

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

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## *Beyond ideas of right-doing and wrong-doing*

"I think I can safely say that no parable of Jesus baffles me as thoroughly as the parable of the "shrewd" or "dishonest" manager. Why does the rich man commend his manager for dishonesty? Why does Jesus offer his followers such an apparently unsavoury character as a role model? [1]

There are various interpretations of today's gospel:

- The manager has chosen self-interest, self-loyalty, and self-serving over interest in, loyalty to, and service of his master;

- We are being called to account for our management of all that we are and all that we have. What if the accounting is not about finding wrongdoing but new life? That certainly changes our usual understanding of an accounting but isn't that what parables are supposed to do? They change the way we see and understand. If a parable makes sense we've probably missed the point. [2]

- 'You cannot serve God and wealth. We have to make a choice. Jesus seldom puts an absolute 'either/ or' in front of us, but in this case he does. The passage also tells us that friends are going to last us longer than money and in this way the dishonest servant is very shrewd. He sees the importance of relationship. [3]

'This might be a stretch, but what if the parable of the dishonest manager is a parable about forgiveness and love of the poor whose plight is referred to in the first reading and in the psalm? What if the manager's mismanagement – which the owner considers "squandering" – is actually the fruit of his compassion? We know nothing about the owner or the manager. How would the story read differently if we assumed that the manager spent years risking his job and his employer's displeasure to ease the financial struggles of the workers he managed? True, his methods are dishonest; Jesus makes that abundantly clear. But what if *even in his imperfection*, the manager embodies love? Even on his way out, he lessens the debts of those who can't pay off what they owe. He does so at the risk of further angering the boss he has already offended. When the owner is faced with the reckless generosity of his manager, he chooses to commend that generosity – even though the manager has lost him money. If the rich man loved and served his wealth over everything else, he wouldn't find it in his heart to extend forgiveness and approval to his manager. Perhaps the story offers us *glimpses* of the divine.

Where there is forgiveness, there is God. Where there is crazy, radical generosity — there is God. Where there is love, there is God. And where God is? Well, that's where we should seek to be as well.' [1]

***"Out beyond ideas of right-doing and wrong-doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."***  
[4]

Adapted: [1] Debie Thomas [2] Michael Marsh [3] Richard Rohr [4] Rumi

***25th Sunday in Ordinary Time***

*Year C*

21st September 2025

Eucharistic Prayer 4

Missal page 1061

# DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 20th September 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Ellen Fogell	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Stany Rodrigues John Talbot	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Home Mission Sunday Collection</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Lydia Etherington	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Fr. Peter's Intentions	<i>Feast: St. Pius of Pietrelcina</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Frank Walsh	<i>Feast: Our Lady of Walsingham</i>
Thur 10.00am	<i>St. Ant</i>	<i>Funeral Mas:</i> Delia Madden	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Paul Watson	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jack & Mabel Willacy	<i>Feast: St. Vincent de Paul</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Mark Blinkhorne For our parish	<b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Bishop's Admin Fund Collection</i>

**Last Weekend:** Offertory: £328.22 + £72.50 card. Attendance: 233 (92 + 141).  
Thank you for your generosity.

## Masses received this week:

### 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.

### Repository

The shop at the back of church 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, Fr. Peter Foulkes;

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. May they rest in peace.

## A Reet Good **FAREWELL** do! Next Sunday

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.

## CAFOD **Family Fast Day Appeal** this Harvest

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

## St. Anthony's Annexe

Please note the new number for bookings / enquiries about the Annexe. Roz Holland has administered the Annexe for many years and we are grateful for her dedicated work. She has now stepped down and a new team have taken up the job. Tel 07792 256592

## 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 Chosen" - Series 5

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 Wednesdays. 7.00 - 8.00 pm.

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://castleriggmanor.com/events)

## Mass of Thanksgiving for the Centenary of the Diocese

On 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.