

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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Abundance

'To understand today's story we need to be aware that, like much of John's writing, it is full of symbolic language. We would miss much if we were to see here only a 'miracle' by which Jesus helps a young bridegroom who finds himself in an embarrassing position on his wedding day.' [1] 'The wedding in Cana story is not only a story about scarcity. It is primarily a story about abundance: lavish, excessive, extravagant abundance.' [2]

'John makes a point of letting us know that this is the first of Jesus' miracles - the first of his 'signs.' Jesus' action at the wedding at Cana is not only a wonder in itself; it reveals much about who he is and what he has come to do. Jesus offers here a foretaste of the wonders he will yet perform; an indication of the tendency toward plenitude that will mark his ministry. Again and again, in the chapters to come, we will witness Jesus' persistence in entering places of lack—lack of health, of justice, of wisdom, of wholeness—and offering abundance in its place.' [3]

'As in so many Scripture passages, matrimonial imagery is used in today's Gospel to tell us that what God wants with humanity is a love affair, a marriage. We find it difficult to accept that God would want such an intimate relationship with us, so we keep going back to the six empty jars of purifying water, to fulfilling the law. We thought that religion was about a list of requirements which we have to fulfil so that God will love us. But laws don't teach us how to love. In today's Gospel, Jesus changes the focus of religion from a religion of legalism to a religion of love, filled to the brim with joy and celebration.' [4]

'Today's Gospel could also be symbolic of those times when our lives seem empty and dry, when we 'have no wine.' Each one of us could tell a story about the day the wine gave out: stories of failure, self-doubt, regrets or disappointments; stories of loss – of a loved one or of a familiar way of life. We become increasingly aware that we cannot replenish the wine of our life from our own resources. Regardless of how it feels or what we think about it, the day the wine runs out is the beginning of a miracle. That day confronts us with a truth as old as creation itself: we are the recipients and not the creators of our life. We were never intended to, nor expected to live by the sufficiency of our own resources.' [5] 'When we freely surrender to God's loving, sustaining presence in our lives, our hearts are filled to the brim with 'a peace that passes all understanding' (Phil 4:7), a peace that enables us to rejoice once more in God's outpouring of so many gifts; a peace that reassures us that 'there is no such thing, either in the world or in the heart as a vacuum. And whatever space is really left by apparent emptiness, there is God.' [6]

Adapted: [1] Living Space [2] Debi Thomas [3] Jan Richardson [4] Richard Rohr [5] Michael Marsh [6] Karl Rahner

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th January 2025

Year C

Missal 971

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 18th January 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Harry Jones	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	John O'Donnell For our parish	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day of Prayer for Peace</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Barbara Todd	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>	<i>Feast: St. Agnes</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Lancs Infirm Secular Clergy	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Banks, Wilson & Driver families	<i>Feast: St. Francis de Sales</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Fri: Conversion of St. Paul</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Catenians Province 10 Seamus Murphy	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory: £521.60 + £136.00 card. Attendance: 245 (71+174).
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Seamus Murphy, Mary Margaret (Peggie) Flowers, John O'Donnell, Kathleen Monk, Maureen Havard, Nick Bryson.

Rosary

We pray the rosary, as Our Lady requested, for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass. All are welcome. The Rosary is said once a month at various churches. Please see dates on the board and take a card from the back of church.

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

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.

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, Karen Hardman;

We pray for those who have died recently: Kathleen Monk, Marjorie Hindle, Nick Bryson, Kevin Embery;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Edith Higginson, John Howarth, Francis Cross, Eileen Bashall, Mary Hardy, Matt Moran, Alice Partington, Roderick Taylor, Bob Taylor, Jean Mangan, Stuart Cave, John Magee, Geoffrey Moss, Johanna McDonnell, Joseph Holden, Stephen Gardner, Marion Barton, Ilena Taylor, Alexander Latham.

May they rest in peace.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th - 25th January

As in recent years there is just one Service in our area. This year it is at Our Lady & St. Edward's church TODAY (Sunday) at 3.00pm. The theme is 'Peace I Leave you: my peace I give to you' (John 14:27) We are encouraged to pray together for the unity of Christ's church.

SPUC White Flower Appeal

A White Flower Appeal for SPUC will take place THIS weekend. The theme this year is: "Every Life Matters". SPUC will be asking the UK Government to support all life, however small, vulnerable or marginalised, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child which states: "The child by reason of their physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth".

Donating by Card

The contactless card reader is now in use. Donations can be Gift Aided. Thank you again for your generosity in the on-going support of our parish.

Offertory / donations giving

Thank you for the many ways you support our parish. At the start of the year we listed some of the many ways parishioners give their time, energy and love to our community. In terms of financial support the situation has changed recently and it is important we make the most of your donations.

We now have to pay bank charges for all transactions: this means that your offertory donations cost varying amounts for us to bank, depending how you make your donations. We are currently paying about £50 a month to receive donations.

Standing orders cost the parish 15p each to receive, regardless of the amount donated, this is the cheapest method. We would encourage as many people as possible to donate this way. However, four weekly donations costs 60p per month whereas a single monthly donation costs 15p per month so monthly donations are preferred. If those who already donate by weekly standing order can change to monthly, it will save us 45p per month, per person. *There are standing order forms at the back of church.

Donating by card costs us 16p per £10 donated.

Donating cash costs 15p per £10 to pay into the bank and if you use pre-printed envelopes, each box of envelopes costs just over £2.

Cheques are the most expensive, costing us 50p per cheque to clear plus £1.50 per month to pay our cheques into the bank. We don't get many cheques so if we only get one cheque in a month the value of that donation is reduced by £2.

Special Collections – those using envelopes who regularly contribute to special collections. It is possible to donate to these by card, less so by standing order.

In the next two weeks we have to order new boxes of offertory envelopes, If you make donations by the card machine you probably don't need offertory envelopes in future. If you make monthly donations by standing order you may want to have Special Collection envelopes only. Please let us know.

Please note, this is not an appeal for you to give more money - we are trying to make most use of the money you do give. Whichever way you choose always remember that donations that are Gift Aided add a further 25p for every £1 given if you are a tax payer. We need to update our Gift Aid lists so more about that soon. But if you do not currently Gift Aid your donations please take a Gift Aid declaration from the back of church.

As always, thank you for your great generosity in so many things.