

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)

Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler (07853 777957)

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am, 5.00pm

Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: on request

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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The Miracle Begins when the Wine Runs Out

'The literal interpretation of Scripture is the least helpful. The symbolic level is the level filled with meaning that changes our lives. We don't know if the events in today's Gospel really happened in this way, but there are a lot of give-aways that there is a deeper message here. One of these is the focus on the six stone jars that were used for purification rites. Much of the history of religion is about ceremonial washing where the emphasis is on purification because we are not perfect enough. The jars in today's Gospel are empty. Jesus filled the jars to the brim with wine. This is not just a miracle story. It is a transformational story about what Jesus is bringing about in the history of religion. We thought that religion was about a list of requirements which we have to fulfil so that God will love us. As in so many Scripture passages, matrimonial imagery is used in today's Gospel to tell us that what God wants with humanity is a love affair, a marriage. We find it difficult to accept that God would want such an intimate relationship with us, so we keep going back to the six empty jars of purifying water, to fulfilling the law. But laws don't teach us how to love. In today's Gospel, Jesus changes the focus of religion from a religion of legalism to a religion of love, filled to the brim with joy and celebration. [1]

Today's Gospel could also be symbolic of those times when our lives seem empty and dry, when we 'have no wine.' 'Each one of us could tell a story about the day the wine gave out: stories of failure, self-doubt, regrets or disappointments; stories of loss – of a loved one or of a familiar way of life. We become increasingly aware that we cannot replenish the wine of our life from our own resources. Regardless of how it feels or what we think about it, the day the wine runs out is the beginning of a miracle. That day confronts us with a truth as old as creation itself: we are the recipients and not the creators of our life. We were never intended nor expected to live by the sufficiency of our own resources.' [2] When we freely surrender to God's loving, sustaining presence in our lives, our hearts are filled to the brim with 'a peace that passes all understanding' (Phil 4:7), a peace that enables us to rejoice once more in God's outpouring of so many gifts; a peace that reassures us that 'there is no such thing, either in the world or in the heart as a vacuum. And whatever space is really left by apparent emptiness, there is God.' [3]

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] Michael Marsh [3] Karl Rahner

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th January 2022

Year C

Missal page 971

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 15th January 2022

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Smethurst	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O'Neill & O'Neill family	<i>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Special Intention	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Gillett	<i>Feast: St. Anthony</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Leo Brown	
11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Service: Leo Brown</i>	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Bob Taylor	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Patsy & Robbie Hasson	<i>Feast St Agnes</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Liz & Dave Smith	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper	<i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan & Leonard Airey	

Last Weekend: Offertory £615.84. Attendance 179 (Sat 6pm 60, Sun 9.30 69, 5pm 50)
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Michael McFarlane, Bob Taylor, Joan Taylor.

PLEASE NOTE: Face coverings

Face coverings are now compulsory in most public indoor venues including places of worship except for those with medical exemption.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Mandy Davis, Deacon Tom Butler, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, May Rigby, Theresa Wilkinson, Bill Embrey, Lawrence Dunnagan, Carole Adnitt, Les Farrer, Frank Stanton. May God bring them health and strength.

We pray for the souls of those recently departed this life, in particular, Maria Ball (Spain), Peter Gillett (USA);

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Edith Higginson, John Howarth, Alice Partington, Francis Cross, Eileen Bashall, Mary Hardy, Matt Moran, Roderick Taylor, Bob Taylor, Jean Mangan, Stuart Cave, John Magee, Geoffrey Moss, Johanna McDonnell, Joseph Holden, Stephen Gardner, Marion Barton, Ilena Taylor, Alexander Latham. May they rest in peace.

Peace Sunday

Today is PEACE SUNDAY and this year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace'. The need for peace in the world is obvious. People are struggling against violence and conflict, growing inequalities, the effects of climate change and the covid pandemic. How can we harness the gifts and energy of all generations in the work of peacemaking? Which 'tools for building lasting peace' do you think Pope Francis might be talking about? In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi, which does a great deal of good work to promote peace and nonviolence through parishes, schools and social media. Their website suggests many ways we can all become better peacemakers. There are activities for families to do at home, including a peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022>

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual week of prayer from 18th-25 January has not been well supported in recent years and made worse by the covid restrictions. This year our local Churches Together group have suggested that each church invites people to a typical Service, rather than an extra one. Not all the dates have currently been filled but the following are confirmed: Tues. 18th Jan. 6.00pm Fulwood Methodist; Wed 19th Jan. 10.00am Broughton Parish; Thurs. 20th Jan. 10.30am Christ Church, Fulwood; Fri. 21st Jan. vacant Sat. 22nd Jan. 6.00pm Mass at ST. ANTHONY'S Sun. 23rd Jan. vacant Mon. 24th Jan. vacant Tues. 25th Jan. St. Clare's TBC

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion. And Confirmation

We will be starting preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in the New Year. Any children not in St. Anthony's school should have a word with Fr. Peter. We'll also be arranging preparation for the Sacrament of **Confirmation**. This time it will be for Years 8 & 9 and we expect to have Confirmations for current Year 7 & 6 the following year.

St Anthony's After-School Club position

We are looking for a friendly, reliable and energetic playworker to join our team. The ideal candidate should have some experience of working with children and preferably a childcare qualification although this is not essential. For further details about the duties involved and to visit the club, please call 07507304908 to speak to the manager.

Day of reflection Exploring Vocation to the Priesthood.

On Saturday 22nd January 10.30am - 4pm. A day for any men, from 18yrs old, who are thinking about a priestly vocation. The day will include Mass, some time for reflection, discussion, adoration. Lunch will be provided. The venue is Our Lady and St Joseph, Warwick Square, Carlisle, CA1 1LB. There is no expectation of commitment. If you would like to join us please book a place by email: fr.ruscillo@carlislecatholicchurch.org

Omicron virus

At this stage we have had no additional guidance from the Bishops' Conference but it makes sense to exercise prudence and to reinforce the current mitigations we have in place, including ventilation of churches. Maybe any planned parish social events, due to take place in enclosed spaces should be postponed or suspended at this time." With this in mind we'll suspend Coffee after Mass for a month to see how things pan out.

Lancaster Diocesan Directories

The Directories have now arrived - £5.25 for the ring-bound, £4.50 for the ordinary copies. Please put money in the slot in the green safe marked "Books". Thank you.