

St Anthony of Padua

Presbytery: Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX
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Website: www.stanthonys-rc-church-preston.org.uk/

Priest: Fr. Andrew Dawson. (Tel: 725193)
Deacon (retired): Rev. Tom Butler

Sunday Masses: 6.00pm (Saturday Vigil), 9.30am.
Weekday Mass: Mon, Tues, 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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Faith is the experience of the presence of God within us

“If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” ‘This hyperbole of Jesus leads us into a critical self-reflection of our faith, with the words ‘O ye of little faith’ ringing in our ears.’ [1] We often interpret faith in terms of quantity, as is seen in the apostles’ request, “Lord increase our faith.” We think we should have *more* faith. If a little is good, a lot must be better. ‘We waste a great deal of time and energy looking for the key to the treasure box of More. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need.’ [2]

‘Our self-criticism takes us nowhere near the mystery of what Jesus proposes in today’s gospel. Can faith be measured? Is faith quantifiable? Quantum physics suggests that in the tiniest atom the entire power of the universe lies. In the smallest is also the greatest.’ [1] ‘Science and theology are beginning to use the same language, the language of relationship. Scientists are beginning to discover that the energy in the universe is not in the planets, nor atomic particles, but very surprisingly in *the relationship between them*. In the beginning was relationship. “Let *us* create in *our* image.” (Genesis 1:26-27). When we start with God as relationship, we begin the spiritual journey with an awareness that there has to be a DNA connection between the One who creates and what is created.’ [3] ‘Faith is the *experience* of the presence of God within us. The language of ‘more’ and ‘less’ relates to our *awareness* of God’s presence within all creation. When we surrender to God’s presence, we will choose a lifestyle which offers the least resistance to becoming ever more habitually established in God’s love, which is already there.’ [4]

‘Perhaps Jesus is pointing to our own lack of wonder—for failing to see what is hidden in plain sight.’ [1] ‘Faith is the lens through which we see ourselves and others and who we are in God. Faithfulness means that no matter where we go, no matter what circumstances we face, we do so in relationship with the One who created us, loves us and sustains us.’ [5] With faith in who we are in God, knowing we have everything we need, we can ‘fan into flame the gift of God, which is in us.’ [6] We already have ‘enough’ to respond to the invitation ‘to help divinize and transform the world.’ [7] ‘That is as monumental a task as ordering a mulberry tree to take root in the sea.’ [1] *Adapted: [1] Amy Frykholm [2] Barbara Brown Taylor [3] Richard Rohr [4] James Finley [5] Michael Marsh [6] 2 Tim: 1:6, 2nd reading [7] Annie Dillard*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

5th October 2025

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Missal page 1069

DIARY and MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 4th October 2025

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Jack and Mable Willacy	
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	For the People of the Parishes	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>CAFOD Harves Fast Envelopes</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Hugh Aitken	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>		<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	No Mass	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H.Family</i>		<i>ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>		
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>St John XXIII</i>
Sun 9.30am 11.00am	<i>St. Ant</i> <i>H.Family</i>	Peter Hothersall Joe Connolly	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last Weekend: Offertory: £328.62 + £227.50 card. Attendance: 239 (90, 149).

Bishop's Administration: £46.50 + £37.50 Attendance 381 (83+298).

Thank you for your generosity.

Masses received this week: Hugh Aitken,

Adoration / Exposition Each Friday, after morning Mass, we begin 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 - The Fairtrade Stall has a fresh supply of the very popular honey, as well as tea, coffee, chocolate etc. Please help to give needy farmers a fair price for their goods.

Congratulations to Shannon McGinty and Richard Eccles who were married at St Anthony's last weekend.

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.

Prayer intentions

We pray for the sick and the elderly, especially Florence, Ray Madison, Esther Murphy, David Tyres, Trevor Hughes Vera, Claire, Patsy Jarvis, Maya, Fr Peter Foulkes

We pray for those who have died recently: Fr John Baron.

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Helen Duckworth, Tom Turner, Jack Greenwood, George Elliott, Terry Farrell, Francis Kellett, Lily Doyle, Maria Sheridan, Drina Hope, Angela Russell.

Father, may these, and all whom we have known who have gone before us, be received into the glory of the resurrection, won for us by your Son, Jesus, the Risen Lord.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God 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 on line at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

Reet Good Farewell Do. Thank you to everyone in the Social Committee who helped make Fr Peter’s leaving ‘do’ such a success. Thank you for the generous donations to the raffle. A total of £473.00 was raised for this year’s parish charities. As we say ‘Goodbye’ to Fr Peter, we also say ‘Hello and Welcome’ to Fr Andrew.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes with HCPT in Summer 2026. Some members of Holy Family Parish are planning to take part in a HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes next year. If you would be interested in joining them, whether as a carer or as an assisted person, or through helping to fund-raise to enable others to go, please speak to Ruth Potts or contact Richard McDowell on northwest@hcpt.org.uk or 07721 925595 for more information.

St Anthony’s Annex. Please note the new number for bookings and enquiries about the Annex. We are very grateful to Ros Holand who administered the Annex for many years; having now stepped down a new team have taken up the job. Tel: 07792 256592

The Season of Creation runs throughout September and up to 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is a time to renew our relationship with our creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment to look after our common home.

“The Chosen” Series 5. Over 8 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 7-8:00pm

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Centenary of the Diocese. This special Mass will be held on Saturday 18th October at 11:30am, and will be celebrated by the Bishop at Lancaster Cathedral in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio – the Pope’s representative in Great Britain. Our tickets are available. Please speak to Fr Andrew

Thinking of Becoming a Priest? If so, then you’re invited to a day of recollection and discernment! The day is for single man aged 16 or over and will be held at the Cathedral in Lancaster on 22nd November 10:00am to 4:00pm. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Guided Prayer, talks to assist discernment and lunch. To book please email Heather.Watts@lrcd.org.uk or Tel 01524 841190. There is no charge.

Sunday’s Coffee Morning will be run by the MiniVinnys’ group from our primary school who are raising funds for St Catherine’s Hospice. This is always a popular event with parishioners.

Very last word from Fr Peter. What a wonderful weekend! I couldn’t say much for fear I would crack up, but in any case, I was lost for words at the involvement of the children at Mass, the display in church (very cleverly taking the theme from the branches of the weeping willow that we had to cut back) and the ‘Reet good do’ in the Parish Centre. I often speak about the goodness of people and it was greatly in evidence again last Sunday. You are such a wonderful community and I cannot thank you enough. While I’m heading to Cleveleys until Christmas it is always possible I might get back to Preston sometime. In the meantime, look after Fr Andrew. I know he will look after you. God bless, Fr Peter.

Parish email address: With Fr Peter’s departure the old BT Internet email address is now not recoverable. Please note anything sent to that address will not be received. Please use either stanthony.preston@lrcd.org.uk or stanthonyhollyfamily@gmail.com

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:2-3;2:2-4

How long, O Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry ‘Oppression!’ in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes.

Then the Lord answered and said, ‘Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.’

Responsorial Psalm

R/ O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts’.

1. Come let us ring out our joy to the Lord
hail the rock who saves us.

the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

Let us come into his presence,
giving thanks; let us hail him with a song
of praise

3 O that today you would listen to his voice!
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your forebears put me to the test;
when they tried me though they saw my
work

2. O come let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the Lord who made us
for he is our God, and we the people

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:6-8; 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God’s gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Gospel

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ The Lord replied, ‘Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,” and it would obey you.

‘Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, “Come and have your meal immediately”? Would he not be more likely to say, “Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards”? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, “We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.”’

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