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Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

8th 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

08 Dec. Sunday	2nd Sunday of Advent	8.00 AM 10.45AM
09 Dec. Monday	Immaculate conception of our Lady	9:00 AM
10 Dec. Tuesday		9.00 AM
11 Dec. Wednesday		9.00 AM
12 Dec. Thursday		9.00 AM
13 Dec. Friday		9:00 AM
14 Dec. Saturday		9:00 AM
14 Dec. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL 3rd Sunday Advent)	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.

"Pray hardest when it's hardest to pray."

Christ is coming.

Every Advent, the two middle Sunday's centre on the work of John the Baptist. But why did God send John the Baptist to "prepare a way for the Lord"? (Is 40:3-5)

The reality is that to truly embrace the gift of the coming Messiah, God knew that the human hearts needed a radical change in attitude. The first step to being able to hear the call of hope and love from Christ, was the washing away of the noise and clamour of our worldly sinfulness, through the soul cleansing gift of baptism. Sin weighs us down and brings our thoughts and minds down from the glory of God and into the world. And this is the message from the prophet Baruch in our first reading, as we are told to "take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction (our sin)... put on forever the beauty of the glory of God."

God is constantly bringing us the route map, to draw us into His presence—He sends the prophets to lead us to the right path, He forgives all those who ask, and He sends His only begotten Son to accomplish our salvation. And He tries to make things easy for us too with "valleys filled" and challenges removed. The only step we need to take? Turning to Him and saying "God I love you" with "a humble and repentant heart" (Ps50).



Living our faith through action

Just a thought....

Preparing a way for the Lord in our hearts and prayers this Advent.



“My sacrifice is a humble spirit, O God; you will not reject a humble and repentant heart.” (Ps 50:17)

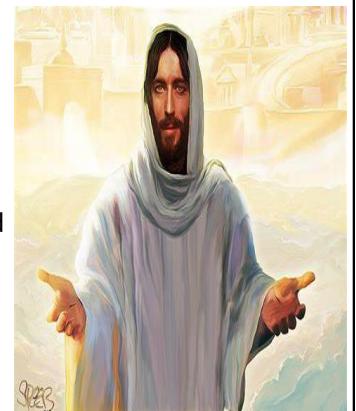
Going to Confession in Advent

Advent and Lent are both times of self reflection and examination and we consider the reason and purpose of Christ’s coming in Advent and during Lent, the reason for His journey to the Cross.

In these seasons of personal reflection, we are specifically called to go to confession to experience the love and forgiveness that comes from Christ. Fr Max is available on request to hear your confession, alternatively, Fr Eamon hears confession every Saturday at 10.30a.m in Hastings after morning Mass, as does Fr Behr in Tenterden.

The gift of Jesus this Christmas

At the heart of the Christmas message is the message of hope. I’m guessing that most of us know someone who has fallen away from the Church for one of many reasons.



This Christmas we would like to reach out to those individuals in the context of Hope. To help in this outreach, we have produced a Parish Christmas Card which you will find at the back of the Church. Please do take the cards for those who have fallen away or questioning their faith and either hand it to them or post it through their letter box. Fr Max or I would be honoured to chat with them and to hear their stories, questions or uncertainties. Thank you for your support and sharing the gift of Christ.



From Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This unique power of the heart also helps us to understand why, when we grasp a reality with our heart, we know it better and more fully. This inevitably leads us to the love of which the heart is capable, for the inmost core of reality is love.

The heart makes all authentic bonding possible, since a relationship not shaped by the heart is incapable of overcoming the fragmentation caused by individualism and selfishness.

Our Scripture group will be meeting Monday All are warmly welcomed to the Hub at the top of Rye Hill each Monday at 3.30p.m.—5.00 p.m. to discuss the upcoming Scripture readings together, to share thoughts and explore the meaning for us in the week ahead. For more details speak to Angela , Fr Max or Dcn Simon.

THERE IS NO SCRIPTURE GROUP ON 23rd and 30th DECEMBER

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