

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th July 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)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES IN 2021

FIRST COMMUNION 2021: There are limited places remaining on the programme for 2021. Children who will enter Year 4 in their respective schools in September 2020 and who reside in the parish of St. Anthony of Padua are eligible for First Holy Communion in 2021. All Sacramental programmes are parish based and registering for the *With You Always* programme is required. The closing date for registration is Friday, July 24th 2020.

CONFIRMATION: The Sacrament of Confirmation for Year 8 children will be celebrated in the Parish next year. Enquiries and registration can be made at the Parish Office.

ADULT CATECHESIS: Adults (18 years of age plus tax) who feel called to live the Catholic Faith are invited to make enquiries with Fr. Kevin.

REOPENING:

Mass will be celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua beginning Monday, July 13th at 12.00.

Sunday Mass will recommence next weekend, Sunday, July 19th at 9.30am, 11.00am, and 6.00pm.

Stewards are required. No age limit is being set. Four volunteers are required for daily Mass from 11.30am-12.40pm and six volunteers for each Mass on Sunday.

There will be no Readers, Eucharistic Ministers or Servers in the sanctuary area. The porch is not to be used at any time during Mass. Holy Communion will be distributed AFTER Mass ends and attendees will be required to leave the Church immediately. [Please see the Archdiocesan recommendations at the end of this newsletter].

FACE COVERINGS: Adults are requested to provide and wear their own face coverings.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: While there is no limit to the numbers attending daily or Sunday Mass, the Church can provide safe social distance seating for 60-90 people. Pews will be reserved for individuals, couples and families. Please respect these reserved areas.

SANITISING HAND GEL is located throughout the Church. Sanitising wipes, gloves, aprons, industrial paper towels and yellow waste bins are provided.

CLEANING PEWS: The pews need to be wiped down after each Mass. Help with this task will be required. Please contact the parish office if you are willing to volunteer.

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

12. Sunday	1. Parishioners 2. Jonathan Fitchett rip (8 th Anniversary)
13. Monday	Donors Intention
14. Tuesday	Bridget & James Corcoran rip (BR)
15. Wednesday	Margaret Moloney rip
16. Thursday	Elizabeth Bate rip
17. Friday	Donors Intention
18. Saturday	Donors Intention
19. Sunday	Parishioners

Masses Received. Jonathan Fitchett rip (8th A), Fr. Ian McPartland (30th A of Ordination), Margaret Moloney rip, Elizabeth Bate rip x 2, Mr and Mrs Bate (WA).

Church humour:

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into Heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into Heaven?" she asked.

Again, they all answered, "NO!"

She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

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 for 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

"Imagine a sower going out to sow."

Whilst water gives life and growth, and while we enjoy images of mountain streams and refreshing pools, we know that water can be destructive. The image of water which the prophet Isaiah gives is a reminder of the power of the word of God to turn life upside down.

Advertisements fill the newspapers with E-mail and Internet codes. They promise the instant availability of information about holidays, and goods of all descriptions. Whilst there is something good about these modern developments, they indicate how busy people are in today's world. It is difficult to find quiet, still places where one can be alone.

Silence is frightening because it can make people sensitive to the deeper events of life. In the stillness, choices and priorities become clearer. It is as though scales are removed from eyes and horizons are widened. In the quiet moments, the mind relaxes and awkward questions have the opportunity to arise.

As a caring and thoughtful teacher, Jesus called his disciples aside to spend precious moments with him so that they might understand his teaching more fully. Growing up in Jewish society, they had learnt that the Pharisees were the ones who had a special insight into God's will.

When Jesus taught them in a different way, they were confused. He criticised the Pharisees, zealous lay people who argued that only by keeping the Law fully could one be a good Jew. He taught that the Pharisees had hardened people's hearts to God's real message. Their ears and eyes were closed. There is a danger when the message of salvation becomes exclusive.

The parable of the sower shows the lavishness of God's gifts. Jesus communicates to his disciples that they must accept the gifts which God has bestowed on them. The various attitudes of the heart can be likened to the different types of ground on which the seed falls. There is fertile soil open to hear God's word. There are areas of neglect, likened to thorny patches. Rocky patches are parts of the heart that have become hardened by bitterness or resentment.

Like a good gardener who sees possibilities, Jesus teaches that each part can be transformed to bear fruit. It may require drastic pruning, clearing the weeds or careful attention, but in time the ground may yield a rich harvest. Nothing is hopeless.

To see hope in situations which seem hopeless is a gift from God. Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us that the new creation comes about through struggle. Change is always difficult, whether personal change or social change.

As we remember the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ending of the Soviet bloc years ago, we are reminded that it came about through the suffering and struggle of many good people who endured trials, imprisonment or torture before they regained their freedom.

Today's Gospel invites us to search our hearts in silence and reflect on the different sorts of ground we find there. Can we celebrate the gifts we have been given? Do I recognise the good aspects of my life? Do I rejoice in my family and relationships? Am I grateful, and do I thank God?

