

# Sunday Message

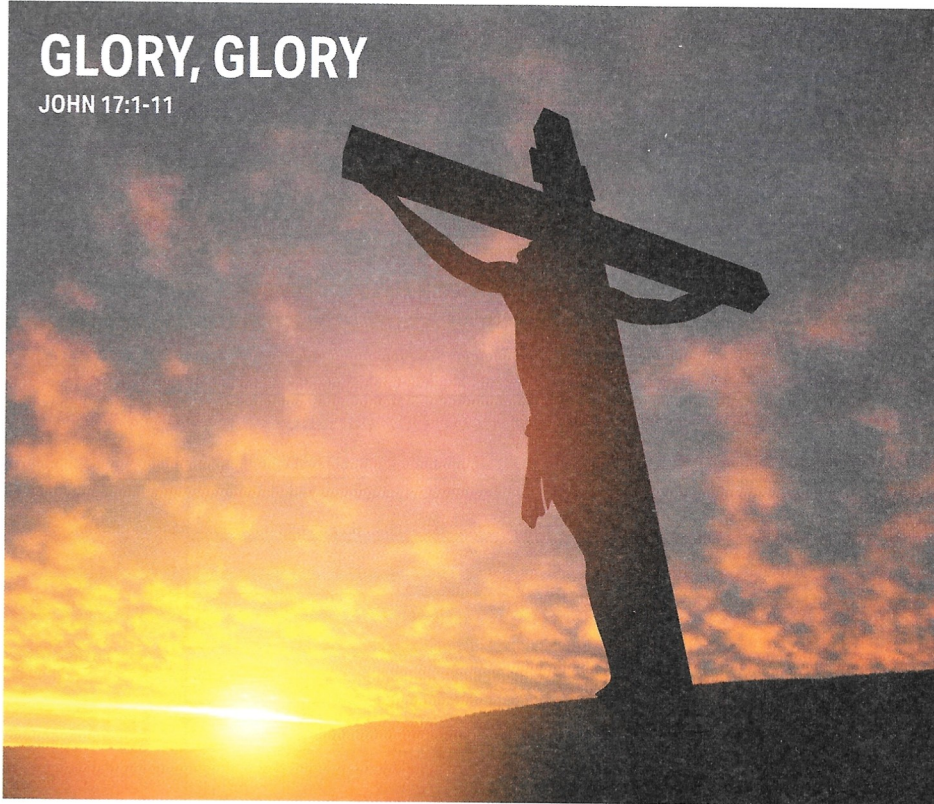
7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 17 May 2026 • Psalter Week 3

## GLORY, GLORY

JOHN 17:1-11



Today's Gospel comes from what is known as the final discourse of Jesus, as the disciples gather in the upper room to celebrate the Passover. Jesus knows full well that he is about to endure his passion and death. He knows the suffering he is about to undergo. Despite the fact that he is about to be crucified as a criminal and a failure, Jesus uses an unlikely word to describe what will happen to him. He talks about being glorified.

'Glory' is a key word in the Gospel of John. To any casual observer, Jesus' mission was a failure. But seen from the perspective of God's saving plan, it was not a failure but a glorious triumph. If Jesus was nailed to a cross, it was so that he could be lifted up, exalted in glory. That process of glory will begin very soon. In it, Jesus will be revealed as the faithful servant of God who was despised and rejected but who would be raised to great heights.

Jesus describes the key to eternal life. "Eternal life," Jesus tells his disciples, is "to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent." Do this, and all of us will have a share in the glory of heaven. Do this, and we will enjoy the heavenly banquet for ever. ■

### DO

Think about the words of St Peter in today's second reading. How does your faith affect the decisions you make every day? Would your priorities and world view be any different if you did not believe in God?



### PRAY

Often we think of Christian martyrs as figures from the past but more Christian martyrs are being created now than at any time in history. Pray for all those who are happy to suffer and even lose their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to witness to you every day to the best of my ability. Never let me be parted from you. Amen."

## REFLECT



In the second reading, St Peter talks about sharing in the sufferings of Christ. It is a blessing, he says, when people mock and insult you for being a Christian. One should thank God for the honour of bearing the name of Christ. It's an extraordinary change from or y a short period before when Peter denied Jesus three times, and had locked himself behind closed doors, afraid for his life. Now Peter is on fire with faith. Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, he preaches the Good News to anyone who will listen. He is happy even to die for the sake of the Gospel. Peter's belief in the resurrection has changed his life completely.

Unlike Peter, we may never have denied Jesus publicly. Unlike him, we may never have locked ourselves behind closed doors out of fear of persecution. We do not face the prospect of martyrdom. But witnessing to the Gospel in the 21st century is not easy. It is to risk being laughed at or ridiculed. It can be tempting to keep our heads down, to practise our faith quietly, almost surreptitiously, to not wish to offend secular friends or rock any boats.

