

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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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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Meeting and Presenting

'The Feast of the Presentation is sometimes called the Feast of Meeting. Mary, called Theotokos in Greek, which means God-bearer or God-birther, would place her son in the hands of the old man Simeon. In that presentation and in that holding, Simeon would be Theodochos, the God receiver. He had been promised that he would see the Messiah, the Christ, the one whose name means salvation, and that promise was made many years before it was fulfilled. Simeon must have lived those days, years and decades with hope, trust and a deep longing.

Who among us has not had his or her life characterised by waiting, longing and anticipation? We all know what it's like to wait – waiting for life to change, for the grief to go away, for a prayer to be answered, for joy to return, for forgiveness and reconciliation, for clarity about a decision, for meaning and purpose, for healing and new life. We wait and hope for all sorts of things.' [1] 'Waiting is the passionate and contemplative crucible in which new life and spiritual wholeness can be birthed.' [2]

'During his many years of waiting, Simeon continued to show up. He continued to be vigilant and attentive. He continued to trust the promise. He continued to wait with hope and expectation. Sometimes showing up is the most difficult work we do and it takes all we have to just show up.' [1] That 'showing up' is our daily meeting with God in whatever way brings us to 'the temple', when we may be presented with experiences of meeting with a presence greater than ourselves, experiences of Christ's presence in ourselves, in others and in creation. Like Simeon, each one of us is a 'God receiver.'

'Holding the child Jesus in his arms, Simeon offers praise for the 'light for revelation to the Gentiles. Taking a cue from Simeon, some churches began to mark this day with a celebration of light: the Candle Mass, during which priests would bless the candles to be used in the year to come. Coinciding with the turn toward spring and lengthening of light in the Northern Hemisphere, Candlemas offers a liturgical celebration of the renewing of light and life that comes to us in the natural world at this time of year. As we emerge from the deep of winter, the feast reminds us of the perpetual presence of Christ our Light in every season.[4]

Adapted: [1]Michael Marsh [2]Sue Monk Kidd [3]John Piper [4] Jan Richardson

The Presentation of the Lord
2nd February 2025

Year C
Missal 1119

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 1st February 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe Morrison	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Ann Elizabeth Lister Nick Bryson	<i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom Hooper	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>John O'Donnell</i>	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For successful operation & recovery	<i>Feast: St. Agatha</i>
Thur 12.45pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass: Kevin Murphy</i>	<i>Feast: Ss Paul Miki & Companions</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Leonard Airey	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ray & Doris Wilson	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Margaret Baldwin Kathleen Connolly	<i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory: £445.87 + £164.50 card. Attendance: 234 (92+142).
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Leonard Airey, Margaret Baldwin, Francis O'Gara, Robert Devlin, Claire Boyce, Kim Platt.

FAIRTRADE goods are available at the back of church this weekend.

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, Nick Bryson, Kevin Murphy, Maureen Havard;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Minnie Jackson, Martha Taylor, Gerard Mason, Maureen Thomas, Maria Mackenzie, Marie Starr, Frances Copp, Kate Devine, Maria Ball. May they rest in peace.

Lancaster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 23rd – 30th July.

Please see the posters in church for both the main pilgrimage (from £949) and the youth section (from £795). Youth bookings prior to 11th February will receive a grant of £100. Includes flights from Liverpool, transfers, full board hotel accommodation, religious programme, levies and taxes. We have a few booking forms for both groups and you may also be able to check on: www.joewalshstours.co.uk For more details contact the Director of Youth by email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

11th February marks the patronal feast of our diocese. The Bishop will celebrate Mass at 12.15 in the Cathedral (at which the choir from the Cathedral primary school will sing). He will also celebrate vespers at 6pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

Wednesday Film Nights - 7.00 to 8.00pm

Join us on February 12th, 19th and 26th in the Padua Room. We will be watching "Peter: Keeper of the Keys", a film that explores the life of St Peter and visits the places associated with him. In the final session, we will take a virtual 3D tour of St Peter's Basilica.

A Year of Hope: Introduction to the Jubilee Year

How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching this inspirational event (find it and other Jubilee resources at cafod.org.uk/jubilee). Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

Church Notice Boards

Thanks to Bernadette the Notice Boards in the porch are updated every week. There's lots of new and current information on them.

Offertory / donations giving

Thanks to everyone who has indicated if they would still like Offertory envelopes or if they prefer to use a standing order or the card machine.

For those who are setting up a standing order on their phone, the parish bank account details are as follows: It's a bit tricky! The name of the account in LRC DTR Parish of St Anthony-Preston. That's probably too long for the space allowed but St. Anthony-Preston should be acceptable along with the account number 81335308 and the sort code 40-27-02. Put your name down as the reference.

Special Collections – It is easy to donate to these by card, less easy by standing order.

This week we will 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.

The biggest benefit comes from donations that are Gift Aided. These 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. Thank you again for your support of our parish.

Retreat at the Christian Heritage Centre Stonyhurst

The Search for Truth: Edith Stein, 14 – 16 March 2025
Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein, or St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and her indomitable search for truth that led her to the Catholic faith. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/>