



St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

5th Sunday of Easter

10th May 2020

Friary: Greyfriars, 1 Elmsley Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. L18 8AY,

Tel: 724 2109. (Sat Nav for church - L18 8BG.)

Parish email: saintanthonyofpadua@aol.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Hanley OFM Conv.

Pastoral Associate: Ms. Helen Jones.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Alice Killip

Parish Hall Manager: Carol 07377341973

Pastoral Area Website www.liverpoolsouthpastoralarea.org.uk

OFFERINGS: Grateful thanks for your continued support of the Parish and the Friars.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES has recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone. A Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in his Cathedral every Thursday evening at 7.00pm, which will be live-streamed.

14 May: Bishop Robert Byrne CO - St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

21 May: Bishop Mark Davies - Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury

28 May: Bishop Terence Drainey - St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

LOSS OF A CHILD: The parish's helpline for parents who have experienced the loss of a child may speak in confidence with a parent who understands their grief. Contact: talkaboutbabybereavement@gmail.com

Fr. Colmcille Murphy OFM Conv., who served in St. Anthony of Padua parish in the 1990's passed away peaceful on Friday morning, 8th May 2020 aged 84 years. The funeral service will be held in private.

New Archbishops: Two friars of our Order have been appointed by Pope Francis to be pastors of two Archdioceses.

Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer OFM Conv. [formerly Bishop of Savannah] was installed on Wednesday 6th May as Archbishop of Atlanta (USA).

The former Minister General of the Conventual Franciscans, **Fr. Marco Tasca OFM Conv.**, was appointed Archbishop of Genoa (Italy) on the 8th May. It is a sign of great trust that the Holy Father has entrusted the pastoral care of two large Archdioceses to Conventual Franciscan friar-bishops.

Parish Office hours, Monday to Friday: 9.30 - 12noon; 2 pm - 5.30 pm.

(Order of Friars Minor Conventual Registered Charity No 249881)

Church Masses: (In the Friary chapel – not the church)

09. Saturday	Karen Boon rip (Lately Dead)
10. Sunday	Parishioners
11. Monday	Norman Byrne rip (Funeral Service at Allerton Cemetery)
12. Tuesday	Eva Firkins rip (Anniversary-Friary) Eileen Smith rip (Anniversary- F)
13. Wednesday	Neville Clarkson (Funeral Service - Springwood Crematorium)
14. Thursday	Barbara Ryder rip
15. Friday	Karen Boon rip
16. Saturday	Colin Whittle rip (Lately Dead)
17. Sunday	Parishioners

Masses Received. James Booth rip, Barbara Ryder rip, Eva Firkins rip (A), Karen Boon rip, the Sick, J & I Magill rip (A), Paul Brown rip, Hughes Family rip, Colin Whittle rip (LD), Eileen Smith rip (A), John Smith rip (A), Paul Curtis rip (LD), Recently deceased mother & family, Successful Cancer remission, Kath Carley rip (LD).

In Memoriam. Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently Fr Colmcille Murphy OFM Conv, Colin Whittle, Paul Curtis, Karen Boon, Kath Carley and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Eileen Smith, Elsie Galvin, Matt Henderson Eve Firkins, Charles McVeigh, John Roddan, Stephen Conyngham, Marie Heath, James Peter Newton, Carmen Sanchez, Patrick McEvoy, Clare McNamara, Winifred Davis, Barry Mercer, Fred J Wood, Veronica Wylie, Margaret Cain.

Prayer during the Coronavirus crisis.

Generous and Merciful God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

Healing God, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

God of Wisdom, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

O God of creation and God of life, we, your people here in Mossley Hill, place ourselves and our world in your protection and love. May your peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead. Amen.

“Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

A story tells of a couple of tourists who were spending an idyllic few days on holiday in Ireland. They enjoyed walking the rural roads and byways. But one day they wandered so far that they had no idea how to find their way back to the hotel where they were staying. The daylight hours were nearing their end, and they were relieved suddenly to spot an old man sitting in the doorway of his cottage enjoying the evening sun. Explaining their predicament, and where they needed to get back to, they asked for directions. The old man thought for a few moments, shook his head slowly, and said, “Ah, I know the place you mean. The trouble is, if you want to get there, you wouldn’t want to be starting from here.”

In a way, that’s what the disciples seem to be thinking in today’s Gospel. Jesus has just told them that he is going away. Despite all his assurances, and his words of comfort to them, they are worried. When they’d committed themselves to Jesus, they’d imagined that he would remain with them in person, guiding their footsteps, helping them to make their way through life with him. But now here he is talking about leaving them, going on ahead of them. How will they ever manage to follow? Thomas sums up what they are all silently thinking: “Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” This is most definitely not where they want to be starting from.

Jesus says “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”. It must have been hard for the disciples to comprehend those words at first, to understand the full depth of their meaning. The months and years they had spent with Jesus had been for a purpose. As they’d spent time with him, hearing his words, watching the things he did, sharing the life he lived, they had changed. Sometimes they’d been slow to understand. Sometimes they’d got things wrong, and they still would. But they’d learned, not only from Jesus’ teaching but also from his example. They’d seen the way he related to people. They’d seen the way that he put the loving will of God his Father first. They’d seen the way he lived his life. And slowly but surely, though not always smoothly, they’d begun to know that way, and even to live it out themselves. They’d come to see it as the way of truth; they’d come to know it as the way to life. And so they became followers of the Way.

How can we do the same? We too are called to follow Jesus’ example; but we’re not expected to do so alone. When Jesus told his disciples that he would no longer be physically present with them, he also gave them a promise. When he returned to his Father, he would send them the Spirit of truth, who would remain with them always. It’s through that Spirit that they would, incredible though it may have seemed to them at the time, be able to perform even greater works than those they had seen Jesus perform himself. We see this happening in the amazing growth of the Church which we read about in the Acts of the Apostles through this Easter season.

That promise holds true for us today. We are the followers of the Way. We are not lost on the road; we are not abandoned to make our own way. We are, in Peter’s words, “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation”. As we follow the Way, we can know that we have the promised Spirit with us, to guide us and to show us the way to our true and eternal home.

Bidding Prayers Sunday 10th May 2020

Lord God, Jesus told us not to let our hearts be troubled, to trust in you and to trust in him. We bring you our prayers, knowing that you love us more than we can possibly imagine.

We pray that Pope Francis and all religious leaders might inspire hope and courage during this global pandemic. Lord hear us.

We pray that all governments will come together in peace and genuine dialogue so that, emerging from the sadness and anxiety of the pandemic, the way ahead might help and support the people who are most in need. Lord hear us.

We pray for all those whose lives have been turned upside-down by the pandemic, that those who have been bereaved might be comforted, that those in isolation might not feel lonely, and that there might be a secure future for those whose employment is insecure. Lord hear us.

We pray in gratitude for the generous self-sacrifice of so many people during the past few weeks, that God will bless and reward their compassionate goodness during a time of crisis. Lord hear us.

We pray that children and young people will confidently return to full-time education and will face the future with hope and happiness. Lord hear us.

We pray that the experience of the coronavirus will leave a lasting legacy of kindness, compassion, solidarity, hope and the priceless values which make life worth living. Lord hear us.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, we thank you for the courage of the countless millions of people who dreamed of world peace. We pray that their example will inspire their descendants to continue their work for peace. Lord hear us.

Lord our God, we believe in you. We hope in you. We trust you and we love you, who reign within our world, our lives and our hearts for ever and ever. Amen.

A brainteaser for the coming week

Our Pastoral Associate, Helen, sent the following puzzle to the Catechists. Can you find sixteen books of the Bible in the following paragraph?

“I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). For some it might be difficult to find the books, for others it might be a fluke. It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate Our better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are the names of sixteen books in this story”.

Answers will be published in next Sunday's newsletter.