

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 Covenant Books: 07396 796969

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Proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

'Today's gospel reading is often described as Jesus' inaugural address, his mission statement. He ends the quote from Isaiah with the proclamation of a year of favour from the Lord. He omits the words which follow in Isaiah 61:2 : "... and the day of our God's vengeance." Jesus has not come to proclaim judgment. His message is different. It's not a message of retribution or retributive justice. This is a classic text for what we call restorative justice. God's justice is fulfilled by lovingly and patiently remaking us into His image and likeness. Jesus has come to replace the old Jewish love of law with a new law of love.' [1]

Jesus has come to proclaim good news to the poor, to captives, to the blind and to the oppressed. 'Poverty might be about material needs; it might also be poverty of love, hope or meaning. The captive might be a prisoner, an addicted person, or one overcome by anger and resentment. Blindness is not only physical but can also be emotional or spiritual. Oppression can be the result of physical or emotional violence. Today Jesus brings us good news of healing and freedom. With one foot in the past and one in the future we straddle and completely miss the present: today. We become captive to what was, oppressed by what might be, and blind to what is. To the extent we are unable to hear Jesus' words we are either stuck in the past or living in a future we do not yet have.' [2]

'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' 'What we hear depends greatly on what we bring to our listening. Do we bring our presence, openness and receptivity? The verses following today's reading indicate that while Jesus' words filled some of his followers with hope, there were many people in the synagogue who closed their minds to the message and the messenger.' [3]

Jesus proclaimed 'the year of the Lord's favour.' Pope Francis has declared the year 2025 a Holy Year of Jubilee and its theme is 'Pilgrims of hope.' The concept of Jubilee is rooted in the earliest days of Judeo-Christian tradition and its purpose was to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all creation – and ourselves. Hope is the message of today's gospel. On our journey through this year, we are being invited to be pilgrims of hope and healing to all that is poor, captive, blind and oppressed in ourselves, in others and in creation. 'Hope is a vitality of spirit which opens our eyes to the beauty of things, however imperilled, degraded, or difficult to love they may appear to be. We try to view the world not as it is packaged, presented and sold to us but as we imagine it could be. We do not look away from the world; we look directly at it and allow the spirit of hope - the necessary driver of change - to inspire us to action.' [4]

Adapted: [1] R.Rohr [2] Michael Marsh [3] galwaydioces.ie/reflection [4] Nick Cave

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th January 2025

Year C

Missal 975

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 25th January 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Catenians Province 10 Seamus Murphy	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Mary Margaret (Peggie) Flowers	
Tue 9.15am 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Kathleen Monk <i>Funeral Service:</i> Kathleen Monk	<i>Feast: St. Thomas Aquinas</i>
Wed 9.15am 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Nick Bryson <i>Funeral Service:</i> Nick Bryson	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Mr. Walters	7pm PLG meeting
Fri 9.15am 11.30am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Maureen Havard <i>Funeral Service:</i> Maureen Havard	<i>Feast: St. John Bosco</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joe Morrison	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Ann Elizabeth Lister Kathleen Connolly	The Presentation of the Lord

Last Weekend: Offertory: £541.40 + £136.00 card. Attendance: 246 (90+156).
S.P.U.C. £30 Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Joe Morrison, Cody Kim Platt, Claire Boyle.

Rosary

We pray the rosary, as Our Lady requested, for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass. All are welcome. The Rosary is said once a month at various churches. Please see dates on the board and take a card from the back of church.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embrey, Marie Morris, Michael Connors, John Mulholland, Deacon Tom Butler, Deacon Michael Dolan, Deacon Jim Maguire, Karen Hardman;

We pray for those who have died recently: Kathleen Monk, Marjorie Hindle, Nick Bryson, Kevin Embrey, Maureen Havard;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Robert Dobson, John Garvey, May Mee, John Cooper, John Howarth, Alan McLaughlin, Catherine Brennan, Elsie Gallagher, Celia Cherry, Gervase & Alice Bamber, John Kellett, James Robinson, Robert Taylor, Bill Moon, Bertha Frances Dawson, John Philips, Lena Carling, Helen McBride, Agnes Long, Brian Newsham, Margaret Newsham, Margaret Robinson.

Lancaster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 23rd – 30th July.
Please see the posters in church for both the main pilgrimage (from £949) and the youth section (from £795). Youth bookings prior to 11th February will receive a grant of £100. Includes flights from Liverpool, transfers, full board hotel accommodation, religious programme, levies and taxes. We have a few booking forms for both groups and you may also be able to check on: www.joewalshtrips.co.uk For more details contact the Director of Youth by email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

A Year of Hope: Introduction to the Jubilee Year

How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching this inspirational event (find it and other Jubilee resources at cafod.org.uk/jubilee). Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

Parish Leadership Group

Meets this Thursday at 7.00pm. If you would like to join please have a word with Fr. Peter. Minutes are published on the Notice Board in the porch.

Church Notice Boards

Thanks to Bernadette the Notice Boards in the porch are updated every week. There's lots of new and current information on them.

Offertory / donations giving

There was a positive response to the notes about the cost of money handling last week. Thank you. One thing missing was the details of the parish bank account for those who are setting up a standing order on their phone. It's a bit tricky! The name of the account in LRCCTR Parish of St Anthony-Preston. That's probably too long for the space allowed but St. Anthony-Preston should be acceptable along with the account number 81335308 and the sort code 40-27-02. Put your name down as the reference.

A reminder of the main points.

Standing orders cost the parish 15p each to receive, regardless of the amount donated, this is the cheapest method. However, four weekly donations costs 60p per month whereas a single monthly donation costs 15p per month so monthly donations are better. There are standing order forms at the back of church or you can probably do it by online banking.

Donating by card costs us 16p per £10 donated.

Donating cash costs 15p per £10 to pay into the bank and if you use pre-printed envelopes, each box of envelopes costs just over £2.

Cheques are the most expensive, costing 50p per cheque to clear plus £1.50 per month to pay our cheques into the bank. We don't get many cheques so if we only get one cheque in a month the value of that donation is reduced by £2.

Special Collections – those using envelopes regularly contribute to special collections. It is possible to donate to these by card, less easy by standing order.

This week we have to order new boxes of offertory envelopes. If you make donations by the card machine you probably don't need offertory envelopes in future. If you make monthly donations by standing order you may want to have Special Collection envelopes only. Please let us know.

The biggest benefit comes from donations that are Gift Aided. These add a further 25p for every £1 given if you are a tax payer. We need to update our Gift Aid lists so more about that soon. But if you do not currently Gift Aid your donations please take a Gift Aid declaration from the back of church. Thank you again for your support of our parish.