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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

10th March 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

10 Mar. Sunday	4th Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare</i>	8:00 AM
10 Mar. Sunday		10:45 AM
11 Mar. Monday		9:00 AM
12 Mar. Tuesday		9:00 AM
13 Mar. Wednesday		9:00 AM
14 Mar. Thursday		9:00 AM
15 Mar. Friday	<i>Station of the Cross after Mass</i>	9:00 AM
16 Mar. Saturday		9:00 AM
16 Mar. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL 5th Sun.)	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.

"We are loved, we are saved"

How often do we find ourselves emotionally beating ourselves up or judging ourselves? And so often we can be really harsh on ourselves. There's nothing like a good dose of self imposed Catholic guilt to get you going in the morning. But are we being Christ like in doing this?

Todays readings affirm to us that we are treating ourselves unfairly because there is no judge other than God, and that paradoxically God does not judge us when we judge ourselves.

In the first reading from 2 Chronicles, feeling unloved and abandoned, the Jewish nation are reminded that "God tirelessly sent messengers after messengers" (prophets and angels) because He wanted to save His chosen ones. He never abandons His people, He is continually showing His mercy to those who turn to Him in sorrow and faith.

St Paul continues this message, reminding us of God's unconditional love because "God loves us with so much love that He is continuously generous with His mercy" and that "Christ will raise us up with Himself". In the Gospel we read the glorious message of hope in the promise of eternal life to come that is God's wish for us all. Christ is our healing balm, our guide through life and our salvation.

"God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved". God is always with us, He is continuously showing us His mercy and He gives His only Son to guide and heal us when we get it wrong. Perhaps we can show ourselves a little mercy now and again?

Just a thought....

A prayer based on St Pauls letter to the Ephesians

Eternal Father,

I shelter in Your greatness and give to You my life here on earth.

Give me the courage and the strength not to rely solely on my own understanding, but to have faith in Your wisdom, Your mercy and Your Son.

Allow me to be thankful for all your blessings, and help me so that I can refine my actions according to Your will. Let your greatness fill my heart to the brim, and let your love overflow from my heart, that I may spread Your glory into the hearts of those who You send into my daily life.

Your love is greater than all created things.

Through Christ, I pray this prayer of hope.

Amen.



Simon Dewey

Why *Laetare* Sunday?

Laetare means “rejoice”. On *Laetare* Sunday (like the third Sunday of Advent’s, *Gaudete* Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. The liturgical colour changes from the purple of mourning to rose — this change in colour indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the sombre days of *Passiontide*.

The joy of Easter being around the corner is symbolised in a few other interesting liturgical traditions. At one time, marriages were generally forbidden during Lent, but *Laetare* Sunday was often associated as a day when marriages could be celebrated during the penitential season. While marriages are now only forbidden on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, *Laetare* Sunday is still a fitting day for those wishing to be married before *Eastertide*.



Laetare Sunday is the Church’s way of giving us encouragement as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It’s an opportunity to savour and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

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

