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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

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

7th January 2024



Times of Mass This Week

07 Jan. Sunday	Epiphany	8:00 AM
07 Jan. Sunday		10:45 AM
08 Jan. Monday	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	9:00 AM
09 Jan. Tuesday		9:00 AM
10 Jan. Wed		9:00 AM
11 Jan. Thurs		9:00 AM
12 Jan. Friday		9:00 AM
13 Jan. Saturday		9:00 AM
13 Jan. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL)	6.00 PM



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, Michael Jacobs, Coleen, Louis Carnell, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Sr Loretta Dooley and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

A new look for the Diocese in 2024

Bishop Richard launched his updated Pastoral Plan for A&B, with the all his clergy two weeks before Christmas and as such the full plan is now available on the Diocesan website – www.abdiocese.org.uk . There is also going to be a webinar with the Bishop for anyone to join on 10th January to hear the details (see link on the Diocesan website to register for the event).



I think the important and first point to share is that "structurally" the plan will not affect us here at St Anthony's, as we are a Franciscan Parish with a dotted line to the Diocese (also, we thank the good Lord that Father Max is very happy to stay with us going forward).

The structural plans will however, affect most of the Parishes around the Diocese and it was important to Father Max and I, that you are aware of this as many of you have friends and family within other Parishes and who will be more directly affected. And so, it was important that we made you aware of the changes to come to both put your minds at ease and also to make you aware of the changes you might see or experience when visiting other Parishes.

Driven by the reducing numbers of Parish Priests, the old structure of Parishes forming a Deanery will be coming to an end. Instead, Diocesan Parishes are going to be joined together to make "Moderated Parishes". What this means in real terms is that the Diocesan Parishes (continued over)

will not have a permanent Priest allocated to them but will be served by a team of Priests who will share the Ministry of cover the Parishes for Mass, Confession, key liturgical moments, etc. St Anthony's will still be part of the St Leonards and Eastbourne geography or "Moderated Parish" as it is called going forward but we will continue to have Fr Max as our permanent PP.

Because of the size of our geography across St Leonards and Eastbourne there will be 2 moderated Parishes one based in Hastings, and one based in Eastbourne.

The plans within the Diocese are to roll this structure out gradually, so as not to cause too much disruption and to ensure things are set up and explained fully, as it is bound to be a time of questions and concerns. With this in mind the plans are currently for our part of East Sussex to be restructured in November 2024. So until November it is fully business as usual across Eastbourne and St Leonards.

With the reality of Parishes operating without a "designated" Parish Priest an important aspect of the future of each Parish will be the active pastoral role that the congregation will play in supporting, encouraging and holding the community together in faith.

With this in mind, a central focus of the Pastoral Plan that will explore how we celebrate our faith going forward and how each Parish works together to fulfil Bishop Richard's vision for the Diocese. This vision (part of the plan) which calls us as follows -

"I invite everyone - lay faithful, religious, deacons and priests - to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints and strong, lively, and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life and where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognised."

Acknowledging that through our baptism we are all called to share in the royal priesthood of Christ (1Peter 2:9), all of us are called to work towards this vision in the best way we can, whether through prayer for the faithful, the mission of the Parish or the call to vocation, supporting the Parish in the teaching and sharing of our faith or in the small things like the welcome that we share with visitors to our parish on a Sunday.

We will be looking at how we build a stronger active prayer life in parishes, and how we can teach people to have the understanding and confidence needed to share our faith, and proclaim the Gospel either in words and or in our daily lives

As we approach any type of change it is so important that we are supporting each other and being there for each other, as change can affect everyone in very different ways. Things that someone may see as an exciting opportunity, may be a genuine cause of discomfort for another person. I think it's important for us to remember the message at the heart of the Acts of the Apostles, that the glue that holds the followers of Christ together is the grace of God, that is manifest through the relationships of our community, our Parish Family.

Through this year there will be many opportunities to come together at St Anthony's, to share our ideas and faith together and to offer each other the support and love that Jesus calls us to do, in a synodal way.

Do keep an eye on the newsletters over the coming months, pray for the Church across the world and for our wonderful parish, that we may flourish and grow closer to God, through Jesus and with the love and support of each other.

If there are any questions or you would like to talk this through in more detail or you just have questions, please do not hesitate to ask either Fr Max or me.

OUR SCRITURE Group begins again Monday 8th January after a break over Christmas. We will meet at the Hub on the Hill at 3.30p.m. till 5.00p.m. to discuss the Gospels and their meaning to us in our everyday lives. All are welcome.