

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

30th March 2025



Parish Mass Times

30 Mar. Sun 4th Sunday Lent	8.00 AM
	10.45AM
31 Mar. Mon	9:00 AM
01 Apr. Tue	9.00AM
02 Apr. Wed	9.00AM
03 Apr. Thurs	9.00AM
04 Apr. Friday	9.00AM
05 Apr. Saturday	9:00 AM
05 Apr. Saturday (5th Sunday Lent)	6.00 PM
Stations of the Cross 9.30a.m & 6.00p.m. Friday	

A community founded in prayer

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED PARISHIONERS, 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 Horner, Janet Luckman, Judith (Angela's sister), Michael, Carol Gearinger 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 as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." - St. Augustine.

A simple act of faith

Each Sunday, I always feel rather overwhelmed and certainly humbled, by the words we share together at the beginning of Mass " I confess to Almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned". Every Sunday we come together, standing shoulder to shoulder before God and affirm to the Lord, and to each other, that we are united in our need of Christ's mercy and forgiveness and we are all equally in need of each other's prayer.

Through Scripture this week we are reminded of the guarantee, that blessed assurance, that through Jesus, God gives us what we need and when we need it (Joshua) and He is always—ALWAYS waiting to embrace us, forgive us and welcome us into His eternal presence, when we turn to Him in faith.

The story of the Prodigal Son reminds us that despite our most basic human instincts, our most selfish desires, or however far we feel we have drifted from God, when we turn to Him in humility and genuinely seeking forgiveness—God, through Christ forgives us. Welcomes us as our loving Father.

And here we understand why the Church tells us that we should seek confession/reconciliation in the seasons of Advent and Lent. Both are times of reflection, discernment and prayer, a time to look into our own hearts. In Advent we consider why God sends His Son to the world, as we ask ourselves "what have I done that means that Christ needs to come to the world?" While in Lent we consider "what things have I done that causes God to send His only Son to the Cross for me?"

In this time of reflection, discernment, and self-awareness, we take our mistakes, and our lapses of judgment to our priests and seek the forgiveness of Christ - that is always waiting for us. All we need to do is ask from the heart.



Living our faith through action

Just a thought...

The words of St Paul today, from his second letter to the Corinthians, bring much to reflect and pray on for this Lenten season -



"We are Ambassadors for Christ: God making His appeal through us"

Definition of Ambassador—“*a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special diplomatic assignment.*”

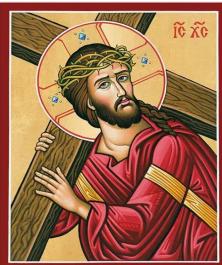
Coming together as a Parish Family to maintain our family home for the Glory of God.

It's always uncomfortable to talk about money within the framework of the Church environment. We need only think of the Lord's reaction and the overturning of the money changers tables in the temple. And yet the Apostles carry their money box with them, so that they might be sustained and bring succour to the poor (Jn 12:6).

We all know and understand that we are in challenging times and there are sadly many people finding daily finances a real problem. And the reality is that this applies to our Parish too. Within the wider Church, each Parish is required to be self sufficient and self sustaining financially. This means, here at St Anthony's, we require a minimum of £36,000 each year just to be able to cover the most basic needs and bills, and to be able to open the doors.

Thanks to the very generous donation of a few peoples' time and skills over the last year, we have been able to keep costs low, but looking to the year ahead we have some significant works that need to be completed. The roof requires extensive works, there are also several areas of the Church that require damp problems resolving and re plastering.

At no point would we want any of our Parish Family to feel uncomfortable or to add to financial burdens, but if you are able to review your regular donation or to start adding to our weekly collection we would be truly grateful.



Stations of the Cross

We will be following Christ on His journey to the Cross together each Friday either at **9.30a.m. after Friday morning Mass or at 6.00p.m.**, for those who are working, at school or have commitments in the mornings.

Journey with the Lord, explore your relationship with Him on the pilgrimage of all pilgrimages.

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 .