

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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Rediscovering our Divine Identity

It's significant that on the first Sunday in Lent in all 3 liturgical cycles – A, B and C – the gospel focuses on Jesus being tempted. Each of the three temptations touches on Jesus' identity as the Son of God, which had been revealed at his baptism: 'This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.' 'Secure in the knowledge of his divine identity, Jesus had the strength to overcome his temptations. We, too, are tempted to doubt our divine identity. We can so easily find our identity in what we do, in what we possess, in what other people think of us, instead of in who we are.' [1] We are invited to approach the weeks of Lent in the 'desert' of quiet times, rediscovering our divine identity.' What if our Lenten ritual this year is to reclaim and re-treasure that which is of ultimate importance and infinite value – people, relationships, justice and compassion, forgiveness, beauty and time to reconnect with whatever renews our spirit and deepens our experience of love? In this process we will somehow find ourselves again. We will be more whole, more complete. [2] When we come home to the divinity in ourselves, the more open we will be to the divinity within the people God sends into our lives.' [1]

'The true purpose of all spiritual disciplines is to clear away whatever may block our awareness of that which is God in us and God in others.' [3] This could be our daily 'mantra' during Lent. Each day will reveal what it is that is blocking our awareness – variations on the themes of our need to be in control, our need to know all the answers. 'When the quest for certainty and control is pushed to the background, the possibility of wonder returns. Wonder provides a gateway to wise insight.' [4]

We begin Lent by blessing and being blessed by the ashes of the palms used in last year's Palm Sunday celebration. Do we see this as a 'doom and gloom' experience, or do we come filled with awe and wonder, knowing what God can do with dust?

'So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame.
Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are,
but for claiming what God can do within the dust,
within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made.' [2]

Adapted: [1] Richard Rohr [2] Jan Richardson [3] Howard Thurman [4] Tobin Hart

First Sunday in Lent Year C

9th March 2025

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Missal 207

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 8th March 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ged Mason	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Joan Taylor Fr. Bill Bootle	First Sunday in Lent
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Michael McColl	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For a sick person	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Gerard Knight	
Thur 10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Doreen Welsby	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	6pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Rosalinde Forrest	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For Pope Francis For Pope Francis	Second Sunday in Lent

Last Weekend: Offertory: £389.95 + £182.50 card. Attendance: 204 (79+123).
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Joyce Hilton.

Rosary

We pray the rosary, as Our Lady requested, for World Peace, every Monday and Friday in church, after morning Mass. All are welcome. The Rosary is said once a month at various churches. Please see dates on the board and take a card from the back of church.

Tea, Coffee, cake etc. is served in the Padua Room after both weekend Masses.

Welcome into the family of faith:

Olivia Slater who was baptised in St. Anthony's last week.

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: Myra Greenwood, Doreen Welsby, George M.J.;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Charlotte Snalam, John Cooke, Luke Kehoe, Dorothy Pickles, Bert Smith, John & Lucy Swarbrick, George Keane, Joan Taylor, Maureen Berry, Imelda Salisbury, Alan Kenny, Lucia LaValle, Bernard Simpson, Judith Smith, Marie Kilshaw, Annie King. May they rest in peace.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent Stations of The Cross— Fridays at 6pm

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

Tea/ Coffee after Sunday Mass today ...

will be run by the school MiniVinnies group - raising funds for the SVP. They would be glad of your support.

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.

We'll be meeting in the Padua Room from 7-8pm on Wednesday 19th and 26th March. You are most welcome to join us for just one or all the meetings.

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

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text: CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

Lancaster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 23rd – 30th July.

Please see the posters in church for both the main pilgrimage (from £949) and the youth section (from £795).

Includes flights from Liverpool, transfers, full board hotel accommodation, religious programme, levies and taxes. We have a few booking forms for both groups – see the Notice Board, and you may also be able to check on: www.joewalstours.co.uk For more details contact the Director of Youth by email: youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk

Fairtrade Stall.

Thankyou to Simon from the Co-op for donating some Fairtrade goods for our stall. They, along with other donations raised £19.10 for CAFOD. Other Fairtrade sales were £63.10. Thank you again, to all who supported the stall, giving farmers a fair price for their goods.

Why should you join the Knights of St. Columba?

When you join the Knights of St Columba (KSC) you will be active in helping in the spiritual development of Adults and Young People in both local and national activities. You will be able to help to promote the social teachings of the Catholic Church and work for social welfare of our communities. To find out more about the Knights of St. Columba contact Andrew Fowler on 07914 751020 or Philip Wilcock on 07710 225868 or go to www.ksc.org.uk.