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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 them. 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

21st April 2024



Times of Mass This Week

21 Apr. Sunday	<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 AM
21 Apr Sunday		10.45 AM
22 Apr. Monday		9:00 AM
23 Apr. Tuesday	St George's Day	9:00 AM
24 Apr. Wednesday		9.00 AM
25 Apr. Thursday	St Mark the Evangelist	9.00 AM
26 Apr. Friday		9:00 AM
27 Apr. Saturday		9:00 AM
27 Apr. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL th Easter Sunday)	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, Nigel Winborne 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, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Carol Gearing and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.

Jesus is our only salvation

It always seems an unusual metaphor doesn't it to call the followers of Christ "His sheep". Overfed, fluffy and dopey things that amble around the fields sticking together, just following the crowd, come rain and come shine.

But this is not the biblical reality of the sheep and their shepherd. This opening image does not reflect the beautiful message of hope that the shepherd brings to his flock and the complete reliance they have on him.



Life in the Holy Lands was stark. There were no rolling green hills for the flocks to graze on. Sheep were hungry, vulnerable and just getting by. Pickings on the hillside were at best sparse for much of the year. Add into the equation the wolves, the thieves and the harshness of drought and the image I opened with is soon forgotten. But starkness brings a clear vision of the metaphor that our "Good Shepherd" brings into our lives; without the shepherd in the wilderness there is no life for His sheep. Without Christ we are "lost sheep" scrapping by—surviving.

Through Christ we are brought the nourishment we need in the form of the Eucharist. Through the teachings of Christ we are given the protection from the wolves and bandits of the world, that seek to take our lives . And through the care and nurturing of our Good Shepherd we are guided and shepherded, to the heavenly pasture of plenty and the glory of eternal life in God's presence.

Just a thought...

This week we begin our look at the Vatican's latest document entitled "Dignitas Infinita" or "On Human Dignity" published just two weeks ago. The four specific areas that are brought to the attention of all the faithful are 1. Poverty, war and human trafficking, 2. Abortion and surrogacy (and violence against women), 3. Gender theory and 4. Digital Violence. The objective of the document is to shine a spot light on the darkness that is in the world and the salvation that humanity needs, that is living a life with and through Christ.



Poverty, war and human trafficking.

The first aspect mentioned is poverty, labelled by Pope Francis as "one of the greatest injustices in the contemporary world" (36). Pope Leo XIII (1898 in *Rerum Novarum*) declared that, for human dignity to be realised in every person, everyone has the right to work and earn sufficient money to raise a family, the right to own their own property in a safe environment and with a "just" distribution of the world's resources.

Then there is war, "another tragedy that denies human dignity", and always a "defeat of humanity" (38), to the point that "it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war.'" (39). This was raised by Pope Benedict XVI in that with modern technology and weapons, war becomes the threat of the complete obliteration of peoples/nations, just as we see in Gaza at this moment in history.

The Document also discusses the "travail of migrants", whose "lives are put at risk because they no longer have the means to start a family, to work, or to feed themselves" (40). Since WWII much of the Western (US and European) economic strategy and foreign policy has been to "convince" the world, the only way to true happiness is the "western lifestyle" of consumerism, while globalisation and the World Bank have stripped third world nations of resources, liberty and dignity. Pope Francis has strongly condemned the "hypocrisy" of the west who represent the majority of the top players in the arms trade of selling destruction, while ignoring the fall out and impact of their profiteering. The document then dwells on "human trafficking", which is taking on "tragic dimensions" and is described as "vile activity, a disgrace to our societies that claim to be civilized". The Declaration invites "exploiters and clients" to make a serious examination of conscience (41).

Similarly, it calls for the fight against phenomena such as "the marketing of human organs and tissues, the sexual exploitation of boys and girls, slave labour, including prostitution, the drug and weapons trade, terrorism, and international organized crime" (42).

The document also mentions sexual abuse, which leaves "deep scars in the hearts of those who suffer it": these are "sufferings that can last a lifetime and that no repentance can remedy" (43).

Discrimination and violence against women are then discussed. Among the latter are listed "coercive abortions, which affect both mother and child, often to satisfy the selfishness of males" and "the practice of polygamy" (45). Femicide is also strongly condemned (46).



Pope Leo XIII often referred to as the father of Catholic Social teachings, from his encyclical of 1898 '*rerum novarum*'

OUR SCRIPTURE GROUP next meets on Monday's 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. For more information see Angela Tyson.

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

