

# St Anthony of Padua

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Priest: Fr. Peter Draper. (Tel: 725193)  
Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler



Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 9.30am.  
Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)  
Confessions: 5.30—5.50pm

Annexe: 725544 Social Centre: 735963 Primary school: 726621  
Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591 Covenant Books: 07396 796969

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## *Choose Life and Live Fully*

'In today's gospel we have references to two disasters about which we have no definite information and can only speculate. But there is far more than an historical problem in this passage. The Jews rigidly connected sin and suffering. Jesus utterly denied it in the case of the individual. But he went on to say that if his hearers, as a nation, did not repent they would perish. The nation which chooses the wrong ways will in the end suffer for it.' [1] 'The people who come to Jesus are longing to make sense of the senseless. They are looking for formulas to eradicate the mystery because mystery unnerves us. Yet they already have an answer in mind. They show up hoping to confirm what they already believe. They come expecting Jesus to verify their deeply held assumption that people suffer because they're sinful: that folks get what they deserve, that bad things happen to bad people. How different are the beliefs we hold about human suffering? When the unspeakable happens, what default settings do we revert to?' [2]

'Jesus typically responds by inviting the people to engage in a story. Theories don't heal. Formulas can be reductive. Platitudes are flat. And questions that call for shallow answers aren't worth asking in the face of tragedy. But stories? Stories open up possibility. Stories include, unmake, and transform us.' [2] 'The story Jesus tells portrays God as the compassionate Gardener. The demanding landowner's attitude is "Produce fruit or be cut down." But that is not how God deals with God's people. God does not cut down life. The caring and compassionate Gardener seeks to nourish life, is willing to get down on his hands and knees, to dig around in the dirt of our life, to water and then trust that fruit will grow. This Gardener sees possibilities for life that we often cannot see in our own or each other's lives.' [3]

The story of the fig tree is also a reminder of the areas where there is zero growth in our lives. That stagnation could be the consequence our fears, prejudices, judgments, condemnations and the need for control. Without even being noticed, buried anger can drain away the energy that could foster growth and peace. Now is the time to examine the fig tree of our life. Where is our life bearing fruit? Where is it not? Where do we need to spend time, care, and energy nurturing life and relationships? What are our priorities and do they need adjusting? Who or what orients our life? Are we growing or are we "wasting the soil" in which we have been planted? Repentance – a change of heart – is the way to life, the way of becoming most authentically who we are and who, at the deepest level, we long to be. Ultimately, repentance is about choosing to live and to live fully. Now. [4]

Adapted [1] William Barclay [2] Debbie Thomas [3] Michael Marsh [4] [galwaydioces.ie/reflection](http://galwaydioces.ie/reflection)

## *Third Sunday in Lent* Year C

23rd March 2025

Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation

Missal 217

# DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 22nd March 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	George Keane	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Roy & Marjorie Garside For our parish	<b><i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></b>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	George MJ	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	The Rome family	<i>Feast: The Annunciation of the Lord</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Alice Myerscough	<i>7pm. 'Celebrating Jubilee' Padua</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Joyce Hilton	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Paddy O'Donnell	6pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Kevin O'Neill Eric Hyland	<b><i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></b> <b><i>Laetare</i></b>

**Last Weekend:** Offertory: £450.85 + £126.00 card. Attendance: 232 (87+145).  
Thank you for your generosity.

**Masses received this week:** Harry Lonsdale, Marie Hooper, Kevin O'Neill, the O'Neill family.

### Rosary

We pray the rosary for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass. All are welcome.

### St. Clare's Messy Church

- On Saturday 29th March, 1-30-3.30pm. For children of all ages and denominations with a responsible adult. An afternoon of activities, games & bible stories.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Pope Francis, Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, Michael Connors, John Mulholland, Deacon Tom Butler, Karen Hardman;  
We pray for those who have died recently: Doreen Welsby, George MJ, Myra Greenwood; and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Marjorie O'Reilly, Margaret and Arthur Wignall, William Devereux, Frances Kilshaw, Winnie Ollerton, Edith Rigby, Jack Houghton, Mary Toase, Gertrude Turner, Darren Kaye, Jean Clarkson, Helen Smith, Denis Danson, Paul Worthington, Bernard Fisher, Richard Yates, Ann Clarkson, Jack Adamson. May they rest in peace.

**Covenant Books** at Holy Family, Ingol. phone 07396 796969

Opening hours: Thursday & Friday 10am-4.00pm; Saturday 10.00-12noon

### Jubilees!

The Church is in the middle of a Jubilee Year called by Pope Francis.

Our Diocese is celebrating the Centenary Jubilee of its foundation in 1925.

And Fr. Peter is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his ordination on April 12th this year. We will be having a celebration to mark all three Jubilees. April 12th is during Lent and then there are school holidays etc. so the celebration will be on Friday 23rd May. There will be a celebration of Mass at 6.30pm, followed by music and refreshments in the Parish Centre. Parishioners from both St. Anthony's and Holy Family are planning festivities and all parishioners are invited to join in. More details later.

### Lent Stations of The Cross— Fridays at 6pm

Each Friday evening in Lent we will have The Stations of The Cross.

### Lent gatherings to reflect on Jubilee Year 2025

Are you wondering what the 2025 Jubilee Year is all about? Join us, as together with the parish CAFOD group, we explore the biblical background to the Jubilee Year and what the theme Pilgrims of Hope means for us today. The final gathering is this Wednesday 26th March in the Padua Room from 7-8pm. You are most welcome to join us.

### Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

### CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection

Thank you for the donations from the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. The proceeds will be counted after this weekend. You can still donate through the card machine this weekend.

### Easter Chocolate Raffle

Tickets will be on sale after the Masses 12th & 13th April at the back of church.

The winning tickets will be drawn in the Padua room on Easter Sunday after the 9.30 Mass. All proceeds go to the Parish charities. Bring cash!

### Altar Servers' National Mass

This is being held here for the first time to coincide with the Diocesan Centenary. On Saturday 17th May, 12.15pm at Lancaster Cathedral with Bishop Paul Swarbrick. More details to follow.

### Easter Retreat for Teens & Young Adults

During the Triduum – from April 17-20th. Castlerigg Manor will once again be running their Easter Retreat for teens and young adults. A chance to journey together through the Triduum and make some friends along the way. The programme offers a combination of fun, relaxation, prayer, talks, and of course the beautiful liturgies. The cost is £85, but anyone who can't afford that is invited to get in touch ([director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk)) and we will probably be able to help out. For more information or to sign up... [>> castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> what's coming up?