



St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

4th Sunday of Easter

3rd 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

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

(Order of Friars Minor Conventual Registered Charity No 249881)

Pastoral Area Website www.liverpooolsouthpastoralarea.org.uk

MAY BANK HOLIDAY on Monday 4th. The Parish Office will remain closed.

FAMILY OFFERING ENVELOPES: if your envelope number is above 100, these will be delivered to your home in the coming week.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Veronica Haddock, James O'Prey, Norman Byrne, Neville Clarkson.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES has recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone. The sick and their families are suffering many hardships of isolation from their loved-ones. The front-line workers in hospitals and care homes in the British Isles are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. To show spiritual solidarity with all who are involved in the ways described above, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in hi Cathedral every Thursday evening at 7.00pm, which will be live-streamed.

7 May: Bishop Marcus Stock -

St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds

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 Draney -

St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough

POPE FRANCIS has instituted a new foundation to examine the thoughts and teachings of one of his predecessors, the Venerable Pope John Paul I who was pope for 33 days in 1978. We pray for the success of the foundation and the outcome of its research.

LOSS OF A CHILD: Parents who have experienced the loss of a child may speak in confidence with a parent who understands their grief by contacting the parish helpline via email: talkaboutbabybereavement@gmail.com

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

03. Sunday	Parishioners
04. Monday	James Booth rip
05. Tuesday	Donors Intention
06. Wednesday	Donors Intention
07. Thursday	Donors Intention
08. Friday	Donors Intention
09. Saturday	Donors Intention
10. Sunday	Parishioners

Masses Received. James Booth rip

PRAYER COMPANION to the front line workers. Many of our parishioners are frontline workers, so if you'd like to become a prayer companion, please contact Fr. Kevin.

We pray for all who are sick especially Karen Boon who is seriously ill, and all who are suffering at this time.

In Memoriam. Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Michael Hanley, Harry Gorman, Leonora Ann McGuinness, Eddie Melia, Sheila Crawley, Josephine Moore, Catherine Shearon, Stephen Crane, Vera Hill, Ayda May McNally, Fred Jones, Martha Cairns, Kathleen Allerston, Fred J Woods, Doreen Caffrey, Eileen Dwyer, Irene Harkins, Vincent Ruxton, James Peter Newton, Gerry Redmond, Eileen Kehoe, Kathleen O'Donnell, Barry Mercer, Ellen Smith and Ethel Gorman.

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.

Christ the Good Shepherd.

A priest in a rural parish had spent a glorious summer's morning on a local farm, after having been invited by the farmer to assist in gathering the sheep from the fell top. Until then his encounters with sheep had been limited mainly to rescuing the occasional errant lamb that found itself stuck in one of the fences near the church while reaching for the grass on the other side. But the morning's work had gone well; he had not sent the sheep the wrong way or lost any – or even lost himself on the fell.

Later that week he assisted the farmer in feeding the sheep. These pastoral experiences gave him a glow of inward satisfaction and he resolved that he would bring them into his homily at Mass the following Sunday. But when Sunday arrived, the rain was lashing down and the roads to the church were flooded. The congregation was consequently reduced to a handful and so he debated with himself as to whether, because of the small number of people, he should deliver the full homily or give only a brief summary.

He opted for the full homily – but then sensed that it hadn't gone down too well. Afterwards he said to the farmer, "Well, I thought of saying just a few words and then I thought of you feeding the sheep. If only a few come, you still feed them, don't you?" "That's as may be," replied the farmer. "But I don't give them the full bag of feed, do I?"

The farmer, like any good shepherd, knew that to give his sheep too much was as bad as giving them too little. In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah says that God is like "a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms"; God says to Ezekiel, "I myself will pasture my sheep... I shall be a true shepherd to them."

The concept of God as shepherd is fulfilled in Jesus, who calls his sheep individually by name. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. He is also the "gate of the sheepfold" as through him the sheep are sure of finding pasture. It is through Christ that the people of God, called by name and responding to his voice, enter into the pastures of eternal life.

In the present age it sometimes seems that a reversal is in process and that the meaning of a Christian celebration is taken over by a kind of materialism and even paganism that elevates secular things almost to the status of "gods".

What should be our response?

As Christians, we are called to participate in the work of the Good Shepherd. We are called to have nothing of the "false shepherd" about us, and therefore nothing that prevents us from having at least something of that Spirit-filled courage that enabled Peter to stand up before the crowd and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Christ.

Like the farmer who fed his sheep neither too much nor too little, we are to present our faith to others with integrity.