

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was Master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, "Learn to know the Lord!" No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50

### **A pure heart create for me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### **Glorify and praise to you, O Christ!**

**If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glorify and praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, "Sir, we should like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father glorify your name!" A voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking to him." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of the world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself". By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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# 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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## True Life

"Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life." "What is the life we have to lose and what is the life we have to find? Thomas Merton speaks of the false self and true self. It is the false self that has to die, but we are all so attached to it. Our false self is who we think we are but our thinking doesn't make it so. We define ourselves by our singularity, our separateness, our differences, and we spend most of our life over-defining that. All the stuff that we pretend to be and we think we are, is almost entirely created by our mind, our culture, our family. That is what is passing, that is what is going to die. That is not who we are. We confuse this idea of ourselves with who we actually are in God. St Paul tells us that 'we are hidden with Christ in God'. The Eastern religions describe it as the 'face you had before you were born.' Jesus is inviting us to return to our anchored self, our eternal self, our true self where we are all exactly the same - the beloved of God. [R.Rohr] If we can risk losing our false self, true love and community are possible. "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."

The seed is in the ground.  
Now may we rest in hope  
While darkness does its work.

Wendell Berry

After reading the above poem, the composer Andrew Maxfield said, "I fell in love with the word darkness. Often I associate the idea of hope with light, and so the connection to darkness caught me off guard. But in the life of a seed, darkness is indeed the context of hope, where hope must be greatest before the realisation of that hope opens into the first glimpses of light and bits of green." If we allow darkness to do its work within us as we go through the process of dying to who we think we are, we will discover who we really are. Our grain of wheat will then become bread for others.

## *Fifth Sunday in Lent* Year B

21st March 2021

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# DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 20th March 2021

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Rawcliffe	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Joseph Madden For our parish Anthony & Eddie Brown	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>
Mon 10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Margaret Rawcliffe	
Tue 12.30pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Betty Murphy	
Wed 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Brucie Grace	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Dec memb Pignotti & Spila families	<i>Feast: The Annunciation</i>
Fri 1.30pm 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Alice Mathias	<i>Stations of the Cross. on zoom</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am 5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Clare Wilson Martin Banks Private Intention	<i>Palm Sunday</i>

**Masses received this week:** Mollie Walmsley, Martin Banks, Margaret Rawcliffe (SVP), Clare Wilson, Margaret Watson.

**Last Weekend:** Attendance 38. Offertory £110.00. Thank you for your generosity.

### BIDDING PRAYERS

As we reflect on our lives during Lent, we pray that we will renew our commitment to Christ, so that wherever He is He may find us too, as good and faithful servants.

We pray for all those preparing to receive the sacraments and for those who walk alongside them as catechists, sponsors and Godparents, that they may always recognise and be open to God's grace and love.

We pray for all those in need: those who are sick in mind and body, those suffering from coronavirus, those awaiting treatment for other ailments postponed on account of the pandemic, those in distress on account of family or employment difficulties, those separated from loved ones. We ask Our Lord to bring healing to Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Vera, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire, Joyce Hilton;

**those who have died recently:** Joan Bleakley, Patricia Heys, Margaret Rawcliffe, Joseph Madden, Elizabeth Mary Murphy;

**and those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Ethel Baxendale, Edward Holland, Philip Corbishley, Peter Brown, Annie MacHale, Eric Hyland, John Anderton, Agnes Ainsworth, Dorothy Barrett, Margaret Vandome, Leonard Riley, Joe Walmsley, Elizabeth Harrison, Darren Kaye, Brian O'Kane, Charles Anderson, Elizabeth Dunn.

## LENT

### Stations of the Cross.

We are not able to have the Stations in church but some members of St. Anthony's parish will present them on Zoom every Friday. 'Doors open' at 5.45. Session starts 6.00pm prompt. Meeting ID: 860 7625 5774 Passcode: 068559

### Food Bank

For Easter our Food Bank need pasta, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tomatoes, tuna, milk, cream, eggs. Ideally these are needed by the 2nd week in March. Thank you.

### Holy Week & Easter

We have now received guidance from the Bishop's Conference regarding the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. We are planning the same Services at the same time and in the same places as in previous years. i.e. Maundy Thursday at 7pm at Holy Family; Good Friday 3pm in both churches. Easter Vigil at St. Anthony's.

However there are some restrictions.

On Palm Sunday here will be no procession. Palms will be blessed during Mass, but only given out as you leave church after Mass.

On Maundy Thursday the Washing of Feet will be omitted and only the priest goes to the altar of repose at the end of Mass. There will then be a very short period of prayer for all, but no extended 'Watching' after Mass for private prayer.

On Good Friday 3.00pm – we can't have individual veneration of the Cross – but all can genuflect together in our benches after the third and final 'unveiling'.

At the Easter Vigil there we can't have the fire or procession: the paschal candle will be lit at the start of the vigil. The font will be blessed and there will be the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, but no sprinkling of the people.

### 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.

### First Holy Communions

We're looking at using Zoom or Microsoft Teams to set up preparation for the sacraments of reconciliation and first holy communion. Its not ideal and no preparation can ever be as good as being at Mass each week, gathering with the parish community around the altar of the Lord. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Confirmations may also have to be delayed until next year.

### Virtual pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Fr John is joining volunteers and Young Leaders from Metanoia Project on a virtual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Over the course of Lent they will run, walk and cycle 3,266 miles, the distance from Preston to Jerusalem. Their aim is to raise funds to support Metanoia Project's work in Preston, and you can sponsor Fr John and find information online at <https://gofund.me/5afc5a0a> or bring money in a marked envelope.

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