

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
Tel: 01772 725193 E-mail: stanthonyholyfamily@gmail.com
Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/



Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)
Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler (07853 777957)

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

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“That You May Come to Believe”

John, the author of today’s Gospel, deemed the story of the so-called “Doubting Thomas” an essential one to help us “come to believe.” John invites us to face our doubts, speak our fears, and yearn for more — more intimacy, more encounter, more experience of the living Christ. In Thomas we see a man who wouldn’t settle for someone else’s experience of resurrection, but stuck around in the hope of having his own; a man who dared to confess uncertainty in the midst of those who were certain; a man who recognised his Lord in scars, not in wonders. What is striking about Thomas’ story is not that he doubted, but that he did so publicly, without shame or guilt, and that his faith community allowed him to do so. And Jesus’ response was that he met Thomas right where he was, freely offering the disciple the testimony of his own scars, his own pain. Thomas’ story reminds us that resurrection is hard; hard to accept, hard to internalise and hard to apply to our lives, especially when our lives are marked by pain, loss, uncertainty and death. If nothing else, Thomas reminds us that faith isn’t straightforward. Accepting the resurrection, living it out, sharing it with the world, is tough. It’s okay to waver. It’s okay to take our time. It’s okay to hope for more.

John’s desire for his readers was that they would come to believe, that they would consent to the process, the path. The implication is that belief is not instantaneous. Conversion is a life-long process. Maybe this is why the earliest Christians referred to their new faith as “The Way.” A ‘way’ is not a destination. It’s a road to walk. It’s an invitation to journey. John chose an encounter between doubts and scars to help us come to believe. Though we are a resurrection people, we are also a people in pain. The world around us is wounded, and the scars we’re carrying will likely last a long time. Jesus’ scarred body resonates for us in so many ways. Jesus and his scars are everywhere. Jesus opened a way for Thomas through the marks of his own suffering and trauma, sharing his broken body so that Thomas could find his way to wholeness by accepting his own woundedness. The story that comes after Easter is a story of scars and doubts. This is a tremendous gift; ponder it “so that you may come to believe and that through believing you may have life in his name.”

Adapted: Debie Thomas journeywithjesus.net

Second Sunday of Easter Year C
24th April 2022 Missal: p465

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 23rd April 2022

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Agnes Dunnagan	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention (MH) For our parish	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday.</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Carol Nash	<i>Feast: S. Mark</i>
Tue 9.15am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>St. Ant</i>	Dennis Dawson <i>Funeral Service: Dennis Dawson</i>	<i>Feast: St. George</i>
Wed 9.15pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Sean Moran	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Special Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jean Fort	<i>Feast: St. Catherine of Siena</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dudley O'Gara	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For our parish Margaret Johnson	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>

Last Weekend: Attendance: 27914 (88, 191) Offertory: £970.
Good Friday (Holy Places) £85.00: Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Bill Lawler, Marie Gardner

Coffee after 7.00pm Mass

As promised, we are re-starting coffee after the Saturday vigil Mass as well as after the 9.30am Mass every weekend.

Livestreaming Mass

The 9.30am Sunday Mass from St. Anthony's church is livestreamed. Go to the St. Anthony of Padua YouTube page for the link.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Lawler, Mandy Davis, Frank Stanton, Jo Counsell, Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, Theresa Wilkinson, Bill Embery, Carole Adnitt, Gary Adnitt, Lawrence Dunnagan, Les Farrer, Rev. Tom Butler.

We pray for the souls of those recently departed this life: Richard Yates, George Crook, Doreen Elizabeth Cook, Dennis Dawson;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Eileen Jackson, Trish Cooper, baby Molly Walmsley, Dudley O'Gara, Marjorie Flynn, Gertrude & Frances Dewhurst, Alicia Evans, Ann Osbaldeston, Theresa Crook. May they rest in peace.

THANK YOU

for the Easter cards and offerings and kind wishes during Holy Week and Easter. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated. Fr. Peter

Film Nights – The CHOSEN

Join us in the Padua Room for eight weeks to watch this TV drama about the life of Jesus and the people he chose. The first meeting is Wednesday 18th May at 7.00pm. You can watch the trailer here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-AJdKty74M>. Pick up a flyer with more details or speak with Jackie Stopyra on 07934 667292.

Schools back

Children return from Easter holidays this week. The next first holy communion preparation session is on Wednesday.

Fairtrade

The Fairtrade stall will be set up for the 9.30am Mass next Sunday.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Are there any events being organised in the parish which should be publicised in the Parish newsletter? Let us know.

Offertory envelopes and Gift Aid

The new sets of Offertory envelopes are in the porch. Please let us know if you have changed address during the past year, or if you don't currently have envelopes and would like some. Put your name and address in the Offertory basket. If you want to start giving by Standing Order please pick up details from the porch. Thank you.

Sunday 5pm Mass

We started the extra Mass on Sundays when we were having to keep 2-metre distancing in church. As we are now getting back to normal there isn't the same need for this Mass at 5.00pm.

Chaplaincy Vacancy

There is a Chaplaincy vacancy at Lancaster Farms HMP. The closing date is 22nd April. For more details please see visit: <https://justicejobs.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-15/user-972588/xf-88538047255b/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/3/opp/56531>

Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)

Guidance on how Catholic households can support Ukrainian refugees at www.csan.org.uk/ukraine. It is good to know that the Diocese is looking into how diocesan property may be used to help the situation.

World Youth Day 2023

A small group from our Diocese will go to Lisbon to take part in this wonderful celebration our faith. If you are a young person (18-25) who may be interested, please visit www.castleriggmanor.com for more details.