

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
Tel: 01772 725193 E-mail: stanthonyhollyfamily@gmail.com
Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

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: 07792 256592 Social Centre: 735963 Primary school: 726621
Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591 Covenant Books: 07396 796969

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A Healing Gaze

'As well as commemorating the cross on which Jesus was crucified, today's feast also celebrates the finding of the true cross attributed to St Helena.' [1]

The gospel portrays Jesus as the "Lifted-Up One." This image is foreseen by the image of Moses making a bronze serpent, setting it on a pole and raising it up so that "anyone who has been bitten by a serpent and looks upon it will be healed." (Numbers 21:8). 'It is like a homeopathic symbol. The very thing that is killing the Children of Israel is the thing that will heal them! It is presented as a vaccine that will give you just enough of the disease so you can develop a resistance to it. The image of Jesus on the cross dramatically raises up the problem of ignorant hatred for all to see, hoping to inoculate us against doing the same thing by projecting our violence onward into history.' [2]

Common Hebrew words for "look" or "gaze" include sha'ah, a verb meaning to gaze at with interest or steady attention; and rā' āh, where the experience of seeing is connected with understanding. Jesus tells Nicodemus that when we gaze at and believe in the "Lifted-Up One" we will truly live.' [3] 'Those who gaze upon the Crucified long enough—with contemplative eyes—are always healed at deep levels of pain, unforgiveness, aggression and victimhood. Contemplative gazing demands no theological education, just an "inner exchange" by receiving the image within and offering one's soul back in safe return.' [2]

'Jesus invited people to "follow" him in lovingly bearing the mystery of human death and resurrection. It is not a requirement in order that we can go to heaven later, it is an invitation so that we can live an entirely full life now. Those who choose to carry and love what God loves, which is both the good and the bad of human history, and to pay the price for its reconciliation within themselves—these are the followers of Jesus. They keep the world from its path toward greed, violence, and self-destruction. God is calling everyone and everything to God's self.' [2]

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.

All things break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention.

So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.

The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.[4]

Adapted: [1]Franciscan media [2]Richard Rohr [3] Beejai [4] L.R.Knost

The Exaltation of the Cross

Year C

14th September 2025

Eucharistic Prayer 1

Missal page 1055

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 13th September 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Peter Hothersall Joe Connolly	<i>The Exaltation of the Cross</i> <i>Cath. Education Service Collection</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Norman Mercer	<i>Feast: Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
Tue 10.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mass:</i> Maureen Osbourne	<i>Feast: Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Terry Hyams	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>	Mary O'Hagan	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ellen Fogell	<i>Feast: Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Stany Rodrigues John Talbot	<i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>

Last Weekend: Offertory: £323.59 + £116.50 card. Attendance: 243 (91, 152).
Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Terry Hyams, Lydia Etherington, John Talbot, Frank Walsh, Mary O'Hagan.

Adoration / Exposition

Each Friday, after morning Mass, we will begin, as usual, with our rosary, as requested by Mary, for peace in the world and continue with private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until 11a.m. Feel free to stay throughout or to pop in for a short visit.

Fairtrade -and the Repository

Thankyou as always to all who supported the Fairtrade/Rwanda stall last week. We took £62.50 Fairtrade, £5.80 CAFOD and £15 for Rwanda. Don't forget to look at our shop at the back of church which stocks a large variety of cards for many occasions as well as gifts for new babies, Christenings, First Holy Communions and Confirmations.

Messy Church

In St. Clare's Church Hall on Saturday 4th October from 1.30-3.00pm. Come and enjoy an afternoon of activities, games and bible stories. All ages and denominations welcome

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for those who are sick, especially Jo Counsell, Bill Embery, Marie Morris, John Mulholland, Deacon Tom Butler;

We pray for those who have died recently: Ronald Lawrence Gray, Maureen Osbourne; Delia Madden;

and those whose anniversaries fall about this time: John Sanderson, Ron Carruthers, Norman Mercer, Thomas Loughran, Roy Hull, Lydia Etherington, Regina LaValle, Lilian Iddon, baby Gerard John, Helena Bradley, William Wilson, Joan Pollard, Rosemary Wright.

A Reet Good **FAREWELL** do! Sunday 28 September

To mark Fr Peter leaving, this parish event is now entirely FREE. If you would like a hotpot (free) please pick up a ticket at the back of church, otherwise just come along on the day (1 - 4pm) and help celebrate Fr Peter's service in our parishes. Raffle (bring cash!). The Bar will be open.

The Season of Creation

- a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. The season started on 1st September and ends on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, beloved by many Christian denominations.

'The Martyr-Saints of the North-West'

At The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, 12 – 14 September 2025.

A weekend studying some of the Reformation-era martyrs of the North-West region. Part -retreat, part-biographical, the weekend will be led by Mgr John Allen of Salford Diocese.

Castlerigg Manor Open Day

On Sunday 14th September from Midday. Mass with Bishop Paul will be at 2pm

"The Chosen" - Series 5

From 17th September, over eight weeks, we will follow the story of Jesus and his disciples from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Join us in the Padua Room on Wednesday 17th September 7.00 - 8.00 pm.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell

Next Saturday 20th September, starting with Mass at 11.00am, followed by procession to the Shrine for Benediction.

It will be Christmas before you know it!

If you enjoy singing carols why not join us as we start rehearsing for our Christmas Carol Service? We meet at 10.45 in church after Sunday Mass to rehearse. All are welcome.

Defibrillator fitted outside school

A few weeks ago St. Anthony's school 'mini-vinnies' SVP group held a Coffee Morning to help pay to install the defibrillator outside school. A kind parishioner made up the difference in cost and the defibrillator is now accessible to anyone. Well done - thank you.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Centenary of the Diocese

Sat 18th October at 11.30am will be celebrated by the Bishop at the Cathedral. Each church has been allocated 2 tickets. For the chance to get a ticket: put your name and church on an envelope, put in the large envelope in the sacristy and, if necessary, a public draw will be held.

Castlerigg Team 2025-26

The Youth Ministry team at Castlerigg Manor are still accepting late applications for this year. Team members are generally aged 18-24 and the Internship Scheme which they join provides training, experience, and recognised qualifications as well as a life-changing year! Email: director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Theology of the Body.— Retreat for young adults

Castlerigg Manor. September 26-28th 2025. £65 all inc. or £40 for students/ unwaged. This is the first in a new series of dedicated training weekends being run at Castlerigg for young adults (18-30). Sign up at castleriggmanor.com/events