

St Anthony of Padua

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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

28th April 2024



Times of Mass This Week

28 Apr. Sunday	<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 AM
28 Apr Sunday		10.45 AM
29 Apr. Monday	Saint Catherine of Siena	9:00 AM
30 Apr. Tuesday		9:00 AM
01 May. Wednesday		9.00 AM
02 May. Thursday		9.00 AM
03 May. Friday	St Philip & James Apostles	9:00 AM
04 May. Saturday	The English Martyrs	9:00 AM
04 May. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL 6th 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.

I am the Vine

Today's Gospel continues the farming metaphor from last week's Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd reminded us of the complete reliance that we, as the flock, have on our shepherd for our very lives, our nourishment, our guidance and our in life direction.

Today's image takes this relationship of reliance and dependency to an even deeper level. Running through the vine to the branches is the very sap of life, coursing through the "veins" of the vine and we are the branches on the vine of God's love and grace.



Christ is reminding us that He is the very life force pulsing through our being, giving us life and giving us purpose. After all, the branch can't produce any fruit without the life giving gift of the vine itself, just as we are unable to love, grow and flourish without the indwelling Christ in our lives.

It is through our relationship with Christ and each other that we are able to "remain" in Christ. As a community in Christ we must remember the grapes grow in communities (bunches) and there are many bunches on the vine. You don't see a single grape hanging on the vine do you? As we grow in faith we are called to share our life lessons, our challenges—our witness of faith, with all those around us so we might help them find their way in life, through the gift of Christ.

Just a thought... understanding the Church teaching.

This week we look at the second area raised in Pope Francis recent document "On Human Dignity" and it is the very difficult and challenging topics of Abortion and Surrogacy.

Firstly, I say in advance, that if any of today's topics raise a concern or difficulty for you or your loved ones we are here for you. These are very emotive and personal issues that strike very much at our hearts and if you feel you would like to talk in confidence and privacy, please do speak to Dcn Simon or Fr Max who would be honoured to listen and journey with you.

A good place to start on a challenging journey is to hold tightly to the affirmation that the dignity of all humanity is sacrosanct and that Christ, through His endless love has come to lead **us all** to eternity in the embrace of the loving Father and in all our conversations this must always remain at the forefront of our thinking and actions.

The second and sadly contrasting reality of our modern world is that "dignity" has very often become usurped by the phrase "my right" (25). And furthermore. the perception being that "my right" is more important than "your right", especially if I shout louder than you.

The condemnation of planned abortion remains the starting point in this document, referring to JP II comments in *Evangelium Vitae*. And yet from a pastoral perspective we must remember that it is not our place to judge. We do not know the reality or turmoil of the women who makes this choice and their circumstances at that specific moment in time, nor must we forget the sadness and hurt that is carried by those involved going forward. Christ comes to heal those who seek Him.

Sadly, we live in a very sexualised society where the sexual act is seen as "a right" rather than a choice (along with the rejection of the inherent consequences that making a choice are subsequently responsible for). The dignity of the unborn child is sadly superseded by the coercive and abusive pressure applied by the male wishing to reject his responsibility or the misguided belief that the choice to terminate a pregnancy is "the right" of the mother over her own body (47). But how often are these choices made in lonely isolation and or fear?

The document also explores the growing "commercialism" that is surrogacy in many countries across the globe. The concerns raised by the Church are very much around how the gift of life risks becoming a money-making activity which undermines the dignity of the birth mother and the gift of the baby after all "a child is always a gift and never the basis of a commercial contract." (48).

If this has in any way caused concern or anxiety please do speak with Dcn Simon or Fr Max .

Thank you from Rye Foodbank

This week Rye Foodbank came to collect the donations from our box at the back of the Church and they asked us to pass on their thanks for the help you are giving. For more information about how you can help the foodbank please speak to Mags Ivatts (10.45a.m. Mass)

OUR SCRIPTURE GROUP will not be meeting again until Monday 13th May

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

