

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek: he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation: the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us: for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

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| 1. The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. | 2. He guides me along the right path:
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff:
with these you give me comfort. |
| 3 You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
my head you have anointed with oil,
my cup is overflowing. | 4. Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me, all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. |

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father for ever and ever. Amen.

**Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants 'Tell those who have been invited,' he said, 'that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.' But they were not interested: one went to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready: but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the cross-roads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.' So these servants went out on the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike: and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, 'How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?' And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Holy Family Church

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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

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We request the honour of your presence

When we read today's gospel it's a great relief to remember that there are different kinds of truth in the bible. In the early centuries of Christianity authoritative teachers such as Augustine and Gregory the Great spoke of seven "senses" of Scripture. (Richard Rohr) Later scholars taught that there are nine kinds of truth found in Scripture: scientific, which was primitive science; geographic; historical; mathematical; human character and relationships; moral; proverbial; symbolic truth which is found in parables, myths and allegories; spiritual truth, a record of the relationship between God and his people. The Bible is primarily spiritual truth. (Kieran Sawyer)

In the first reading Isaiah introduces the theme of universalism, that whatever God is doing, he is doing for everyone. (Richard Rohr). "The Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines." In the gospel we find that the indirect, metaphorical, symbolic language of a story or parable seems to be Jesus' preferred way of teaching spiritual realities. He also makes frequent use of hyperbole, exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally. Jesus invites everyone, 'good and bad' alike, who is willing to come to the banquet which is a symbol of eternal life. 'One thing that distinguishes the first-invited guests from the second-invited guests is Presence. The second-invited guests showed up. The first-invited guests did not. That's the main difference between the two groups.' (Michael Marsh) The key to experiencing the infinite, unconditional, loving generosity of God is to just show up, to be present. We can then pray "Lord, you are always present to us. Help us to be present to you."

Sometimes we just can't accept that God could be so generous – which is the spiritual truth in today's gospel. By accepting God's invitation to be present, 'we are inside a different mind that will enable us to see our life from a worldview of abundance. I recently saw a Hubble telescope picture of the Sombrero Galaxy which lies at the southern edge the Virgo cluster of galaxies. The mass of the Sombrero is equivalent to 800 billion suns. The universe contains many billions of galaxies, and each galaxy contains many billions of stars! Read that again if it did not blow you over! God is clearly into abundance and excess and he invites us to share in that largesse, first in receiving it, resting in it and then allowing it to flow through us towards all people and all creation.' (Richard Rohr)

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

11th October 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 10th October 2020

at 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dec. members Rogers/Duffy fams	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Lena Bradley for our parish Peter & Barbara Sandwell	<i>28th Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day of prayer for prisoners and their dependants.</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	In thanks for safe birth	<i>Feast: St Wilfrid</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Moyra Toner	<i>Feast: St. Edward the Confessor</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ann Kathleen Kellett	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Private Intention	<i>Feast: St. Teresa of Avila</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private Intention	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Routledge	<i>Feast: St Ignatius of Antioch</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish For our parish In thanks (AR & family)	<i>29th Sunday of the Year</i> <i>World Mission Day - APF Collection</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory £60; Attendance 41. Thank you for all your generosity.

Masses received this week: Frank Routledge, deceased members Pinto family, In thanksgiving (AR & family) .

Covenant Books: The book shop at Holy Family is open Thurs & Fri. 10am-4pm; Sat 10.00-12.30pm.

Please remember in your prayers

Mildred and Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Moyra Toner.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers and those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

those who have died recently: baby Gerard John;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: George Roe, Mary Foye, John Croft, Jackie Gallagher, Bert Rogers, Francis Shaw, Ann Robinson, John Rain, Lilly Doyle, Irene Coulthard, Stan Baxendale, Bert Bath, John Barnes, Henry Holden, Alice Green, Eva Cookson, Tom Hodges, Peter Rhodes, Mary Margaret Clarke, Eileen Woo, Sarah Fulter, Clare Ainsworth, Winifred Smith, Colin Sharkey, Jean Carter, Steve Gove, May they rest in peace.

First holy Communion

Earlier in the year the children prepared for, and received, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Although things are still uncertain we're planning to start the first Holy Communion preparation after half-term, aiming to celebrate the first Communion on 13th December. This is subject to change, of course, and numbers will be limited but we'll do our best to make this a joyful celebration. Please pray for the children and their families at this important stage in their journey of faith.

What are we going to do about Mass At Christmas?

People are already asking this question.

We might just be able to accommodate all who come to Holy Family at the usual 11.00am Mass, though we can possibly have an audio link into the Pastoral Centre if there is an overflow.

By far the largest congregation at St. Anthony's is at the 6pm vigil Mass. We don't want to go down the route of reserving seats and booking tickets, and people who do not know the arrangements will still turn up anyway. So we are proposing to add a second Vigil Mass at 8pm. We ask that the 6pm Mass is left for families with children. There will also be the usual 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day at St. Anthony's but we do not think there would be need for an evening Mass on Christmas Day. Any comments or better suggestions are welcome.

Today is a Day of Prayer for prisoners, their families and all victims of crime.

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another.

Teach us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

NEW NHS 'TEST & TRACE' PHONE APP – Many buildings, including our Church and Pastoral Centre now display the QR code which can be read by smart phones (with Bluetooth enabled) to record your attendance. The phone app will notify you if you have spent 15 minutes or more near anyone who has subsequently tested positive. We still take phone numbers manually for anyone not using the technology.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day -Thank you for the donations through the Cafod envelopes.

Traidcraft Morning

Traidcraft food, crafts, Christmas cards and Advent calendars will be on sale in the hall at Fulwood Methodist Church on Saturday 24th October from 9.30am to 1pm. The catalogue will be available to view and orders taken. The 'New to You' stall will also be open. We will operate a one-way system and ask everyone to observe social distancing. If coming by car, there will be parking at the back of the church. From there make your way via Garstang Road to enter at the front of the church. All welcome.

Living 'Laudato Si' Your parish and your planet.

You are warmly invited to join on Zoom on the weekend of October 16 -19th for talks and discussions on living the message of Laudato Si in and through your parish. It is being led from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. Anyone is free to join. For more information please contact Sister Margaret Atkins: margaret@boarbankhall.co.uk.