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# Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

10th December 2023

**God is love: he who dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him. In Jesus Christ we see how God loves us.**  
A warm welcome to everyone from  
Fr. Maximillian McKeown, OFM Conv, Parish Priest  
Rev. Simon South, Deacon



## Times of Mass This Week

10 Dec. Sunday	2nd Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM
10 Dec. Sunday		10:45 AM
11 Dec. Monday		9:00 AM
12 Dec. Tuesday		9:00 AM
13 Dec. Wed		9.00 AM
14 Dec. Thurs		9.00 A.M
15 Dec. Friday		9:00 AM
16 Dec. Saturday		9:00 AM
16 Dec. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL)	6.00 P.M



Thank you for your generous donations last week, towards to running of our Parish .



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED, ESPECIALLY**, Ron Peters, Guy Horton, Mary Byrne, Catherine Bowles, Richard Carey, John Kilroy, Ann Hamilton, Marcella Duckworth, Penny Setterfield, Dominique Chapious, Roy Godwin, Dorothy and Peter Van Heuven. Patricia Swain, Veronica Pragnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-Smith, Tom Healey, John Russell, Timothy O'Sullivan, Tim Hodge and members of our parish, families, friends, and acquaintances.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Sheila Miller, Audrey Hatter, Kathleen Sherwood, Monica Flint, Richard Horner, Coleen, Louis Carnell, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela's sister), Sr Loretta Dooley and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

## A voice crying in the wilderness

Isn't it easy in the current world to feel that as Christian voices we are truly in the wilderness and calling out in vain with nobody listening?

But just as John the Baptist faces the same challenge with zeal and commitment, Pope Francis has recently set us all a challenge to follow this very example. Earlier this year he said "In the face of our secularized world, let us not complain, but see in it a call to prove our faith and an invitation to communicate the joy of the Gospel." He continues "Faith is the light that leads us to the Lord. Let this light shine in our lives so that it may also illuminate the paths of those who do not yet believe."

The season of Advent is the ideal time to reflect on the reality of the last year and to consider what we can do in the year ahead to bring our faith to life, to let the light within us shine to those around us. To consider in what way we can prepare the coming of Christ in our own small way, in our own small neighbourhoods. It's highly unlikely that any of us are being called to don our loin cloth and march into the desert to live of the land but we are all called in our own way, through the experience of our lives to proclaim the coming of Christ into the world, through our love for our community, the love of our neighbour, the sharing of our faith experience to others or simply the way we share a smile with the lonely, the sad, the lost or the homeless. This is how we cry out in the wilderness of the world.



## Just a thought ....

Throughout scripture, both Old and New, the message is again and again the importance of community. The family becomes a clan, the clan becomes a tribe and the tribe becomes a people. The disciples and followers of Christ became a community. In turn Jesus reminds those listening to Him in the Synagogues that is wasn't just His direct family who were outside looking for Him because, everyone who follows Him are also "His family" (Mt 12:48-50) —a family following Jesus and it is for this reason that successive Popes have all referred to the Parish as " a family made up of families" or " a community of communities"- a phrase used by Bishop Richard in his recent Pastoral letter to us at the Feast of Christ the King.



The point which brings us all together and unifies us, is the reality that we have all been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our Spiritual journey to eternity relies on the support, the encouragement, the love of the whole community for each other.

How are we as "the little children of God" preparing His way to enter in glory to Rye in East Sussex in the hearts of the people around us. Welcoming them into our Parish Family. The family of Christ.

## Bring a friend to Christ this Christmas

Do you know someone who has been going through a tough time this year? Do you know someone who has fallen away from the Church for whatever reason? Do you know someone who is looking for something in their lives, but doesn't quite know what it is they are looking for?

Wouldn't it be a wonderful gift of love and grace to invite that person, that family member, to come along to experience the hope and joy of Advent and true meaning of Christmas and the coming of our saviour Jesus Christ. God loves us so completely He gives His only begotten Son for the salvation of all humanity. Let's share this gift of hope and joy with a loving heart this Advent.

**"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. " (Rom15:7)**



## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

As we heard in the Bishop's Pastoral Letter last Sunday, the new plan for the Diocese is being launched to all Parishes on 2nd January. To understand what this means for our faith journey and the impact on our Parish, we will be holding a meeting on **Saturday 6th January at St Mary's Hall 10.30a.m.– 1.00p.m.** (by the Kino) **Do come along to hear the plans and to share your thoughts and ideas for our community**



## Planning for Christmas

- ♦ Christmas Eve is a Sunday. Sunday Mass will be as usual 8.00a.m. and 10.45a.m.
- ♦ Christmas Vigil Mass will be at 6.00p.m. on Christmas Eve  
**(THERE IS NO MIDNIGHT MASS THIS YEAR)**
- ♦ Christmas Day Mass will be at 10.00a.m.



**OUR SCRITURE GROUP IS NOT MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 8th JANUARY**