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# Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

25th February 2024

**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

25 Feb. Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent	8:00 AM
25 Feb. Sunday		10:45 AM
26 Feb. Monday		9:00 AM
27 Feb. Tuesday		9:00 AM
28 Feb. Wednesday		9.00 AM
29 Feb. Thursday		9.00 AM
01 Mar. Friday	<i>Station of the Cross after Mass</i>	9:00 AM
02 Mar. Saturday		9:00 AM
02 Mar. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL 3rd Sunday of Lent)	6.00 PM



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

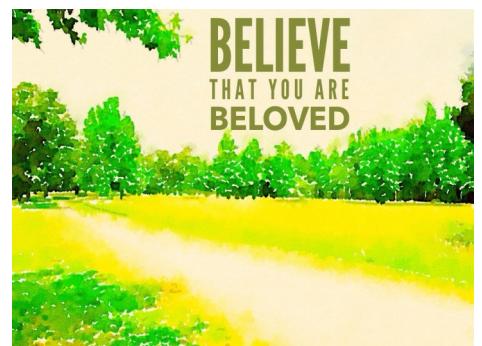


**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED, ESPECIALLY**, Ron Peters, Guy Horton, Mary Byrne, Catherine Bowles, Richard Carey, John Kilroy, Ann Hamilton, Marcella Duckworth, Penny Setterfield, Dominique Chapious, Roy Godwin, Dorothy and Peter Van Heuven. Patricia Swain, Veronica Pragnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-Smith, 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, Nigel Winborne (Friend of Keith) and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

## "You are my beloved"

In today's Gospel we hear God repeating the words that He spoke at the Baptism of our Lord—"this is my Son, the Beloved". These words are a beautiful and loving outpouring of a father for his son. But they are also the words God says to each and every one of us. Through our baptism we are the brothers and sisters of Christ. The Holy Spirit dwells in each of our hearts—equally. God made us and gave us the precious gift of faith. We—you are God's beloved child.



And yet this is something that so many of us struggle with as a statement of faith. This is where the genuine outpouring of God's love becomes a challenging reality for our hearts to believe and our mind's to comprehend. Firstly, do we embrace and believe that we are, individually the beloved child of God? If we need further affirmation, we need only reflect on the message of the prodigal son to see the welcome that awaits us all as we accept this reality. And secondly do we embrace and believe that those around us are also the beloved children of God? Is this fact reflected in how we relate to the people around us? Do we really see them as God's beloved too?

The more we are able to embrace this message, the more we are able to fulfil Christ's call to love our neighbour as our self—because our neighbour—who is also God's beloved child, is equally entitled to His love as we are. Embracing this truth, we are brought to the words of St Paul this week—"who are we to judge?" And "if God is for us, who can be against us?"

## Just a thought....

Todays reading from Romans (8:31-34) is an awesome (in its truest sense) statement of God's love for us all.

**Why not spend some time in prayer and reflection on this reading through the week—**

"Who Can Separate us from the Love of Christ? What then can we say in response to all this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for all of us. How then can he fail also to give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who acquits. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus, who died, or rather rose again, who is at God's right hand and intercedes for us?"

- What is it saying to you about your relationship with God?
- What is it saying about your relationship with Christ?
- What is God calling you to do this week?

**"If God is for us, who can be against us?"**



## Worth Abbey Young Adults Easter Retreat

This is always a great way of celebrating the gift of Easter, alongside other like-minded young Catholics.

They will be completing a Cross walk between 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March, and then there will be the retreat from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March. You can make the most of either one or both of these wonderful opportunities!

Visit the webpage to find out more <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme/>

## Diocesan "Invited" Lenten programme

The Diocese are running an online Lenten reflection programme every Thursday throughout Lent this year. Journey with Christ and share your experience with members of the Diocese family.

- Thursday, 22 February 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, 29 February 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, 7 March 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, 14 March 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, 21 March 7:00pm - 8:30pm



To register go to the Diocese website ([Arundel and Brighton.org.uk](http://ArundelandBrighton.org.uk))—and click on the "Invited" link.

**Stations of the Cross will be held after 9.00a.m. Mass every Friday throughout Lent.**

If you cannot make this, we will leave the books out at the back of the Church so that you can journey with Christ when you have finished work.

**OUR SCRIPTURE GROUP meets 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.**

## Parish Safeguarding Representative

The safety and well being of all our Parish Family is a central priority for us here at St Anthony's. Should you have any concern that you feel unable to raise with Fr Max or Deacon Simon our Parish Safeguarding Rep will be happy to speak to you in total confidence.

Valerie Wright can be contacted by email on [sg1rye@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1rye@abdiocese.org.uk)

