



St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

The Most Holy Trinity

7th June 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)

GRATEFUL THANKS for your continuous support of the parish and the friars. The weekly collection since lockdown began has averaged at £200. The friars would like to thank you for your contributions. We would like to thank the anonymous donor for the delicious *Lemon Drizzle* cake which was delivered to the friary from Cuthbert's.

REOPENING: Discussions in relation to a date for reopening the Church are ongoing. Great care is being taken to ensure that all preventative measures will be in place before reopening. Pews have been sectioned off to create a safe space for individuals, couples and families. Two metre distances around the candle stands have been marked out. Wall-mounted hand-gel dispensers are on order. The sacristy and all areas off the sacristy will be closed to the public as will the confessionals. Parishioners will be required to provide their own face masks.

SACRAMENTS: Every sacrament celebrated in our parish is an important moment in the faith of each one of us. The children have been preparing for First Communion by continuing the *With You Always* programme at home under the guidance of their parents. Adults are prepared to receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist with a number being parents of children in the first Communion programme. Couples have been preparing for marriage. In view of the government guidelines, it is uncertain when public gatherings will be permitted and the number of people allowed in Church. The sacraments must be celebrated in a safe environment. There is no definitive answer as to when the celebration of sacraments will recommence. If you are preparing for the sacraments this year and have any concerns please contact the parish office.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE DYING: Viaticum is the only sacrament which is permitted to be celebrated and is only for those parishioners who are nearing the end of life.

DAY BY DAY prayer booklets for June and July are available in the friary porch. The booklets are free-of-charge. (Entrance via Elmsley Road).

FR. KEVIN was referred to the Liverpool Royal University Hospital A&E on Friday evening to be assessed for a suspected blood clot and extremely high blood pressure. Following an examination and analysis of his blood it was determined that Fr Kevin is a clot, and that they did not find his heart but a swinging brick. Once his blood pressure was stabilized, Fr. Kevin did not have to be admitted to the hospital and returned to the friary where he will be on a complete rest for the duration of this week. Fr. Kevin commented that it was his first experience of the NHS at close hand. All the NHS staff in the Royal A&E were amazing with the patients and deserve all the praise that they receive. He expresses his thanks to Dr. Jonathan and the Nurses on A&E for their efficiency, kindness and care during his stay.

Fr. Vincent – assistant to the guardian.

Masses: To be said in the Friary chapel – not the church

07. Sunday	Parishioners
08. Monday	Anthony Thompson rip
09. Tuesday	Clare Thornton Wrigley rip
10. Wednesday	Jo Wheat rip
11. Thursday	Jo Rooney rip (Anniversary)
12. Friday	Bill Haliwell rip
13. Saturday	Friars Intention
14. Sunday	Parishioners

Masses Received. Jo Rooney rip (A), Ken Foy rip (A), J&T Magill rip, Sick.

Grave humour.

An inexperienced priest was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's area of the cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the soil was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young cleric went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I have never seen anything like that."

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.

Thought for the day;

In his novel *Monsignor Quixote* the Catholic author Graham Greene tells a delightful story about friendship and faith. Set in Spain, sometime after the era of General Franco, the book explores the relationship between two key characters. One of them, the local parish priest, is a Christian; the other, the former communist mayor, is an atheist. They decide to leave behind their small village and familiar surroundings to set off together on a journey of discovery.

As they travel, the conversation often turns, perhaps inevitably, to the subject of religion. Early on in the book, we find the two figures seated on a hillside sharing some bottles of wine. Choosing his moment, the mayor addresses the priest with these words: “What puzzles me, friend, is how you can believe in so many incompatible ideas. For example, the Trinity. It’s worse than higher mathematics. Can you explain the Trinity to me?”

The priest pauses to think and then replies. He explains that the wine they have been drinking has come from different bottles. The first bottle represents God the Father; the second bottle represents God the Son. Although in different bottles, the wine they contain is of the same substance, it was born at the same time. The third bottle, which brings what he calls the “extra spark of life”, represents the Holy Spirit. So, the priest concludes, although from three different bottles, the wine in each is inseparable, it shares one and the same substance and is of the same vintage. Therefore, “Whoever partakes of one partakes of all three.”

Our celebration today calls us to contemplate the very essence of who God really is. By the power of our own intelligence we might well be able to recognise a creator behind our universe, a supreme being who is the cause of everything that exists. We might even have a sense of wonder at the beauty of creation and an awareness of the spiritual qualities that underpin our life. Yet there is more to God than this.

It is in the person of Jesus that we come to a full understanding of who God is. It is Jesus who reveals God to us as a heavenly Father, his Father and our Father. It is Jesus who shows himself to be the Son of that Father, and ourselves as his sisters and brothers. It is Jesus who promises to send the Holy Spirit as a gift from his Father and himself so that they might make their home within us. In word and action, Jesus teaches us the truth about God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, something we could never fully grasp by reasoning alone.

