

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above the earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 144

### **The Lord is close to all who call him.**

1. I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured.
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
Compassionate to all his creatures.
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

## SECOND READING

Philippians 1:20-24.27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

**ALLELUIA. Alleluia! Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a land-owner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, 'You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.' So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'Because no-one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You go into my vineyards too.' In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.' So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the land-owner. 'The men who came last' they said, 'have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat.' He answered one of them and said, 'My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am so generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."

# Holy Family Church

Whitby Ave, Ingol Preston PR2 3YP

**Tel:** 01772 725193 **E-mail:** [parish.priest2@btinternet.com](mailto: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

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## *Infinitely Generous Love*

It's safe to say that the message in today's gospel reading would not be found in the Manifesto of any political party or the Mission Statement of any business enterprise. Nor would it be high on the list of our own tick list of 'Ways to live the Golden Rule'. Too often fairness rather than love, acceptance, mercy, forgiveness, or generosity is the measure by which we act and judge another person or life circumstances. In Jesus' time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations. God's ways are not our ways. His ways look beyond our productivity, our appearance, our dress, our race or ethnicity, our accomplishments, our failures. In today's parable we, too, are invited to enter into a process where our perception of God is continually being transformed. Parables are similar to poetry. A good poem doesn't try to define an experience as much as it tries to give us the experience. A poem tries to awaken our own seeing, hearing and knowing; it doesn't give us the answer so much as offers us a process through which we can know for ourselves. To sit with this parable is to sit in the presence of generous Love. James Finley uses the image of a pebble falling down an underwater cliff. "There are little protrusions along this cliff and every so often, the stone lands on one and pauses in its descent. In the movements of the water, it rolls off and it continues on and on." This image of the stone constantly being dislodged by the movements of the water is an image of our inner journey in which our perception of God is constantly being dislodged until we experience the infinite generosity of Infinite Love.

(Adapted from various sources including Fr Kieran O'Mahony, Fr Pat Rogers. Fr Richard Rohr)

## *Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

20th September 2020

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# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 19th September 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Chris & Angie Strickland (25th)	<i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Graham Tyers	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Home Mission Sunday</i>
Mon 2.00pm	<i>H. Family</i>	FUNERAL MASS: Celia Park	<i>Feast: St. Matthew</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Deceased members Brown, Morris & Drake families	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Family & friends of Geoff Holden	<i>Feast: St. Pius of Pietrelcina</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Patrick Parr	<i>Feast: Our Lady of Walsingham</i>
10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Service: Patrick Parr	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private Intention	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Marie Morris	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gary Whittell	<i>26th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	for our parish	<i>Collection: Bishops' Administration</i>
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	

**Last Weekend:** Offertory £110; Attendance 72. Thank you for all your generosity.

**Masses received this week:** family & friends of Geoff Holden, deceased members Brown, Morris & Drake families.

**Covenant Books:** The book shop at Holy Family has re-opened Thurs & Fri. 10am-4pm; Sat 10.00-12.30pm.

### Welcome into the family of faith

... Bethany Rose Chippendale-Reid who was baptised in Holy Family last Sunday.

### *Please remember in your prayers . . . .*

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

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:** Celia Park;

**and those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Wilfred Napoleon, Madge Gallagher, John Talbot, Harold Farnworth, John Aspinwall, Joseph Burns, William Kelly, Edith's Harry, Kath & Michael's baby Christopher, Thomas Flynn, Winifred Pearson, Bill Craig, Henry Cross, Sarah Jane Moulding, Tessa Smith. May they rest in peace.

## First holy Communions

We are hoping to help the children complete their preparation for their first holy Communion very soon. We may well not be able to have first Holy Communions during an 11am Mass on Sundays because we are currently at full capacity. We'll make other arrangements.

### Care of Creation

**Jesuit Missions** are holding a virtual webinar Tuesday 22nd September. Please see: <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation-jubilee-for-the-earth/>  
At 7.30pm: An Evening with Leah Casimero and Joel Thompson SJ: On 'Beauty, Justice and Hope in the Amazon— Webinar for Season of Creation'.

You will find a poster <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation/> and a link to the Zoom invitation on <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/our-events/>

**Fulwood Farmer's Market** will take place on Saturday 26th September 9.30am-1pm at the front of Fulwood Methodist Church on Watling Street Road,

### September Faith & Justice E-Bulletin

This can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/yyq84etu> Reports and newsletters are available at <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/>

### 'The Post-Lockdown Parish'

Although our churches have now reopened, we don't know when we shall be able to gather in the way we used to. What different ways do we have to come together for prayer, conversation and Mass? What new opportunities have opened up for us?

In order to answer some of these questions, there are a series of webinars starting on 21st September with Bishop David Oakley of Northampton. Book a place on the webinars, or watch the videos and see the resources afterwards: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series>

**Face coverings** must now be worn in places of worship. We will still keep the 2-metre distancing but please bring face coverings with you. If you have forgotten to bring a mask just ask and we can let you have one.

There are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

- Priests in the sanctuary do not need to wear face coverings during Mass, except when distributing holy communion, provided they are at least two metre distance. Similarly Readers do not need to wear face coverings when proclaiming the scriptures.

**THANKS** to our volunteer stewards we are able to celebrate Mass each Sunday. Our stewards will ask you for your telephone number. This is simply so that we can contact you in the event of anyone at your Mass later being diagnosed with covid 19. Hopefully we won't need to use this and the record will be destroyed after one month.

**Baptisms** We can now celebrate baptisms though there are some restrictions and we are limited to 30 people and masks have to be worn.

**Weddings** are similarly restricted though people are naturally being cautious about arranging weddings because of the uncertainty about how the situation might change.

**Catholic Voice**—a new issue if our Diocesan Newspaper has been published but again it is only available online. There is a link on St. Anthony's website.