

# 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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## *Make your home in me*

The story of the Prodigal Son is not just about physically leaving home. Sister Stanislaus Kennedy uses a moment in Charles Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby* to illustrate her understanding of 'home'. 'Nicholas had befriended a young crippled boy named Spike while he was working in a children's home. When Spike discovered that Nicholas was leaving the home, he wanted to go with him. But Nicholas was poor and was unable to offer Spike a proper home. Spike, however, was not thinking of practical matters like food, clothes or shelter; instead, he turns to Nicholas and says with passion, "You are my home." [1]

What do *we* mean by home? We may not be aware of it but 'the home we are looking for is our true self. It's about being comfortable about being in our own skin and being the person that God has created us to be. There may be a 'sense of place' to coming home, but the 'sense of place' is really a metaphor. 'Home' is about coming home to who we are within ourselves and who we are in God. [2]

'In the story of the Prodigal Son, I am like the younger son every time I search for infinite, unconditional love where it cannot be found. Leaving home is living as though I do not yet have a home, and must look far and wide to find one. The 'homelessness' of the elder son is more difficult to identify. After all, he was physically at home and did all the right things. His complaints show his resentment and anger at not being given what he felt he deserved. It is hard to return home from this form of homelessness. Both sons needed healing and forgiveness. Both needed to return home. Both needed the embrace of a forgiving father. All of us will someday have to deal with the younger and elder child in us. The question before us is simply: What can we do to make the return home possible?

Home is the centre of my being, where I can hear the voice that says, "You are my beloved." I return home in the very moment that I reclaim my original goodness, that I am God's beloved child. [3] The story of the compassionate father is a story that speaks about a love that always welcomes home and always wants to celebrate. [3] God isn't going to love us any more than God loves us right now. We can't diminish God's love for us. What we *can* do, however, is to learn how to believe it, receive it, trust it, allow it and celebrate it. [4] We come home when we accept God's invitation: "Make your home in me, as I make mine in you."

*Adapted: [1] Sister Stan [2] Patrick Boland [3] Henri Nouwen [4] Richard Rohr*

## *Fourth Sunday in Lent* Year C

30th March 2025

Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation

Missal 222

# DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

## for the week beginning Saturday 29th March 2025

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>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Fogell	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Harry Lonsdale	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Special Intention	<i>Wednesday Film Night—His Only Son</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Evelyne Bamber	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	6pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Fr. Manus Keane	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Peter Kok Joyce Hilton	<b><i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i></b>

**Last Weekend:** Offertory: £350.21 + £181.00 card. Attendance: 258 (95 + 163).  
CAFOD Fast Day: £586.69 (+ 172.05 Card) Green Safe: £78.51.  
Thank you for your generosity.

**Masses received this week:** Peter Fogell, parents of Mr & Mrs Parr, Fr. Manus Keane, Anthony Keane, Peter Kok, Thomas Hooper, In thanksgiving.

### Rosary

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

### Welcome into the family of faith:

Grace Helen Seed & Jacob Jesse Bennett who were baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

### Fairtrade stall

Next weekend, supporting farmers with a fair price for their goods.

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

#### 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, John Shaw;

We pray for those who have died recently: Peter Kok;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Mary Bamber, Harry Daggers, Frank Clarkson, Margaret Langtree, Rose Salter, Dorothy Pickles, Anne & Bert Keane, Frances Dewhurst, Wladyslaw Stopyra, Thomas Hooper, Albert Butler, Michael Atkinson, Melvyn Evans, Joe Rogers, Doreen Murray, Dorthy Heskin, Margaret Holden, Elizabeth Proctor, David McBride, James Gormley, John Myerscough, Alice Myerscough. May they rest in peace.

### JUBILEE 'Pilgrims of Hope'

This ordinary Jubilee began with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024 and will conclude on January 6, 2026 (Epiphany).

The concept of Jubilee originates from the Old Testament Book of Leviticus where every 50th year was designated as a time of forgiveness of debts, liberation of slaves, and return of lands to their original owners. In Catholic tradition, a Jubilee Year (or Holy Year) is a special year of grace, typically celebrated every 25 years.

This Holy Year is the first regular Jubilee of the 21st century and the first post-pandemic ordinary Jubilee. As the Catholic Church celebrates this 2025 Jubilee Year, it anticipates a profound period of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Pope Francis has given it the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" emphasizing the journey of faith in challenging times.

During a Jubilee Year, the Church offers special opportunities for obtaining indulgences. The faithful are encouraged to make pilgrimages to designated holy sites, offer prayers for the Pope's intentions, and engage in works of mercy and charity. These practices combine to create a comprehensive spiritual journey of renewal and grace.

The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" reminds us that renewal is always possible, forgiveness is always available, and God's mercy is endless. As we celebrate this sacred time, we're called to open our hearts to grace and become instruments of mercy in our communities. There are still Jubilee prayer cards at the back of church.

NEXT WEEK: The Jubilee in our Diocese of Lancaster.

### Jubilee Icon

To celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year, CAFOD and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have commissioned an icon from Ethiopian artist, Mulugeta Araya, which depicts the scene of Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth from Luke, Ch 4.

The icon will visit Lancaster Diocese and will be on display in the Lady Chapel at the Cathedral in Lancaster. CAFOD will be hosting a short prayer and reflection time in the Chapel with the icon after the 12.15pm weekday Mass on Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-icon>

### 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!

### Offertory envelopes & Gift Aid

Most parishioners will no longer need offertory envelopes since switching to Standing Orders or use of the card machine. However some people prefer to use the envelopes so these are available from this week-end. Let us know if you want a set and there are none out with your name on.

Also, some people with Standing Orders have requested a small set of envelopes for the Special Collections. We ordered 20 sets of these envelopes. If you want a set please take one but let us know your name/number so we can link up with Gift Aid. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Wednesday Film Night: His Only Son

Come and watch this film about Abraham being commanded by God to sacrifice his son. Wednesdays 2nd and 9th April 7.00 - 8.00pm in the Padua Room.