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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



Parish Mass Times w/c 18th May 2025

18 May. Sun	5th Sunday of Easter	10.45 am
19 May. Mon		9.00 am
20 May. Tue		9.00 am
21 May. Wed	.	9.00 am
22 May. Thurs		9.00 am
23 May. Fri		9.00 am
24 May Sat		9.00 am
24 May. Sat	(6th Sunday of Easter)	6.00 pm
25 May Sun		8.00 am
25 May Sun		10.45 am

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, Aoife Coleman, 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.

Please pray for Sebastian, Henry, Hugo, Hollie, Juan and Ambrose as they take the next step in their faith journey and relationship with our Lord this Sunday. May they always be close to Jesus and find hope, joy and love in their relationship with Him and His Church.

Unified by God's love for us all

Today's readings bring us a simple message of hope and at the same time provides us with a guide to live our lives by, in the image of Christ. I use the words "simple message", because, without wishing to over simplify the Word of God, we are able to summarise the readings into four short sentences -



- 1 Life is challenging and we will face many ups and downs.
- 2 God will always be present in our lives, journeying with us through all those ups and downs.
- 3 Share God's presence in your life to others, don't keep His love and grace a secret.
- 4 We are all brought the promise and hope of eternity because of God's love for us all.

But life isn't always that simple is it! Jobs, bills, relationships, worldliness, insecurities, and worries all clamour for our attention. Drawing us away from that promise of eternity, amidst the chaos and busyness of the here and now. However, this brings us to the hope and generosity within the message in our reading from Act's—and that message of hope is our Church community.

St Paul travelled thousands of miles sharing the Word of God and building communities—we see just a small selection of these today. And the message he then repeatedly shares in his letter to these communities is "support one another, affirm each other, help each other—in the image of Christ".

And the "image of Christ" that Paul calls us to hold in our hearts and in our relationships—is today proclaimed by Christ Himself "love one another; just as I have loved you" because "By this all people will know that they are my disciples".

Living our faith through action

Just a thought....

As we celebrate the growing of our Parish family this weekend, I thought it was an opportune moment to reflect on why Church is seen as "a family". At a foundational level, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, we all share a common father in God, and after all, Jesus tells us that "we who gather together in the name of Christ" are "His family" (Mt 12:48-50). But mother Church also brings us all the opportunities that a family represents.

In this context, the Parish becomes an ongoing affirmation of the promises of connectedness. The Church is a sign and instrument of communion with God formed in the unity among all of us who share a baptism, and are called to bring the joy of the Gospel to the whole world through our lived experience. And the image of this communion at the heart of Church teaching, is the image of "family".

Despite the challenges, messiness and joys of life, the family should strive to be a place of belonging, a place to experience love, spiritual growth and welcome; an encounter with Christ's love for His people and a reflection of this love to all around us.

Family stability is critical for the future of society, this is why God created the family as the foundation of all communities first (Gen2:23-24); showing us the way to God. And this need for stability is true not only of our own families, but also of our Parish families. All "families", have a mission—to build and affirm each other in faith and show the image of Christ in the world; to be a people united in Christ's love; to be a beacon of light for each other.



Pope calls for freedom from hatred

Pope Leo XIV in his first address to the world press and social media this week, said he was repeating an "invitation" made by his predecessor Pope Francis by saying: "Let us disarm communication of all prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred. Let us free it from aggression," he added "disarmed and disarming communication allows us to share a different view of the world and to act in a manner consistent with our human dignity." He also went on to challenge the world warning them that the AI revolution has the potential for being the biggest risk to humanity in its history if we allow it to progress uncontrolled and with no ethical consideration or respect for human dignity.

Our Scripture Group will be meeting Mondays (except Bank Holidays). 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 .