

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows : "You object, 'What the Lord does is unjust.' Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24

Remember your mercy, Lord

- 1, Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.
2. Remember your mercy, Lord.
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11 (or 2:1-5)

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28~32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, 'My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not go,' but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, 'Certainly sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?" "The first," they said. Jesus said to them, "I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him."

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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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Lord, make me know your ways

Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth. Psalm 24
In this context to 'walk' means to live each day. We have all joined the psalmist many times in our search for help to live each day guided by divine truth. [1] When we ask God to reveal His direction for us do we want to know Him, or do we just want a formula for life? When we seek God just for a formula, too often we miss knowing Him. Yes, He wants our obedience. But a beautiful thing about the Hebrew word we translate into 'obey' in English is that it is the same word in Hebrew for 'hear'. It's a hearing that brings response. What God wants is relationship. He wants us to hear Him, know Him, and respond. [2]

"Which of the two did the will of his father?" The question of 'doing God's will' ultimately brings us to a place of metanoia (i.e. change of mind and heart). This change of heart can take us in different directions, as can be seen in the decisions the two sons made. True metanoia is not about escaping the circumstances of our life but about engaging in those circumstances in a new and different way – God's way. So how do we discover what is ours to do? First, we must go through a process of discernment. Christian discernment is not the same as decision making. Reaching a decision can be straightforward: we consider our goals and options and then we choose the action that meets our goals most effectively. Discernment, on the other hand, is about listening and responding to that place within us where our deepest desires align with God's desire. As discerning people, we sift through our impulses, motives, and options to discover which ones lead us closer to divine love and compassion for ourselves and other people and which ones lead us further away. [3]

"This discernment process can go hand-in-hand with an experience of aloneness and finding ourselves lost, struggling to hold the paradox of the reality of great love and great suffering. But: 'Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here.' [4] In surrendering fully to being lost you will discover that, in addition to not knowing how to get where you had wanted to go, you are no longer so sure of the ultimate rightness of that goal. By trusting your unknowing, your old standards of progress dissolve and you become aware of new standards, those that come not from your mind or other people, but from the depths of your soul, revealing your life purpose: to be a visible expression of both the image and the likeness of God. [5]

[1]Website : Theology of work.org [2]Website: Christianity.com [3] Henri Nouwen [4] David Wagner [5] Richard Rohr

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th September 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 26th September 2020

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	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	<i>Collection: Bishops' Administration</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Fr. Kevin Lowry	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Agnes & Joseph Billington	<i>Feast: Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jack Kilshaw	<i>Feast: St. Jerome</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Lena Bradley	<i>Feast: St Terese of Child Jesus</i>
1.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Service: Lena Bradley	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Stephen Cummings	<i>Fri: Guardian Angels</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Patrick Murphy	<i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Lawrence Cartmel	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	<i>Harvest Fast envelopes return</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory £90; Attendance 58. Thank you for all your generosity.

Masses received this week: Patrick Murphy, Agnes & Joseph Billington, Lawrence Cartmel, Stephen Cummings, dec. members Rogers & Duffy families, Jack Kilshaw, Fr. Kevin Lowry.

Covenant Books: The book shop at Holy Family has re-opened 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.

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, Patrick Parr, Marie Milne, Lena Bradley;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Henry Cross, Sarah Jane Moulding, Tessa Smith, Fr. Peter Dolan's Dad, Sheila Morris, John Hodgkinson, Albert Tierney, 29th Antonia Baines, Agnes Wilson, George Fisher, Evelyn Jenkins, Gina LaValle, Bridget Carter, Albert Howarth, Alice McCauley, Lilly Clitherow, Margaret Foster. May they rest in peace.

First holy Communion

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 Communion during an 11am Mass on Sundays because we are currently at full capacity. We'll make other arrangements.

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/>

NEW NHS 'TEST & TRACE' PHONE APP – On the 24th September, the NHS began to roll-out its new Test & Trace phone app, which is for use on smartphones (with Bluetooth enabled). When you arrive at a venue you simply scan the Q.R. code near the entrance to record your attendance. We have been asked to apply for a QR code at each of our buildings. We'll let you when we get these in place. We can still take phone numbers manually for anyone who finds the technology difficult.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - please collect an envelope after Mass for the Harvest Fast Day Appeal. Again we thank all those who gave generously to the Joint Coronavirus Appeal.

'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 started 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.