

St Anthony of Padua

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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

3rd 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

03 Dec. Sunday	1st Sunday of Advent	8:00 AM
03 Dec. Sunday		10:45 AM
04 Dec. Monday		9:00 AM
05 Dec. Tuesday		9:00 AM
06 Dec. Wed		9.00 AM
07 Dec. Thurs		9.00 A.M
08 Dec. Friday		9:00 AM
09 Dec. Saturday		9:00 AM
09 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.

Advent. A time for preparation.

I always think that the words of Isaiah are so beautifully poetic and full of wonderful thought provoking images wrapped in words. And today's extract does not disappoint.

Advent is a time of looking back over the preceding year and reflecting how our faith has been lived out. A chance to reflect and make some changes for the year ahead. Have we had a good year? Have we hit a few challenges? Have we found ourselves getting a little lost or wavering in our faith?

The new year is a chance to reflect, regroup and to go again. And this is where Isaiah gives us a wonderful image to reflect upon, as he reminds us that we are the clay and that God is the potter.

Just as the potters hands shape, mould and form the clay, we too have the opportunity to allow God to do the same with us, if we become pliable and malleable in His hands, giving ourselves to His will for us. Allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us and lead us to a more intimate, deepened relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our Emmanuel.

The ups and downs of life are like the potters hands travelling up and down the clay, each passing of the potters hands removing a little roughness or unevenness from the finished article, so that one day we might stand in the presence of God "formed" in the image and likeness of Christ.



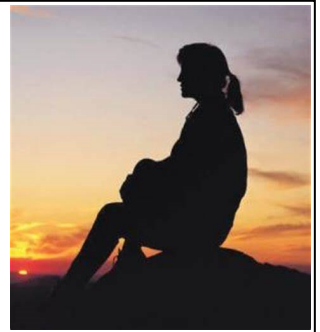
Just a thought

In today's second reading, St Paul affirms to us that "we have been enriched" in so many ways "thanks to our encounter with Jesus Christ" and that as a result of this encounter we "will never be without the gifts of the Holy Spirit".

In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*, (3) Pope Francis calls us all as he invites "all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, **since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord**. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that He is already there, waiting for us with open arms. "

As we prepare ourselves through Advent for the coming of our Saviour—let's ask ourselves and important question to get us started—

- How can I deepen that encounter, getting to know and to see Jesus in my life each day?

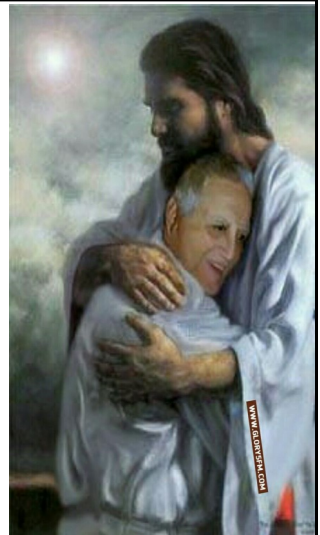


Bring a friend to Christ this Christmas

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. As Pope Francis tells (see above) "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord"

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.



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 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 UNTIL 8th JANUARY , WE ARE TAKING A BREAK OVER ADVENT WHILE EVERYONE IS SO BUSY.