

FIRST READING

Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 117

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

- 1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
- Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end,'
- Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

- 2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die.

- 3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer, but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Holy Family Church

Whitby Ave, Ingol Preston PR2 3YP

Tel: 01772 725193 **E-mail:** stanthonyholymfamily@gmail.com

Or parish.priest2@btinternet.com

Website: <http://holyfamilyparish.weebly.com/>

Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 **Covenant Books:** 735993



Opening locked doors

"The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews." "We all know about locked doors. The locked doors of our lives are not so much about what is going on around us, but what is happening within us: fear, anger, guilt, hurt, grief, the refusal to change. There are a thousand different locks on the doors of our life and they are always locked from the inside. Some days it seems easier and safer to lock the doors of our house and avoid the circumstances and people in our lives. However, every time we shut the doors of our life, our mind or our heart we imprison ourselves. For every person, event, or idea we lock out, regardless of the reason, we lock ourselves in. Like the disciples in today's gospel, we lock the doors and live in the past." [1]

'Forgiveness is the only way to free ourselves from the entrapment of the past. That is why forgiveness is so central to the Easter mystery. Old hurts linger long in our memories and are hard to let go. When we forgive someone, when we forgive ourselves, we experience a healing within ourselves; we unlock a door. When we refuse to forgive, when we hold onto the 'sin', when we retain that 'sin', we add another bolt to that locked door. Forgiveness reveals three goodnesses simultaneously. When we forgive, we choose the goodness of the other over their faults, we experience God's goodness flowing through ourselves, and we also experience our own capacity for goodness in a way that almost surprises us. We are finally in touch with a much Higher Power, and we slowly learn how to draw upon this Infinite Source. Can we also forgive reality? To receive reality is always to bear with reality for not meeting all of our needs and our conditions. To accept reality is to forgive reality for being what it is, almost day by day and sometimes even hour by hour. Only then will we finally experience Christ's life-giving peace. We will then be free to unlock our doors, step outside and fully live.' [2]

Adapted: [1] Michael Marsh [2] Richard Rohr

Second Sunday of Easter

Year B

11th April 2021

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 11th April 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Anthony Keane	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Fr. John Moriarty Private Intention For our parish	Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Rawcliffe	
Tue 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: James Gormley	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Cairns	<i>Parish Leadership Group mtg</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Marie & Tom Hooper	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joyce Hilton	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Agnes Dunnaghan	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Helen Duffy For our parish Private Intention	Third Sunday of Easter Prayer for Vocations. EEF Collection

Masses received this week: Bernard Ward, Peter Cairns.

Last Weekend: Attendance 48. Offertory £110.00. Thank you for your generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for Pope Francis. May he draw the whole Church closer to the mercy of Jesus who enabled the apostle Thomas to move from his doubt to complete faith in Jesus, crucified and risen Lord.

- For those world leaders facing up to each other. May they never doubt the power of God's truth and love, but rather take refuge in it, as they seek to resolve international problems.

- For those who pass on the story and word of Jesus to others, especially parents, priests, deacons, teachers and catechists, pastoral workers and chaplains. May they do so with the enthusiasm of the first apostles.

We pray for those who are sick: Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Vera, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton;

those who have died recently: HRH Prince Philip, John Myerscough, Joyce Hilton, James Gormley;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Tom Green, Mary Christine Holland, Mary (Ella) Jordan, Dorothy Jamieson, Sheila Grogan, Joan Maud, Joanna Dutton, Hilda Bamber, Thomas Woods, Frederick Nickson, Annie Blacoe, Thomas Couperthwaite, Bob Eccles, Len Clarke, Wilf Hubbersley, Bob Eccles, Agnes Dunnagan, Margery Anderton. May they rest in peace.

Cardinal Nichols prays for the repose of the soul of Prince Philip

"At this moment of sadness and loss I pray for the repose of the soul of Prince Philip, Her Majesty the Queen's faithful and loyal husband. I pray for the Queen and all of the Royal Family.

"How much we will miss Prince Philip's presence and character, so full of life and vigour. He has been an example of steadfast loyalty and duty cheerfully given. May he rest in peace."

+ Vincent Nichols, *Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.*

Easter Blessings.

Fr. Peter & Fr. John are most grateful for all your prayers, Easter greetings, and Easter Offerings in this joyful Easter Season. It was heartening and uplifting to see so many people coming together for our Holy Week liturgies. Special thanks also to all who assisted in the liturgies, the church flowers and decoration and in helping to keep our church buildings safe. A special word of thanks to those who continue in such a dedicated way to Steward our Sunday Masses, many of whom have done so every Sunday since our churches reopened after the first lockdown. We owe them our deepest gratitude for keeping us safe and our church buildings open. May God bless you all. Fr Steve.

Fr. John Moriarty

Fr. John leaves us after Mass today for the Army. We thank him for all he has done over the last eight months and wish him every happiness and success in his new role.

Livestreaming Mass

As well as normal Mass in church we are now able to livestream the 9.30am Mass from St. Anthony's church. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page for the link.

Gift Aid

AA Gift Aid tax reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify me if you are no longer a taxpayer, or you paid insufficient tax during 2020/21 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year. At the present standard rate of tax of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1.00 donated. If you have moved house during the tax year please ensure that you let us know your new address. Thanks once again.

Signing a Gift Aid allows us to claim money back on your regular offering. We are extremely grateful to all parishioners who give weekly and monthly donations to the parish and who Gift Aid their offering. If you are interested in supporting the parish this way, please leave your details with Fr. Peter.

The Presbytery telephone line is now fixed.
Sorry for any inconvenience.