

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)
Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 9.30am.
Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)
Confessions: 5.30—5.50pm

Annexe: 725544 Social Centre: 735963 Primary school: 726621
Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 234331



Joy

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday. Although the first reading sets a tone of joyful hope, in the gospel 'joy is not evident behind the bars that hold the fiery John the Baptist.' [1] 'The wilderness expanse has given way to the confines of a prison cell. The prophet with a voice is now a prisoner with a question: "Are you the one who is to come or is it someone else?" [2] 'If John's doubt, pain, and untimely death don't shake our faith even a little bit, then perhaps we need to ask why. It has always seemed odd to me that we who worship the Crucified One have a hard time staying in the presence of extreme doubt, despair, and suffering. Somehow we feel a need to blunt the edges, to soften the blows, to make everything okay. But this story is not "okay," and many of our own stories aren't okay either. The prison bars that hold us don't always give way; our doubts don't always resolve themselves; justice doesn't always arrive in time; questions don't always receive the answers we hunger for.'

Many of the pious responses I've experienced are not enough for the world I actually live in. They're too lukewarm, too clean and too polite. They move to closure and triumph so quickly that they turn pain into an abstraction. They dull my capacity to practice genuine compassion, empathy, and long-suffering. What is the response that will equip us to sit gently and patiently in the darkness with those who mourn, fear, rage or doubt? Today, perhaps we are being invited to honour doubt, despair, and silence as reasonable reactions to a broken world; to create sacred space for grief, to mourn freely; to rage against injustice; to let joy be joy, sorrow be sorrow, horror be horror; to feel deeply, because God does.

It may surprise us to learn that John the Baptist is known as a patron saint of spiritual joy. Joy in a prison cell isn't about sentimentality, or about the pious suppression of our most painful crises and questions.' [1] 'John's question may be one of doubt, despair, disillusionment or disappointment. But is not a lack of belief. It is a lack of recognition. Instead of giving John a yes or no answer, Jesus lovingly describes what to look for, how to recognise the kingdom.' [2] 'The Kingdom' is really a metaphor for a *state of consciousness*. It is a transformed awareness of the oneness Jesus has in mind when he says: "I am in God; God is in you; you are in God; we are in each other." This mutual inter-abiding expresses the indivisible reality of divine love.' [3] When we see this divine love in action in the healing of the sick, both in mind and body, we are offered the choice to have faith in that love 'which totally permeates all conditions, including devastation, trauma and tragedy. If we respond with faith grounded in a peace that's not dependent on the outcome of the effort, we will then experience deep joy.' [4]

Adapted: [1] Debie Thomas [2] Michael Marsh [3] Richard Rohr [4]James Finley

Third Sunday of Advent
11th December 2022

Year A
missal p36

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 10th December 2022

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	John McDonagh	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dec members Osbaldeston & Golder families	Third Sunday of Advent
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Geoff Plumb	<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Edmund Machholz	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Fr. Peter Chapple	<i>Feast: St. Lucy</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	James Collins	<i>Feast: St. John of the Cross</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	For our parish	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Francis Dewhurst	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Mollie & Ernie Hindle	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kathleen Jones	Fourth Sunday of Advent
11.00am	<i>H.Family</i>	Craig Spencer	

Last Weekend: Attendance: 199 (84 + 115). Offertory: £610.27

Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Frances Thompson, Brothers, wives & families of Catenians Province 10, Patrick Feeny, Lyndsey Gaskell Fitzgerald & Williams families, Ian George Whalley, Francis Dewhurst, James Collins, Dave Smith.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. served in the Padua Room after weekend Mass.

Welcome into the family of faith

Arlo Ribchester who was baptised in St. Anthony's last Sunday.

Congratulations!

- to Marius Petri and Bianca Melusca who were married in St. Anthony's Church recently.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, Theresa Wilkinson, Bill Embery, Les Farrer, Maureen Cafferkey, Carole & Gary Adnitt, Rev. Tom Butler, baby Mairead, Vera Bolton, Fr. Harry Holden.

We pray for those who have died recently: Barbara Osbaldeston;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Edward Giddins, Margaret Burscough, Stella Parkinson, Bridget Margaret Curwen, Canon Michael Geoghegan, Winifred Shaw, Barbara May, Edward Rawcliffe, Francis Harris, Audrey Morgan, Frank Wastell, Norman Spicer, Jack Shorrock, Christine Eaves, Ernest Lovatt, Malcolm Mullins, Howard Marshall, Mary Frances Thompson, Leonard Stevens. May they rest in peace.

St. Anthony's Advent Carol Service - today (Sunday)

In church at 2.00pm, followed by sing-a-long with St. Anthony's Singers in the Parish Centre - and the drawing of the Christmas Hampers Raffle.

Christmas Hampers Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after both Masses this weekend. £1.00 a strip. The Raffle will be drawn after the Carol Service and the "Sing a Long."

Advent Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Service of Reconciliation for St. Anthony's & Holy Family parishes in St. Anthony's church next Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm.

Christmas Mass Times

- At St. Anthony's: vigil at 6.00pm, Christmas morning at 9.30am.

At Holy Family: vigil at 8.00pm, Christmas morning at 11.00am.

St. Anthony's School Key Stage One Advent Service

The Key Stage One children and staff at St Anthony's would like to invite all members of the parish to our annual Advent Service on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 10AM. This will take place in church after Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation

We are hoping to welcome Bishop Paul to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the new year for those in Years 8 & 9 (and above). There is an application form at the back of church.

CAFOD Christmas gift catalogues

- are available from the back of church. Inside you will find imaginative gifts which can be bought perhaps for family members who would appreciate a gift helping those in the developing world who are in dire need.

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Thank you for your generous donations which have been passed on.

Lancaster Diocesan Directories 2023 - just arrived

Price is £5.00 or £6.00 for ring-bound. Please put payment in the slot in the green safe.

The Shepherd'

You are invited to watch a 20 minute film seeing the birth of Jesus through the eyes of some Bethlehem shepherds. We will show the film in the Padua Room after the coffee evening/morning on the last Sunday before Christmas. At 7.15 pm on Saturday 17th December and 10.45 am on Sunday 18th December.

Fair Trade stall

Fair Trade sales last week were £42. Donations were £7.85. This year's donations amounted to £85 which have bought CAFOD World Gifts...2 x 'Forest School' and 1 x 'Emergency Water'. Many thanks to all who have supported this year.

Cups & Saucers!

Our Social Group are trying to build up a stock of cups & saucers suitable for the Afternoon Teas etc. If you have any redundant crockery they'll be glad to receive them.

Keep fit - and help a good cause

Weekly sessions, in the Padua Room on Wednesday mornings at 10a.m.