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# Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

29th December 2024



**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

## Times of Mass This Week

29 Dec. Sunday	The Holy Family	8.00 AM 10.45AM
30 Dec. Monday		9:00 AM
31 Dec. Tuesday		9.00 AM
01 Jan. Wednesday	Mary Holy Mother Solemnity	9.00 AM
02 Jan. Thursday		9.00 AM
03 Jan. Friday	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	9:00 AM
04 Jan. Saturday		9:00 AM
04 Jan. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL Epiphany Sunday)	6.00 PM

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS, ESPECIALLY**, Audrey Hatter, Reg and Monica Flint, 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.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Sheila Miller, Kathleen Sherwood, Richard Horner, Janet Luckman, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Carol Gearing and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week, and members of our parish, families, friends, and acquaintances.

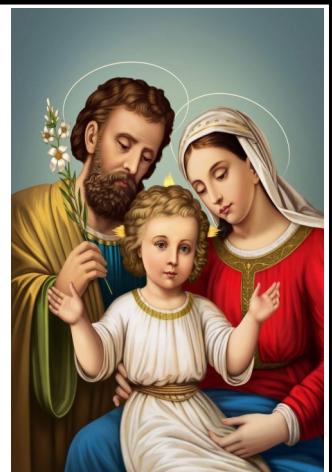
“The family humanises people through the relationship of 'we' and at the same time promotes each person's legitimate differences.” Pope Francis

## The Holy Family

Who ever said family life was easy? Anyone who believes this is clearly on a different level to the rest of us.

This week we celebrate the joys and the frustrations, the ups and the downs of family life, something that the Holy Family were completely immersed in on a daily basis.

The family is the foundational building block of God's vision for humanity. The first encounter we have in sacred Scripture is of husband and wife—Adam and Eve in Genesis. As humanity blossoms, the family becomes the tribe, the tribe becomes the nation and the nation becomes the global family of God. All from the tiny acorn that is the family. It is for this reason that the Church teaches that the primary teacher of the faith is the parents and that the family is an image of Christ referred to as the “Domestic Church”. Mum and dad being the first encounter for the children, with the love God brings to the world; they are also the tabernacle of the “Domestic Church” because it is within this encounter that Christ dwells within the home.



But as we read today, life is not always that simple. The family is a living, growing reality and “no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.”

# Living our faith through action

**Just a thought ... (and perhaps challenge?)** “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Cor 13:4-8).

## Pope Francis and the challenges to the modern day family.

In 2016, Pope Francis released his reflection on the family and family life “*Amoris Laetitia*” (The Joy of Love) embracing both the challenges of the “messiness” of family life and the hard reality of the attacks that society brings to the vocation of married life.

Pope Francis wrote that “the same mercy and patience that are essential for building a strong family must be shown to those whose families are in trouble or have broken down”. He assures us that “no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love,” continuing that “people grow in holiness, and the Church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection”.



Do you know of anyone who has felt they were not welcome at Church for whatever reason? If so perhaps, as we celebrate the realities and complexity of family life this Sunday, now may be a good moment to invite them to speak with either Fr Max or Deacon Simon.

**Holy Mary “undoer of knots”—Pray for us.**



## Mary, Undoer of Knots.

Found in the theology of St Irenaeus in the 2nd century, this devotion blossomed in the 1600's when, in 1615, a German nobleman Wolfgang and his wife Sophia, were on the brink of divorce. Wolfgang was very distraught, and he turned to Jesuit Priest, Father Jakob for counselling.

The two prayed together to the Blessed Virgin Mary for Wolfgang's marriage each time they meet. During their last meeting, Wolfgang gave Father Jakob his wedding ribbon.

Father Jakob lifted the ribbon and placed it next to an image of Our Lady of the Snows. He asked Mary to “untie the knots”, (the difficulties) of Wolfgang's marriage.

The ribbon then loosened, completely untied, and became extremely white. After this occurred, Wolfgang and Sophie reconciled.

This family life focused devotion has become a particular passion of Pope Francis', reminding us that “nothing is impossible for God's mercy! Even the most tangled knots are loosened by His grace. And Mary, whose ‘yes’ opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that He can untangle the knots of our soul by His fatherly mercy.” – Pope Francis

**Our Scripture group will not be meeting this Monday**

## 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 [sg1.rye@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sg1.rye@abdiocese.org.uk)