

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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Believing

What if we really believed God is uniquely present and active in the circumstances of each of our lives? What if instead of allowing our circumstances to determine what we believe, we allowed our believing to reinterpret the circumstances? That would be blessed believing, Elizabeth and Mary type of believing, the kind of believing that gives birth to new life. That believing is at the heart of today's gospel reading. Two pregnant women, neither of whom, according to their circumstances, should be or could be pregnant. One is too old. One is too young. One is barren. One is a virgin. Yet, both are pregnant.

Neither Elizabeth nor Mary allowed the circumstances of their lives to define who they were or limit who they might become. Believing for them was not so much about what they see but how they see. Each one believed she was more than the circumstances of her life. Both women saw, hidden within their particular situation, a deeper meaning and a new life. Each one trusted that the God of the impossible was somehow in the circumstances reshaping, transforming, and fulfilling her very existence. God was at work within these two women changing them, not their circumstances. So it is for each one of us.' Michael Marsh

'The story of the visitation is not only about pregnancy and physical birth. For Mary and Elizabeth the massive change within them is linked to a radical transformation beyond them. There is a harmony between what God has stirred within them and what God is stirring in the world.

Regardless of whether we're called to give birth to physical children, God challenges us to cultivate an interior spirit that is intimately linked with the world beyond us. In this Advent season, what's stirring inside me that connects me with the world around me? What is God seeking to bring forth in my life that enables me to participate in the transformation that God is working in all creation?' Jan Richardson

Fourth Sunday of Advent
22nd December 2024

Year C
Missal 75

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 21st December 2024

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Angela Russell	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Enid & Brian Moran Sr. Margaret Delaney	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tony O'Brien	
Tue 9.15am 6.00pm 8.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Fitzgerald & Williams families Francis O'Gara For our parish	
Wed 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Draper & Warwick families Srs. Eileen & Bernadette	CHRISTMAS DAY
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Fr. Bill Bootle	<i>Feast: St. Stephen</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass:</i> Marjorie Hindle	<i>Feast: St. John</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gerry Allen	<i>Feast: The Holy Innocents</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Jack & Mabel Willacy For our parish	The Holy Family

Last Weekend: Offertory: £519.80 + £129.50 (card) = £649.30.
Attendance: 246 (79+167). Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Robert & Bernadette Banks, Banks, Wilson & Driver families, Catenians & families of Province 10, Gerard Allen, for a sick husband, Margaret Smethurst, Helen Nuttall.

Lancaster Diocesan Directory 2025

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

Rosary

We pray the rosary, as Our Lady requested, for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass. All are welcome.

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, Deacon Jim Maguire;

We pray for those who have died recently: Dorothy Smith, Marjorie Hindle, Kenneth Baines;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Richard Jackson, Mary Parker, Monica Crombleholme, Bernard Dewhurst, James Joseph Smith, Hilda Martin, Eileen Bartle, Harry Wane, Melvin Brown, Anne Mulqueeney, Florence Woodruff, William Hartley, Eileen Dwyer, Arthur Lovatt, Laura Englishby, Jack Shaw, Francis Dewhurst, Frank Baron.

May they rest in peace.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Tue: Vigil Mass at St. Anthony's 6.00pm (Carols from 5.30pm)

Tue: Vigil Mass at Holy Family 8.00pm (Carols from 7.30pm)

Wed: Christmas Day at St. Anthony's 9.30am

Wed: Christmas Day at Holy Family 11.00am

Christingles: Don't forget to bring Christingles to the Masses at St. Anthony's

Christmas Crib Thanks once again to Harry and his elves for erecting and installing the two wonderful cribs inside church and outside the Presbytery. And to Ian for adding the figures and decoration.

And thanks to Preston Catholic Association families for the amazing decoration of church again—both inside and outside! Always a Christmas favourite!

Parish charities 2025

The votes are in - and the parish charities for 2025 are (local) Rosemere Cancer Care, and (overseas) Operation Smile (cleft palates). Details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Thank you for taking part.

Donating by Card

The card reader is now in use. Thanks to Angela and Louise who have set it up for us. Donations can be Gift Aided.

Jubilee (Holy) Year 2025

Pope Francis will open a Holy Year for the entire Catholic Church in 2025. These special years of grace take place every 25 years and are an opportunity for spiritual renewal for the entire Catholic people. The theme of this Holy Year will be 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

The focus of a Holy Year is the pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles SS Peter and Paul in Rome. This pilgrimage has special indulgences attached and is a chance to return to the sources of our faith in the early Church. However, the Pope has asked that this Holy Year be opened solemnly in every Catholic cathedral in the world on 29th December this year. Bishop Paul will celebrate the 10.30 Mass that day in our cathedral to inaugurate the Holy Year for our diocese.



*May God pour out his blessings
on you as we celebrate the birth
of Jesus Christ our Saviour*

*Thank you for all your Christmas
cards and for your kindness
throughout the year. Fr. Peter.*