Perhaps poor sorts of ground can be found there. The thorns which choke the good plants may be present in feelings of bitterness or anger. Do I know why I feel these emotions? What aspects of my life are being choked out - family, relationships, love, prayer? What choices do I want to make?

Which roots need nourishment? How might I try to nourish them this week - perhaps by giving a gift to someone I love, maybe by confronting difficult situations. The word of God promises that we will never be alone and can approach all situations with hope.

Bidding Prayers

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12th July 2020

Dearest Lord, we come before you with open hearts. Hear our prayers that we bring before you.

1. We pray for Pope Francis as he asks us to discover the face of Jesus in the migrants, refugees and the displaced who are forced to flee their homes because of the many injustices that still afflict our world today. Lord hear us.
2. We pray for those currently unemployed or anxious about job security. At a time when fears are rising, we pray no one will be left without hope for the future. Lord hear us.
3. We pray for countries that are experiencing a second surge in Coronavirus infections. May their governments act quickly to curb the spread and may communities have patience and resilience as they enter their second phase of lockdown. Lord hear us.
4. We pray for all of those on hospital waiting lists that they may be restored by the Holy Spirit. Bless the work of doctors, surgeons and all hospital staff as they work hard to care for our communities. Lord hear us.
5. We pray for teachers and all those in educational settings. As the end of the school term approaches, we thank them for all they have done in helping to navigate families through the uncertain past few months and for caring for our key worker children. Lord hear us.
6. We pray for couples that have had to rearrange their marriage ceremonies this year. May their love and commitment to one another grow stronger as they continue to prepare for their special union. Let them be filled with wonder and excitement as they look forward to their happy future together. Lord hear us.
7. Let us pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Thomas Gannon, Jonathan Fitchett, Kathleen Atherton, Danny Whitehead, Joachim Dolan, Peter Crawley, Joan Maxwell, Henry Hogan, John Boland, Joan Colfar, Marie Angela Costello, Patrick Flannery, Ann Finnan, Eilish Keenan, Doris McNeil, John McNerny, Patrick Murphy, Sheila O'Reilly, Teresa Perkins, Bro. Matthew Smith OFM Conv. and Bro. John Joseph Dolan OFM Conv. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
8. Let us pray for a moment for our own personal petitions.

Father, Almighty, we pray and ask you to hear our prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Archdiocese of Liverpool

Cautious reopening of our churches for public worship.

Before you arrive

You should avoid bringing any unnecessary items into church, e.g. shopping bags, as you will not be returning to your seat once you have received Holy Communion.

You should stay at home if you are unwell. People who are vulnerable or who feel unsure about returning to Mass need to consider the wisdom of doing so.

Remember the Sunday obligation has not been reinstated and livestreaming of Masses will continue.

You will need to bring your own face covering.

All people entering church must wear a face covering at all times.

When you arrive

You will be welcomed by a steward and you may be asked to give your contact details.

You must adhere to social distancing guidelines in place.

Any children accompanying you must do the same.

Baskets will be available at the entrance (and exit) for your weekly envelopes or other contributions.

You will be directed to the hand sanitiser.

You will be directed to a bench. It may not be where you usually sit.

Toilets will remain closed at all times except for a genuine emergency.

The piety stall will be closed.

During Mass

There will be no Sign of Peace.

There will be no singing.

Holy Communion

- Will be distributed after the final dismissal of the Mass.
- The words “The Body of Christ” and the reply “Amen” will only be said once at the beginning of distribution. They will not to be repeated for each person receiving Holy Communion.
- The volunteer stewards will direct you to approach the altar to receive Holy Communion.
- People receiving Communion will be instructed to approach the altar with their arms outstretched so as to maintain a reasonable distance from the minister.
- You may only receive the Sacred Host in your hand and not on your tongue.
- Communicants must avoid skin to skin contact with the minister’s hands.
- You must then step to one side, lower your face covering and place the Sacred Host in your mouth the follow directions to leave the church immediately.

After Mass

Use only the designated exit.

Please take home any newsletters, Mass sheets and other papers you may use.

Please do not gather in the church porch or on church property for conversations.

Continue to wear your face covering until you leave the area where other people are.

We know that many people are excited about returning to church. We want to make sure that you can do so safely and comfortably as social distancing guidelines are still in place.

Because of social distancing we will have to limit the numbers in church so we would encourage people, if possible, to attend weekday Mass as an alternative to Saturday evening or Sunday - the Sunday obligation is still suspended.

The Mass will be different to the way we are used to celebrating but it is to ensure everyone’s safety.

Thorough cleaning and sanitisation will need to take place after each Mass and that may mean the number of Masses may need to be reduced.

While we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

Liverpool Archdiocesan Office
Supporting Evangelisation
www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk