

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

9th February 2025



Parish Mass Times

09 Feb. Sunday	5th Sunday Ord time	8.00 AM 10.45AM
10 Feb. Monday		9:00 AM
11 Feb. Tuesday		9.00 AM
12 Feb. Wednesday		9.00 AM
13 Feb. Thursday		9.00 AM
14 Feb. Friday		9:00 AM
15 Feb. Saturday		9:00 AM
15 Feb. Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL)	6.00 PM

A community founded in prayer

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHONERS, ESPECIALLY,
Fr David Young, 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 & Peter Van Heuven.
Patricia Swain, Veronica Pragnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-
Smith, Tom Healey, John Russell, Timothy O'Sullivan, Tim Hodge.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR
PARISH FAMILY:** Sheila Miller, Kathleen Sherwood, Richard Horn-
er, Janet Luckman, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Carol Gear-
ing 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.

**"Prayer is being on terms of friendship with God. Frequently conversing in secret with
Him, who we know, loves us."** St Teresa of Avila.

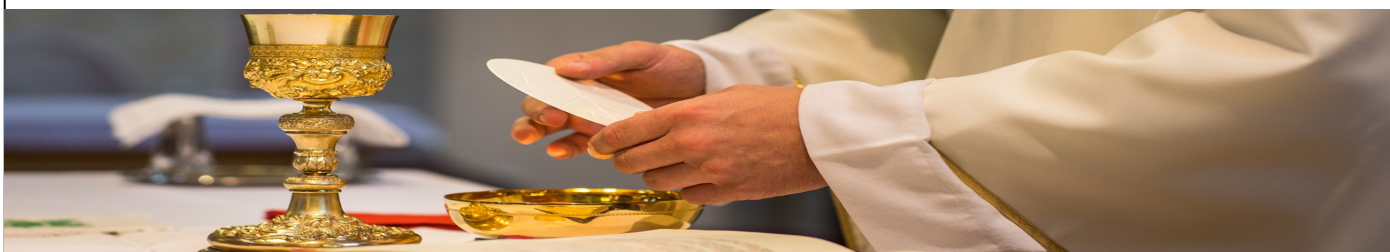
Pressing in to hear the Word of God.

What a marvellous and evocative turn of phrase we receive today. So enamoured with Christ's presence, the crowd were doing all they could to hear from the lips of Jesus, "pressing in to hear the Word of God".

This reminds me of a scene I had the privilege to witness at the Wintershall event last year when the life of Christ was rein acted to school children, in the beautiful countryside of Surrey. The scene being portrayed was the distribution of the loaves and fishes to the crowds. There must have been around 200+ school children of mixed ages present and as the actor playing Jesus moved to the front of the crowd, there came a clambering and calling, waving of arms and hands throughout the whole crowd, all calling out to the image of Christ, asking to receive the bread as they all called out "over here, over here, to me, to me, give me your bread!".

In both scenes, from the Gospel and the modern day portrayal, the longing, yearning and desire to receive the Word of God is palpable, whether in the person of Christ, or the revealed Word of God that is Scripture, we are reminded of the longing and desire in our hearts that draws us each time, as we come toward the Eucharistic table.

And yet as with all relationships, there is always the risk of complacency or distraction. Properly preparing ourselves for the gift of Christ's very body and blood, which we receive each time we come to Mass, remains such an important aspect of our Eucharistic pilgrimage. Properly prepared in our own hearts, we too can press to hear the Word of God and experience the longing and clamour in our souls to receive the Bread of Life.



Living our faith through action

Just a thought...

How do you prepare to receive the Lord into your heart each Sunday?

We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes before the 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass and the 10.45a.m. Mass each week. Come sit at the feet of our Lord ahile.



The gift of Sacramental Marriage

As far back as 1981 St John Paul II was raising his concerns at the challenges that Christian marriage were experiencing at the hands of the secular world (*familiaris consortio*). Sadly, as we all know only too well, this challenge and pressure has continued over the subsequent decades, with the growing worldly mantra that “its only a piece of paper” and “love is love, isn't it?” becoming ever more dominant.

With this in mind the Bishops Conference has called for a re-connection with the true meaning and celebration of marriage and the vocational gift that a bond created between two souls brings for the couples, the family, the community and society in general. With this ambition in mind, the Church has been called to start this building of awareness “Marriage Week” which is running from 7-14 February.

The CBEW (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales) website has a beautiful novena prayer for us to follow starting on 6th February, for the sanctity, celebration and affirmation of marriage and the family. www.cbew.org.uk



Pope Francis : Nothing is more important than a Child

(Vatican News)

“Nothing is worth more than the life of a child.” Addressing world leaders convened in the Vatican for the first global Summit on Children’s Rights on Monday, Pope Francis reiterated his impassioned plea for the protection of children who are victims of conflict, poverty, migration and of a “throwaway culture”, including abortion and neglect, and insisted on the urgent need to listen to them.

“Love Them and Protect Them” is the theme of the event at which panellists hailing from across the world are discussing children’s protection from violence and exploitation, with access to resources, access to education and health, and their rights to a family.



Our Scripture Group will be meeting Monday

All are warmly invited 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 or Fr Max.

Parish Safeguarding Representative

The safety and well being of all our Parish Family is a priority for us all 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

Parish Pastoral Team

Your Pastoral Team Chairperson is Brian Cernuschi and the Team Secretary is Sophie Carnell.

For details of our community events, see notice board at the back of our Church .