

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RON PETERS WHO CELEBRATED
90. YES, I SAID, NINETY YEARS OF LIFE THIS PAST
THURSDAY, 25 JULY!!!**

You have lived through 18 Prime Ministers from Ramsey MacDonald to Boris Johnson, but only 3 Kings and one Queen, from George V to Elizabeth II. There have been only 8 Popes, several with long terms, from Pope Pius XI to Pope Francis. There have been 17 Franciscan parish priests at St. Anthony, from Fr. Bonaventure, the first friar, to Fr. Matthew and a few Brothers. Some served more than one term, and you have outlived all but four of us, I think!

We wish you as many years as God will give you as well as more years of married happiness with Pam and your children and your children's children!

**MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU! MAY HE TURN HIS FACE TO YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU! MAY HE LOOK UPON YOU AND YOUR FAMILY KINDLY
AND GIVE YOU PEACE!**

MAY ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA WATCH OVER YOU!

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet this week, Friday, 2 August at 10:30 AM in the Friary Dining Room. Teresa Collins at 01797 230 609 or teresacollinsfair1980@gmail.com IF YOU CAN'T COME TO THE FRIARY, TAKE A PAMPHLET HOME AND SAY THE PRAYERS AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

PREPARING FOR PARISH CONSECRATION: Please remember to pray each day for our consecration!

Dowry Tour of Our Lady of Walsingham/Consecration of England: Our Lady of Walsingham Statue is making a tour of the dioceses and their cathedrals in England in preparation of the consecration of England to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She will be in our cathedral in Arundel from **Thursday 28th November until Saturday, 30th November**. We hope to organize a trip to the cathedral on one of those days.

14 Sept: Fr. Matt recites a prayer for his personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the 6:00 PM Mass.

Pilgrimage to Walsingham: We are organizing a parish trip to Walsingham as part of our preparation for parish consecration in December. Our dates are 8, 9, and 10 October. One of our parishioners has generously offered to pay for a mini-bus for us so expenses for all of us are reduced.

13-14 Oct: CHANGE: I have decided to put off the individual consecrations until AFTER Fr. Jobe comes to tell us about the Militia Immaculatae (MI) sometime after the beginning of next year. It seems to me that people will understand the individual consecration better after Fr. Jobe's explanation. Then we can decide whether to do the individual consecrations at Mass, as a group or in a separate ceremony.

Parish Consecration: On the weekend of 7-8th December at all the Masses.

Early Next Year: Fr. Jobe Abbass, OFM Conv., whom you know from his previous visits, will come to Rye to speak to us about the Militia Immaculatae which will be a fitting fruit of our parish consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Fr. Jobe is presently travelling to every parish in Our Lady of Angels Province promoting the MI.

PLEASE KEEP SUNDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER OPEN IN YOUR DIARIES. As you know, we have an image of Our Lady of Czestochowa in our church. Many people ask me why she is here. I tell them the story as I know it and eventually, we will put the story beneath the picture. I would like to expand the shrine and include some Polish saints. (St. Laudislaus, St. John Paull II, St. Faustina, St. Max Kolbe, our Polish martyrs in Peru, and some others.) This will be our "Poland in Rye". On the afternoon of 15 September, we will have a shrine blessing including the Rosary, Litany of Our Lady of Czestochowa and other prayers and hymns. Afterwards we will continue the celebration with a delicious Polish dinner. This event will be open to the public and we plan to advertise it especially to our Polish friends within the deanery. With hope, this will bring more people to St. Anthony Church on that day and in the future. **God has given us this magnificent image of Our Lady. Let us show our appreciation for this gift and take spiritual advantage of it with this celebration.** I think that this will be one of the more important days in the history of our parish. Please plan on attending.

In view of the great confusion about the Sacrament of Marriage in our culture, I thought that it would be helpful to all people to read this exhortation to couples who are renewing their marriage vows. If you

understand these words, you will have no problem seeing why the Catholic Church does not let any other arrangement to be called, “marriage”.

In marriage you have entered into a union which is most sacred and most serious --- **a union which was established by God Himself**. By it, He gave to man a share in the greatest work of creation, the work of the continuation of the human race. And in this way, He sanctified human love and enabled man and woman to live as children of God, by sharing a common life under His Fatherly care.

Because God Himself is thus its Author, marriage of its very nature is a holy institution, requiring a complete and unreserved giving of self. But Christ Our Lord added to the holiness of marriage an even deeper meaning and higher beauty. He wishes your love in marriage to mirror and relive His own love for His Church. And so, He gave to Christians a new vision of what married life ought to be --- a life of self-sacrifice and love like His own. It is for this reason that His apostle, St. Paul, clearly states that marriage is for all time to be considered a great mystery, intimately bound up with the supernatural union of Christ and the Church --- which union is also to be the pattern of marriage. {Ephesians 5}

This union, then, is most serious because it binds you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate, that it profoundly influences your whole future. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and pains, joys, and sorrows, is as hidden from your eyes now, as it was on your wedding day. You know that those elements are mingled in every life and are still to be expected in your own. Not knowing what was before you, you once took each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part. Now you are going to repeat that taking of each other, and you ought to repeat it often; on your anniversary; as a pledge of a fresh beginning after some error; perhaps alone after Holy Communion; perhaps together kneeling before a Crucifix in the evening.

Truly, then, these words are most serious. It was a beautiful tribute to your undoubted faith in each other that, recognizing their full import, you were, on the day of your wedding so willing and ready to pronounce them and because these words involved such solemn obligations, it was most fitting that you should rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And so, you began your married life **by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives** in the interest of that deeper and wider life which you were to have in common.

From that moment you belonged to each other. You wished to be one in mind, one in heart, and one in affections. And whatever sacrifices you might, thereafter, be required to make to preserve this common life, you were resolved always to make them generously. Renew this resolve now!

Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy; and **perfect love can make it a joy**. We are willing to give in proportion as we love, and when love is perfect, the sacrifice is complete. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and the Son so loved us that He gave Himself for our salvation. **“Greater love than this no man has that a man lay down his life for his friends.”**

No greater blessing could possibly come to your married life than pure conjugal love --- loyal and true to the end. May, then, this love with which you again join your hands and hearts, never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice continue to guide your every action, you can await with certainty the greatest measure of earthly happiness. The rest is still in the hands of God. **God cannot fail to meet your needs, for He has pledged you the lifelong support of His graces in the holy sacrament that you have received.**

Congratulations to Kevin and Casta Bishop, who were married in St. Anthony Church 11 years ago this past Friday, 26 July, on which date they renewed their vows here in the presence of their two daughters!

God chose to begin the human race with the family of Adam and Eve. He chose to send His Son, Jesus, among us within the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. These two facts alone prove the importance and sacredness of the human family both on earth and as a means to gain Heaven. Catholics must defend God's rights over His people by defending marriage whenever we can.

Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us that we may remain in the Family of God all the days of our lives!

