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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

12th May 2024



## Times of Mass This Week

12 May. Sunday	<i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	8:00 AM
12 May. Sunday		10.45 AM
13 May. Monday	Our Lady of Fatima	9:00 AM
14 May Tuesday	St Matthias	9.00 AM
15 May. Wednesday		9.00 AM
16 May. Thursday		9.00 AM
17 May. Friday		9:00 AM
18 May. Saturday		9:00 AM
18 May. Saturday	<b>(SUNDAY VIGIL Pentecost)</b>	<b>6.00 PM</b>



**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.

## God's lesson to us—"love one another"

As we prepare to receive the life giving and affirming gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (next Sunday), the message of the pre-eminence of love that we heard last Sunday is reinforced today. Helping us to ready our hearts to embrace the very Spirit of God and to give God permission to work within us and through us. And that work in us and through us, is the call to share the love God has for the human family (no favourites remember).

It seems an odd thing to say doesn't it "to give God permission" and yet that is the level of trust, love and hope that He has in humanity—He gives us free will. So the choice to love God, to love our neighbour is up to us!

Over the last 200+ years, post Enlightenment, there has been a raft of authors building on Nietzsche's assertion that "God is dead", asserting that God has abandoned humanity; a sad mantra that permeates much of our modern thinking and policy making of the last 60 years. But a question to consider- has God abandoned humanity or has humanity abandoned love?

Like a loving parent, who allows their children to run free, a watchful loving eye is always kept on them, ready to pick their child up when they trip and fall. And the foundation of this parental relationship is love. Jesus reminds us today that He has watched over the ones God gave Him and "not one is lost". Christ's love is a love of constant giving of Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit—He gives His all in the name of love— how do we respond? The choice is ours.



## Just a thought... understanding the Church teaching.

This week we look at the final core topic of the document “On Human Dignity” and today our topic is the horrendous reality of “Digital Violence”.



While the worldwide web has brought access to information and access to education for the wider globe among so many other positive things, the sad reality is that the dark side of humanity - greed, domination over others, controlling and bullying behaviour have become very prevalent and “new forms of violence are spreading through social media” while “the internet is also a channel for spreading pornography and the exploitation of persons for sexual purposes or through gambling” (61).

Despite decades of un-social, destructive, violent and perverse content being not just available to the young and vulnerable, the depraved individuals and organisations that have seized this opportunity to invade household, are actively aiming their content at children and vulnerable individuals.

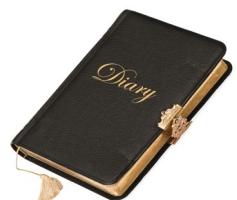
Websites encourage vulnerable people to self harm or take their own lives while, according to a report published by NSPCC (2018) up to 17% of youngsters are watching extreme, violent pornography (<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/>) which is having a deep and psychological impact on their understanding of a normal and loving, intimate and dignified relationship. Something which is reflected in the rapidly rising reality of domestic violence and violence against women.

Nations are using the web to tell blatant lies and misinformation to spread their agenda or to misdirect people during national elections or to raise fear and concern among populations. And yet society continue to turn a blind eye to the damage that the negative and evil aspects of the web bring into our wider society and fail to take action either through legislation or prosecution. With this concern in mind, the document “On Human Dignity” concludes by reminding us that “respect for the dignity of the human person beyond all circumstances [should] be placed at the centre of the commitment to the common good and at the centre of every legal system” (64).

I hope that you have found these last four weeks interesting and thought provoking as we looked at the recent Vatican Publication on Human Dignity. If you have any questions, thoughts or challenges I would love to hear them and talk with you about them.

## Date for you Diary—Feast of St Anthony

The sign up sheet for our Parish Lunch on 13th June is now at the back of the Church. Our annual coming together to celebrate the Feast Day of St Anthony and our glorious community in Christ



**OUR SCRIPTURE GROUP will be meeting again on Monday 13th May 3.30p.m.-5.00p.m.**

**All are welcome to explore the Gospel , its meaning for us in our lives and to build our relationship with Christ and each other. We will be meeting at the Hub on the Hill**

## 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)