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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

17th 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

17 Dec. Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent "Gaudete Sunday"	8:00 AM
17 Dec. Sunday		10:45 AM
18 Dec. Monday		9:00 AM
19 Dec. Tuesday		9:00 AM
20 Dec. Wed		9.00 AM
21 Dec. Thurs		9.00 A.M
22 Dec. Friday		9:00 AM
23 Dec. Saturday		9:00 AM
23 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.

What do we mean by Joy?

When someone is looking to join the Church today, they are enrolled on the RCIA programme (Roman Catholic Initiation for Adults).

The starting session on the journey to exploring their call to faith begins with considering what is it in life that truly brings us joy? Our modern consumerist world brainwashes us that joy comes at the end of a credit card—with stuff that will just fill our homes but not our hearts—as the letter to the Hebrews reminds us “ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for Jesus has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Heb 13:5).



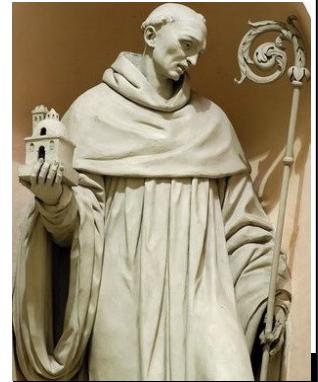
In our human nature we are constantly seeking that certain something that we feel is missing—we are striving to find that itch we just can't seem to scratch and this is the angle that commercial advertisers try to monopolise. But as we hear in Isaiah today, that missing thing is not really missing—that “missing” part that brings us total joy is the gift God has already given to us—His very Spirit. The challenge we create for ourselves is when we don't allow that Spirit to grow and flourish within us; when we don't allow the Spirit to nourish our soul through prayer, charitable acts for others and living the Gospel message of eternal hope.

As we embrace this glorious truth we are able to say as Isaiah does today—“ I exalt for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for He has clothed me in the garment of salvation”.

Just a thought

WHAT BRINGS JOY TO THE HEART IS NOT THE WORK WHICH WE DO, BUT THE LOVE THAT INSPIRED THE WORK THAT WE DO .

Aelred of Rievaulx



When we do something for another out of love, with no desire for personal benefit or recognition, this is a true act of God's mercy working through us. We need only consider the gift God brings us on this and every Christmas—the unconditional self giving of His only begotten Son for the salvation of us all. The giving of Himself so that we might all be with Him.

What motivates us to do things?

Do we act out of love of God and love of our neighbour?

Saint Aelred of Rievaulx 12th-century Abbot, Spiritual Writer

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, to experience the hope and joy of Advent and true meaning of Christmas and the coming of our saviour Jesus Christ. **"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. " (Rom15:7)**

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Bishop Richard has written a new Pastoral Plan for the Diocese which will be released in the New Year: 'The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission'. As society becomes more secular our parishes must be ever-clearer beacons of light guiding people to Christ. The new Plan highlights how our community of faith can embrace this important time of renewal, forging diocesan parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. The Pastoral Plan will be released on the diocesan website on Tuesday 2 January: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan

The Bishop met with members of Clergy earlier this week and will be hosting a Pastoral Plan Webinar for people across our diocesan community on Wednesday 10 January at 7.30pm. Please use the following the link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>.

To understand what this means for our faith journey and the impact on our Parish here in Rye, 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