Would you be happy to suffer for your faith, as St Peter advocates in his letter? Would you be happy to risk life and liberty for the sake of the Gospel? Would you be prepared even to die for it? At the end of the day, how strong would you say your faith is? ■

### LEARN

The Christian witnesses to the faith at all times.

Prayer is central to the life of the Christian.

The Christian looks forward to the glory of the resurrection.

Eternal life, Jesus says, is to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;  
hide not your face from me, alleluia.*

**COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to  
Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem,  
a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they  
went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and  
John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew  
and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot  
and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were  
devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and  
Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Psalm 27(26):1. 4. 7-8a. R. 13

*R: I believe I shall see the LORD's goodness in the land  
of the living.*

Or *Alleluia.*

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread? *R.*
2. There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,  
to enquire at his temple. *R.*
3. O LORD, hear my voice when I call;  
have mercy and answer me.  
Of you my heart has spoken,  
'Seek his face.' *R.*

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that  
you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.  
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed,  
because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let  
none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or  
as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not  
be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL** cf. John 14:18

*R: Alleluia, alleluia.*

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.  
I am going away and I will come to you,  
and your hearts will rejoice.

*R: Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL** John 17:1-11a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,  
'Father, the hour has come;  
glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,  
since you have given him authority over all flesh,  
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.  
And this is eternal life,  
that they know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.  
I glorified you on earth,  
having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.  
And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence  
with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.  
'I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me  
out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me,  
and they have kept your word.

Now they know that everything that you have given me is  
from you.

For I have given them the words that you gave me,  
and they have received them  
and have come to know in truth that I came from you;  
and they have believed that you sent me.  
I am praying for them.

I am not praying for the world  
but for those whom you have given me,  
for they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine,  
and I am glorified in them.  
And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world,  
and I am coming to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

*Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we also are one, alleluia.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
and grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the whole Church  
what has already come to pass in Christ her Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.


*Amen.*

# St Anthony of Padua

**Presbytery:** St Anthony's Presbytery,  
Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX  
**Tel:** 01772 725193  
**Email:** stanthony.preston@lrcd.org.uk  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Andrew Dawson  
**Annexe:** 07792 256592  
**Social Centre:** 01772 735963  
**Primary School:** 01772 726621  
**Playgroup/Preschool:** 07963 700591

# Holy Family

Whitby Avenue, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YP  
**Tel:** 01772 725193  
**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr Andrew Dawson  
(Resident at St Anthony's)  
**Primary School:** 01772 727471  
**Covenant Books:** 07396 796969  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**(Confession):** On Request

Mass Schedule for week commencing Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May		Intention		Last Weekend:	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>				<b>Attendance</b>	
Today we shall use the second preface of the Ascension with the third Eucharistic Prayer				St Anthony's: 95 + 153 = 248	
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's		Len and Joan Airey	<b>Collections</b>	
Sunday 9:30am 11am	Mass at St Anthony's Mass at St Anthony's		The People of our Parishes Holy Family's FHC Children	St Anthony's: £453.25 + £142.50 (Cards)	
Monday	No Mass			Scan the QR code below to donate to the weekly collection online (St Anthony's)	
Tuesday	No Mass				
Wednesday	No Mass				
Thursday	No Mass				
Friday	No Mass				
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost Sunday</b>					
Saturday 6pm (Sunday Vigil)	Mass at St Anthony's		Jack Adamson		
Sunday 9:30am	Mass at St Anthony's		The People of our Parishes		

**Confessions:** At St Anthony's 5:30-5:50pm Saturdays.

**Baptism and Marriage:** If you are a parent and would like to have your child baptised or are hoping to get married either in this parish or elsewhere (minimum six months' notice for weddings is required), please speak to Fr Andrew at the end of Mass.

**Tea and Coffee:** You are welcome to join us for some light refreshments after each of our Sunday Masses – 6pm (Saturday) and 9:30 at St Anthony's.

## Prayer intentions

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for May: That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

**Cycle of Prayer: Eastertide:** New members of the Church, Vocations, Human Work, The Church herself, The right use of the media.

**We pray for the sick and the elderly,** especially Jo Counsel, Bill Embery and John Mulholland.  
**For those who have died recently,** especially Helen Wood, David Fogell, Alan Nobley, Andy Greenwood, Jean Dunne and Canon Seamus Flannery and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eric Welsby, John Dwyer, Peter Kevill, Dorothy Hedley, May Dickinson, Veronica Chanter, Gerard Walsh, Maria Garlington, Richard and Mary Murphy, Marie McCartney, Michael Wilson, Maureen Cafferkey.

Father, may these, and all whom we have known who have gone before us, be received into the glory of the resurrection, won for us by your Son, Jesus, the Risen Lord.

