

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

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331



FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1.3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 79

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again :
give us life that we may call upon your name.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master or the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

Scripture readings are reproduced by kind permission of Darton, Longman & Todd, Responsorial Psalm from The Psalms: A New Translation © The Grail (England) published by Harper Collins

Longing

If we were to write a Christmas wish list for 2020 and compare it with our 2019 list, what a stark contrast there would probably be between both lists. In 2019 our list would possibly be full of things we would like. This year's list would no doubt show that in our longing and in our waiting to be once again with those we love, we are deeply experiencing the true spirit of Advent. When we are in the presence of those who love us we see an image of our true selves reflected in their eyes. "Advent is a time of heightened awareness that invites us to see ourselves as God sees us, insofar as that is possible." [1]

"There is a story about a church in the Netherlands. On entering the building, everyone would stop and bow in the direction of a white-washed wall. It was a tradition that nobody questioned. They felt it was the right thing to do. One day the parish decided to renovate the church. They began to strip the paint off the old walls. While doing this they discovered traces of a painting on the wall towards which everyone bowed, but nobody knew why. Very carefully they peeled off the layers of whitewash. What emerged was an ancient and very beautiful painting of Christ. Nobody was old enough to have had seen it. But now they came to understand why they almost instinctively persisted in honouring the wall that concealed the glorious work of art. The holy work of Advent is a little like that. It peels away the false veneer to reveal and restore, in the midst of our activities and our anxieties, the unique masterpiece within us. Is this the destiny for which our hearts are always longing?" [2]

By taking time to sit with God we will grow in awareness of who we truly are in Him. "When we sit still with all our heart, we bear witness to ourselves and to the world that there is no place to go." [3] Only in God will our deepest longings be fulfilled. In today's gospel Jesus tells us to be alert and to keep awake. "Spirituality means waking up, becoming aware." [4] When we are grounded in the practice of loving presence we will be alert to the master's unexpected revelations of his presence in everyone and in all creation. In our awakened moments we will know that 'the master' is always with us, fulfilling our deepest, perpetual yearning to be fully known and fully loved.

[1] José Antonio Pagola; [2] Daniel O' Leary [3] James Finley [4] Anthony de Mello

First Sunday of Advent

29th November 2020

Year B

Missal page 44

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 28th November 2020

Sat		For our parish	
Sun		Dec. members S.V.P. For our parish	<i>First Sunday of Advent (Year B)</i> <i>Poor Parishes Collection</i>
Mon		Andrew Roe	<i>Feast: St. Andrew</i>
Tue		Lilian Butler	
Wed 9.15	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe Holmes	
Thur 9.15	<i>H.Family</i>	Christina Bolger	<i>Feast: St. Francis Xavier</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Beryl Jacob	
1.15pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral service: Beryl Jacob	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kenneth Grieg	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Eileen Draper	

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray that the Church may effectively prepare the world for the coming of the Son of Man, and for the peace that His coming brings.

We pray for the leaders of the nations of the world, especially those most severely affected by the COVID19 pandemic, that they may always act with wisdom, compassion, foresight and justice in their efforts to bring relief and healing to the communities they serve.

We pray for our parish community, and especially particularly in our prayers the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs and care for them in their vulnerability

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: 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: Patrick Bolger, Jim Bashall, Frances Farrer, Beryl Jacob;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Evelyn Eccles, Wilf Judge, Elizabeth McGivern, Mary Radcliffe, Elizabeth Melling, Martin McMurrough, Bernice Plumb, Winifred Lever, Hannah Hall, Agnes Cleminson, Joe Reddy, Joe Monk, May they

We're back at Mass! - or we will be from Thursday. Usual times.

We still have to be careful and take precautions but it will be great to be back together again to celebrate Mass. We are grateful to those who volunteer as Stewards for making this possible.

Advent begins today

A group of St. Anthony's parishioners have produced two linked resources for Advent:

1. Advent Jesse Tree

- telling the Biblical story from Creation to the first Christmas in 25 colourful 'decorations' to be hung on our tree in church. Members of the parish are invited to colour these decorations or add a message. Return it to us and it will be displayed on the Jesse Tree. If you would like to take part please phone Peter on 724576 or email pnewsham@aol.com.

2. Advent video reflections

Tied in with this, members of the parish have recorded a series of 24 short YouTube Advent readings, again featuring the 'Jesse Tree bauble', followed by a brief time of reflection. The lighting of the Advent wreath candles each Sunday will be shown as a separate film, probably on facebook.

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more.

Church & Pastoral Centre keys. It has been necessary to change the locks on these buildings. If you need regular access to either building please ask Fr. Peter for a key. Keep hold of the existing keys because they are needed to open some internal doors.

Masses received this week: Christina Bolger, Josephine Connolly, Kenneth Grieg, Joe Holmes.

Pro-Life Campaign: A cross-party group of MPs have come together to bring forward a Bill which would clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Please consider writing to your MP to support this Bill. Find out more at www.standupandsmile.org.uk

Mass At Christmas We think we might be able to cope with the two Masses as usual i.e. 8pm vigil and 11.00am Christmas Day. With everyone wearing masks we can go to 1-metre distancing which means we can add an extra row of seats to what we currently have. But its possible we may still not have enough room at the Vigil Mass.