

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
Tel: 01772 725193 E-mail: stanthonyholyfamily@gmail.com
Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

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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Unveiling our Unique Masterpiece

The Gospel reading uses apocalyptic language such as we found in the readings for the 33rd Sunday of the year. We saw that the word Apocalypse is not meant to strike fear in us about the end of the world, but to encourage in us a radical rethinking of the worlds that we have created.' The Greek root of the word 'apocalypse' means 'to uncover or unveil.' [1]

"There is a story about a church in the Netherlands. On entering the building, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a white-washed wall. It was a tradition that nobody questioned. They felt it was the right thing to do. One day the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint off the old walls. While doing this they discovered traces of a painting on the wall towards which everyone bowed, but nobody knew why. Very carefully they peeled off the layers of whitewash. What emerged was an ancient and very beautiful painting of Christ. Nobody was old enough to have had seen it. But now they came to understand why they almost instinctively persisted in honouring the wall that concealed the glorious work of art. [2]

Every Advent we 'bow' to the many traditional ways of preparing for Christmas. We don't question these traditions. We just feel that this is the right way to celebrate. What would happen if we decided to peel off the external layers of these traditions? When, each day, we open a door of the advent calendar and each week, we light a candle on the advent wreath, do we experience a oneness with our ancestors who waited, listening with hope-filled hearts to the many prophecies foretelling the coming of a much longed-for Messiah. 'One reason why Advent carries such a tangible impact on us is that it is about trying to make sense of that intense and disturbing longing for a completeness that always eludes us and never leaves us alone. Advent calls us to get in touch with those places within us wherein lie our deepest longings and dreams.' [2] Christ is the fulfilment of these longings.

Decorating our trees, choosing gifts and writing cards are all part of the way we think is the right way to prepare for Christmas. If we 'uncover the veil' of these customs we see them as moments of being connected with the love we have experienced through the people and events in our lives...and where love is, there is God. 'The holy work of Advent peels away the external veneer of our activities and our anxieties, to reveal and restore the unique masterpiece within ourselves and within others. Is this the destiny for which our hearts are always longing?' [2]

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] Daniel O' Leary

First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

Year C

Missal 63

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 30th November 2024

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Rosalinde Forrest	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Julie Butler For our parish	First Sunday of Advent <i>Collection: Diocesan Poor Parishes</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tommy & Marie Roberts	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joseph Holmes	<i>Feast: St. Francis Xavier</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention (S.A.)	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	John Talbot	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Eileen Draper	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kenneth Greig	<i>Feast: St. Ambrose</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Geoff Plumb	Second Sunday of Advent

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

Masses received this week: Special Intention (S.A.), Maureen Stephenson, Sr. Margaret Delaney (100th).

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

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.

St. Walburge's Annual Christmas Fair—today (Sunday) from 12:30-3:30pm at St. Walburge's Hall on Weston Street. All proceeds to the church restoration fund.

Lancaster Diocesan Directory 2025

Just arrived! Standard copy is £6, ring bound copy is £7. Please put money in the green safe or use the card reader.

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: Canon Bob Horn, Fr. Alf Parker, Anita Peters, Terence Russell;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Joy Warwick, Francis Hartley, Mary Cottam, Joseph Holmes, Lilian Butler, Margaret Keane, Rosaleen Holmes, Catherine Bond, Leo Flannigan, Bryan Healey, Paul Drake, Cyril Higginson, Andrew Roe, Michael Bell. May they rest in peace.

ADVENT

Tues 3th Dec: St Anthony's school Years 3 & 4 Advent Service in church at 6pm.
Wed. 4th Dec: Schools CAFOD Advent Service in St. Anthony's Church at 5pm.
Wed. 11th Dec: St Anthony's school Nativities Years 1 & 2 in church at 10.30 & 5.15.
Sun. 15th Dec: St Anthony's Parish Carol Service in church at 2pm.
Tues. 17th Dec. St Anthony's school Years 5 & 6 Carol Service in church at 6pm
Fri. 20th Dec: St Anthony's Whole School Mass in church at 9.15am

Crib/Nativity sets

Has anyone got a crib/Nativity set that is no longer used? Our school would gratefully receive it. Thank you.

The New Lectionary

We start using the new Lectionary today. If you want your own missal Covenant Books now have more stock. They cost £19.95. Please let Fr. Peter know if you asked him for a new Missal and haven't yet received it.

For children

Christmas themed books are available on table at back of church for children to borrow. Also we will have children's liturgy available on Sunday 29th December and 5th January.

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.

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.

... **DIOCESAN CENTENARY BALL:** Join an evening of dining, dancing, and fellowship as we mark this significant milestone on Friday 3rd January 2025, from 6pm at The Villa, Levens (near Kendal). There is a coach going from Alston Lane so contact Fr. Doyle on 782244 if you want seats. Please visit www.lancastercentenaryball.com or alternatively contact info@lancastercentenaryball.com for further details and ticket reservation.

Suggestions for parish charities 2025 - last call

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.

The Salvation Army Christmas gift collection — last call.

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. 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.