I seek to maintain?" Whether spoken or unspoken, conscious or unconscious, this concern gets triggered every time we encounter another person, a different idea or belief, a new decision or event that might affect us. Like Pilate we want to know what we have to do in order to defend our kingdom, our status quo. We do not want someone to mess with our self-identity, values, beliefs and opinions. And we certainly do not want them taking away our power, privilege, control or comfort.' [2]

Today's reading doesn't include Pilate's response to Jesus' affirmation that he came 'to bear witness to the truth.' Verse 38 continues with Pilate asking, "Truth? What is that?" — but he doesn't wait for an answer. 'He walks away from truth's most complete and complex embodiment: the truth is Jesus, the life of Jesus, the way of Jesus, the love of Jesus. In defending our kingdoms we tend to live as if the truth belongs to us. And in that moment we are no longer listening to the voice of Jesus, we are unable to hear the voice of Jesus in each other. But when we pray, 'Thy kingdom come,' we are choosing to not just live in a new kingdom but to be and become a new Kingdom, following a King whose very identity is truth, and whose best expression of power is surrender. [3] *Adapted: [1] Association of Catholic priests [2] Michael Marsh [3] Debbie Thomas*

***Christ the King*** (34th week)  
24th November 2024

Year B  
Missal 952

# DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 23rd November 2024

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Angela Russell	<b>Christ the King (34th Week)</b> <i>Sp. Collection: Catholic Youth Service</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Kathleen Machin For our parish	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Christina Bolger	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe & Mary Traynor	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joy Warwick	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Edna Widdowson	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Anita Peters	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Rosalinde Forrest	<i>Feast: St. Andrew</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Julie Butler For our parish	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Collection: Diocesan Poor Parishes</i>

**Last Weekend:** Offertory: £559.27. Attendance: 238 (89 + 149). Thank you for your generosity.

**Masses received this week:** Kenneth Greig, Joe & Mary Traynor, Tommy & Marie Roberts.

**Tea, Coffee, cake etc.** is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses. The Sunday morning coffee session hosted by MiniVinnies from school last week

## Remembrance

The British Legion collection raised £83.14 from the sale of the knit and natter poppies. Thank you to all concerned.

## Welcome into the family of faith:

Freya Isabell Herczeg who was baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

## Funeral of Fr. Alf Parker

Vigil Mass 7pm, Thursday 28th November at St Charles, Grange-over-Sands. Requiem 11.30am, Friday 29th November at Boarbank Hall. May he rest in peace.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, Michael Connors, John Mulholland, Deacon Tom Butler, Deacon Michael Dolan, Fr. Robert Horn;

We pray for those who have died recently: Rosalinde Forrest, Jade Park, Fr. Alf Parker, Anita Peters;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Leslie Bashall, Edward Nightingale, Christina Bolger, Victoria Makishti, Jack Fitzgerald, Jim Barnes, Kathleen Machin, Frederick Langdell, Teresa Whelan, Barbara Strettle, Evelyn Eccles, Patricia Pilkington, Barbara Osbaldeston. May they rest in peace.

## The New Lectionary

Covenant Books have sold out of missals but they will be getting more stock in. They cost £19.95. The new Lectionary will be introduced from next Sunday— the first Sunday of Advent. Please let Fr. Peter know if you asked for a new Missal and haven't yet received it.

## 100 Years of the Diocese of Lancaster

On 22nd November 1924 Pope Pius XI created the Diocese of Lancaster to care for Catholics in Cumbria and North Lancashire. St Peter's in Lancaster was made a cathedral. We begin our year of celebrations and thanksgiving to God for our diocese on 24th November, the Feast of Christ the King. The Bishop will open the centenary year at the 10.30am Mass in the Cathedral. In the afternoon he will celebrate Vespers (evening prayer) and Benediction at 4pm. During Benediction we will sing the Church's great hymn to thanksgiving and praise, the 'Te Deum'

## Schools Academies

In line with the Bishop's vision for all Catholic schools within Lancaster Diocese to join a Catholic Multi Academy Trust, we are undertaking a consultation period to explore St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School converting to academy status and joining the Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The consultation will run until 3pm on Friday 29th November. Further information is available on the school website <http://www.st-anthonys.lancs.sch.uk/consultation/>

## Suggestions for parish charities 2025.

Every year we choose one charity at home and one further away. So far this year we have raised over £3700 for Mary O'Gara Foundation and Sightsavers, and are on target to raise well over £4000. Suggestion slips are available at the back of church. Deadline for suggestions is end of November.

## Donating by Card

The card machine is now working properly. Angela and Louise will be on hand again to explain how to use it for anyone who is unsure. Donations can be Gift Aided.

## Rosary

We pray the rosary, as Our Lady requested, for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass and Sundays at 6.30pm in the Padua Room. All welcome.

## The Salvation Army Christmas gift collection.

The Salvation Army are running their Christmas Toy Appeal once again. We have taken part before. Details and a box at back of church. Deadline is the end of November.

## Messy Church

at St Clare's parish hall starting at 1.30pm on 14th December.

## Assisted Dying (Suicide)

There are information cards at the back of church. There's still time to contact our M.P. It has been good to hear the 'Father of the House', Sir Edward Leigh and the 'Mother of the House', Diane Abbott unite in calling for the defeat of the Bill. The charity Right to Life has simple way of doing this. See <https://righttolife.org.uk/ASThreat>. It takes only a few minutes to input your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law.

**St. Walburge's Annual Christmas Fair**—next Sunday 1st December from 12:30-3:30pm at St. Walburge's Hall on Weston Street.