**The Requiem Mass** for the late Helen Wood will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 11.15am; the Requiem Mass for the late David Fogell will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am; and the Requiem Mass for the late Andy Greenwood will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 10am. May they rest in peace.



**Testament – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at**

**7pm:** Continue to watch as the early church comes alive as a small group of followers of Jesus starts to spread the Good News of the Resurrection. They face opposition,

imprisonment and worse, but their numbers grow as they fulfil Jesus' command to make disciples throughout the whole world.

**Please Note:** Fr Andrew will be away 18-23 May.

**St Anthony's Gutters:** The scaffolding work is complete, and the work on the gutters itself has begun. Please continue to keep clear of the fencing around the scaffolding and avoid bringing a vehicle to St Anthony's if possible.

**Advance Notice:** Corpus Christi Procession Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, commencing at St Walburges' Shrine Church at 2pm.

**First Holy Communion:** The children of Holy Family Parish will make their First Holy Communion at 11 am this Sunday. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

**Holy Family Parish Update:** Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting to discuss the future of Holy Family Parish, for your contributions and prayer. The meeting at Preston City Council was informative and encouraging and together with a small group of parishioners we are looking at options for the future. In the meantime, there will be a monthly Mass at 11am in Holy Family School on the first Sunday of the month (next one: 7<sup>th</sup> June – the Feast of Corpus Christi).

**Churches Together Evening Stroll,** Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, meeting at The Continental 7:00pm for a 7:15pm start. We will do a loop via the new tram bridge pausing on the way for reflections. We will finish at The Continental for a drink. This is always a pleasant and sociable event, and everyone is welcome.

**Thanks:** A letter has been received from Fr Anthony Chantry, National Director of Missio, thanking St Anthony's parish for the recent donation of £202.50 from last year's Mission Sunday collection. If you would like to know more about the work of Missio or to receive a red box, please ask Fr Andrew.

**This Sunday** is the World Communications day of prayer, and there will be a retiring collection to support Catholic Media.

**Catholic Legacy Week,** 24-30 May, is a time when Parishes and Catholic charities such as CAFOD celebrate the work made possible in the life of the Church through gifts in Wills. Find out more about the week at [cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek](http://cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek)

**Job Vacancy: Chaplaincy Team Member.** Metanoia Project provide full time Chaplaincy Services to a local Catholic High School and provision for Students and Young Adults in the City Centre in connection with the University of Lancashire. They are looking for an enthusiastic and competent person to assist in providing the most engaging, Christ-centred and fruitful ministry possible in both settings. Accommodation available if required. Full details of salary and benefits are listed in the Application Pack at: <https://metanoiaproject.co.uk/chaplaincy-teammember>.

Closing Date Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Further information from Ruth White 07878 832457 [ruth@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:ruth@metanoiaproject.co.uk)

**Gathering for Catholic Doctors 6<sup>th</sup> June 1pm:** An opportunity for Catholic doctors to meet and support each other in their faith, and in the vocation as doctors. There will be a light lunch in the Cathedral library followed by a talk on 'The Art of Dying Well' by Dr Amy Gadoud. Please email [cathedral@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:cathedral@lrcd.org.uk) to confirm attendance.

**Thinking of being a priest?** A day of recollection and discernment for single men aged 16+ who are considering priesthood will be held on Saturday 30 May 12.15 – 2.30pm at St Peter's Cathedral, Balmoral Road, Lancaster LA1 3BT. Gather in the Cathedral for Mass at 12.15, followed by lunch and meeting with Bishop Paul. To book email Heather: [Heather.Watts@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:Heather.Watts@lrcd.org.uk) or tel: 01524 841190. There is no charge. You will have the opportunity to get to know how discernment works & who can assist you; and to meet others from across the Diocese exploring a vocation to priesthood.

**Advance Notice:** The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham will be 28 September to 1 October 2026. On the theme of "Mary, cause of our Joy." The all-inclusive cost is £360.00-£420.00. For more information and booking details contact Deacon Charlie Conner on 07711 345 176 or email [charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:charlie.conner@lrcd.org.uk) The places will be limited, so please book in good time.

**The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst:**

**Heart to Heart women's retreat, 19 - 22 June 2026:** A three-day retreat for women (whether single, married or religious), based on principles of Ignatian spirituality. Guided by Fr Bernard Murphy, CFR and Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, the retreat will seek to draw participants closer to the Lord through a greater attentiveness to His will.

**Did you know?** Our parish purchases its energy through **Interdiocesan Fuel Management (IFM)**, which is owned by all the dioceses in England & Wales and parts of Scotland. Together with Catholic parishes, schools and dioceses across England and Wales, we purchase 100% renewable electricity and 88% green gas, supporting the Church's commitment to care for creation.



Social Club News

**St Anthony's Club:** Have you renewed your membership for 2026? Please don't forget to renew your annual membership by popping in and speaking to the bar staff.