When he spoke with Nicodemus, Jesus didn’t use the language of philosophy to explain why he had been sent by the Father; he used the language of love. It is the loving Father who sends his beloved Son so that the way to eternal life might be opened up for all. The Father and Son exist in a relationship of love and the bond of love that binds them together is the Holy Spirit. The God of tenderness and compassion revealed to Moses is now shown completely as the God who is a community of three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, existing as one in a relationship of perfect love.

Monsignor Quixote’s explanation doesn’t answer every question about the Trinity. In fact, in the book, he comes unstuck by representing the Holy Spirit by a half bottle of wine instead of the full bottle used for God the Father and God the Son. He accuses himself of failing to teach that the Holy Spirit is equal in all respects to the Father and the Son. We certainly do need an intellectual understanding of what we believe, and in this images and examples can help us.

It was, after all, St Patrick who famously used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the unity of God in three persons. However, the so-called mystery of the Trinity is not a problem that needs to be solved. It is an experience of faith which we are called to encounter.

We do this by allowing ourselves to be loved by the God who is love. By opening our hearts to the living love of the Holy Spirit we are drawn into the loving relationship that exists between the Father and the Son. As we become partakers of the very life of the Trinity, so those we encounter will also partake of God.

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come before you today, celebrating your presence in our lives and our world. We believe in you. We trust in you. We hope in you. We ask you to hear even the unspoken prayers hidden deep within our hearts.

We pray for Pope Francis and all religious leaders, that they will be filled with the love of the Father, the self-sacrifice of the Son and the compassion of the Holy Spirit as they work to inspire hope and trust during this global pandemic. Lord hear us.

We pray for everyone in international, national and local leadership during this period of Covid-19 decision-making, that they might use wisdom and compassion as they discern the way forward. Lord hear us.

We pray for families, teachers and small children as schools reopen, that they might be safe and free from sickness. Lord hear us.

We pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, friend, neighbour, customer or colleague, that they might find the comfort and support that they need and that those who have died might be enjoying eternal life with God. Lord hear us.

We pray for farmers and growers who are coping with the effects of an unusually wet spring, lockdown and a long period of exceptionally dry weather, that God will bless and reward their efforts to bring food and loveliness into our lives and homes. Lord hear us.

We pray for all frontline workers who have tried so hard to keep us safe and supplied with our many practical needs during the past couple of months, that God will bless and reward them for their care and generosity. Lord hear us.

We pray for the people of the United States at this time, that peace might be restored and a way found to ease the current tensions, allowing people of all colours and creeds to live and work together in harmony. Lord hear us.

Let us pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, Bro Christopher Lazar, Bro Peter Hennesey, Fr Aidan Duffy, Jo Rooney, Mair Williams, Andrew Kennedy Edward Smith, Eileen Wylie, Josephine Clintworth, Monica Hughes, Myra Concepta Mitchell, Ernest Bennett, Patrick Hicks, Charles Vernon, Mrs McCarthey, Kate Bell, Veronica Turnbull, Peggy Quinn, Anita England, James Wilson, Frank Figueredo, Emily Ellis, Irene McRae, Gracy Mendonca. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Blessed Trinity of life and love, be the centre of our loves. Be the focus of our love. Amen.

Please pray for the sick:

Margaret Barrow, Joanne & Julian Bone, Michael Brooks, Christopher Browne, Carol Bennett, Seamus Carten, Timothy Clarkson, Derek Checkland, Tom Culley, Conor Daly, Alice Feeney, Grace Fernando, Patricia Fitzgerald, Gail Flaherty, Gerry Foley, Marian Gallagher, Joan Ganner, Eunice Garforth, Clare Giblin, James Grant, John Green, Irene Gregory, Fr. Kevin Hanley OFM Conv, Juliette Hannon, Lilian Hill, Fr. Gerald Hicks OFM Conv, Adrian Hill, Lilian Hill, David Jeffrey, Mark Kelly, Joan Kemp, Denise Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy, Maureen Kerruish, David Lee, Jennie & Leighton, Maria & Clare Leonard, Sue Lethbridge, Helen Linford, Eva Littler, Freddie Keegan, Elma Kirwan, Patricia McAuley, Winnie McFadden, Joseph McKenna, Simon McLeod, Danny McSweeney, Kevin McSweeney, Stephan Malick, Angela Millan, John Monaghan, Rihanna Mughan, Marisa & Gianpietro Pacati, Cheryl Power, Terence Randles, Paul Rattigan, Hugh Reily, Tess Rice, Kenny Roberts, Therese de Rouffignac, Jacob Scott, Cecelia Shaw, David Smallwood, Jenny Spann, Patricia Steele, Eileen Stokes, Joseph Stokes, Mary Summerfield, Theo (child), Lisa Thomas, Maureen Thomas, Tony and Marie, Pat Unwin, Ewan James Vicars, Peggy Westhead, James Whelan, Sophie Williams, Michelle Worthington. and John Young.

One for the hairstylists in our community

