

# St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> m Sunday in Ordinary Time

16<sup>th</sup> August 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

**Community:** Fr. Kevin OFM Conv. Parish Priest  
Fr. David OFM Conv. and Fr. Vincent OFM Conv.

**Pastoral Associate:** Ms. Helen Jones.

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs. Alice Killip

**Parish Hall Manager:** Carol 07377341973

**Parish Office hours, Monday to Friday:** 9.30am – 11.30am

(Order of Friars Minor Conventual Registered Charity No 249881)

**BAPTISMS** will continue from October 2020.

**CONFIRMATION:** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Parish next year. Enquiries can be made at the Parish Office.

**ADULT CATECHESIS:** Adults (18 years of age and above) who feel called to live the Catholic Faith in full are invited to make enquiries at the Parish office.

**WEDDINGS:** Six months' notification is required for Marriages. Please check first with the parish office to ensure the date for a wedding is free before booking a venue for the reception. Marriages which were due to take place in 2020 have been rescheduled for 2021.

Please **FOLLOW** the arrows and the one-way system that is in place. Please **DO NOT** cut through the benches, otherwise we will have to return to the previous set-up. **Face coverings or a loose fitting scarf** must be worn at all times in Church. Children and those with medical conditions who find it difficult to wear a mask are exempt.

**CLEANING PEWS:** Grateful thanks to everyone who helps with sanitising the pews after each Mass.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** will take place on **September 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**. A number of children have requested to receive their First Holy Communion at a Sunday Mass. Please continue to pray for the children.

**THANK YOU** for your continued support of the friars and church through your generous contributions.

**GUIDERAIL:** A new guiderail has been installed on the steps by the entrance door of the church. Please use this when ascending the steps from the car park.

**MASS STIPENDS:** Please note that the friars are accepting Mass stipends. We greatly appreciate your support as it helps with the upkeep and ministry of the friars.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** will be available on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August from 11.00am to 11.45am in St. Anthony's Chapel.

## Church Masses:

16. Sunday	<b>Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
	9.30 am	Frances Peers rip (Birthday Remembrance)
	11.00 am	Parishioners
	6.00 pm.	Philomena McElhatton rip (1st A)
17. Monday	12.00 noon	Des Rooney rip (BR)
18. Tuesday	12.00 noon	For successful cancer treatment
19. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Marie (Scott) Cole rip (BR)
20. Thursday	12.00 noon	for Victims of the Pandemic
21. Friday	12.00 noon	Holy Souls
22. Saturday		No Church Mass
23. Sunday	9.30 am.	Kearon Worthington rip (A)
	11.00 am.	Laura, Dominic and baby (good health)
	6.00 pm.	Holy Souls

**Masses Received.** For successful cancer treatment x 2, for Victims of the Pandemic, Marie (Scott) Cole rip (BR), Helen Coulson rip (A), Philomena McElhatton rip (1st A), Laura, Dominic and baby (good health), Special Intention (AS), May West rip, Patrick Coolum rip, Sr Theresa West (Intention).

## Church Humour:



If Noah were a Scouser he would say to Moses ..... “ahr-eh”

**Thought for the day; "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."**

In his book *Mary for all Christians*, the Anglican theologian John Macquarrie records how he has grown in appreciation of the Assumption of our Lady. He is worth listening to, for he tells us that he has been thinking about this truth on and off for forty years.

It all began in 1946, when he was doing national service and was stationed in the Holy Land. One day he visited the church in Jerusalem known as the Dormition, or Falling Asleep, of Our Lady. He found it singularly gloomy, "just about the last place that would make one think of a glorious assumption". Nonetheless he felt he must kneel and pray, despite mocking comments from his comrades. "Dimly," he says, "I sensed that the Assumption was part of the very fabric of Christian faith."

Four years later, in 1950, when the doctrine of the Assumption was solemnly defined by Pius XII, Macquarrie liked the way the pope put it: Mary, "on completing the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul" not simply to heaven (as though she were merely transferred to another place), but rather "to heavenly glory", which suggests a transformation of her human condition, from its earthly state to a state in which she enjoys the glory of a new relationship with God.

He noted too that the pope had linked the Assumption with the intimate union existing between Mary and Jesus, between Mother and Child: she had conceived him, borne him, nourished him, done what every mother does for her child. Such an association surely could not come to an end when her earthly life was over.

Today's Gospel is a reminder, in the homeliest of terms, of that unique closeness between Mary and Jesus. We see her making her way to her elderly cousin Elizabeth; her very presence spells joy and wonderment, for she is a living tabernacle, carrying within her the Saviour of the world; she is "blessed among all women" because she is "the Mother of the Lord".

However, there is more to it than that. Elizabeth goes on to proclaim that Mary is blessed because she believes. Her closeness to Jesus stems not solely from her physical motherhood, from the fact that he is dependent upon her as is any unborn child upon its mother, but still more from her faith.

It is her faith that makes her the Lord's first disciple, first not simply because she is the first to set eyes upon him, but rather because she is his Number One follower; no-one ever had such faith, even though it was fiercely tested, even though it led her up the slope of Calvary's hill. As she was with him at the start of his earthly career so she was with him at the end.

Did not Jesus promise his followers: "Where I am, there also you will be"? You might say that his Ascension called for her Assumption, for in what other way could she be where he is now - in heavenly glory?

The Magnificat - "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" - the lovely song of thanksgiving that Mary sings in response to Elizabeth's greeting, is a foreshadowing of the song of thanksgiving she must surely have sung at her Assumption, for the Assumption is not

her personal achievement but a gracious gift of God: "The Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name."

The Magnificat is a song which we also can make our own because the Assumption is more than a piece of private information about Mary: it is a startling affirmation about us all. She has been described as the icon or image or prototype of the Church; she stands as a revelation of the salvation which God brings about for all the redeemed through his son Jesus.

In today's second reading Paul speaks of the Christian hope that as Jesus in his humanity was raised to a new, glorious existence, so we who are members of his body will share in a similar glory. The Assumption means that Mary already participates fully in that glory. And so in contemplating her we joyfully discover what God ultimately has in store for us all.

This, then, is a hope-filled feast - in Mary we see the meaning of salvation; it is a challenging feast - God saves people, and people are bodies as well as souls, and so bodies are to be respected, and all that fosters human well-being in soul or body to be pursued; above all, it is a feast crying out for thanksgiving - Mary's Assumption is one more proof of the love that God has for Mary and for all her children.

John Macquarrie was close to the mark when more than forty years ago he sensed that the Assumption was "part of the very fabric of Christian faith".

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### **Bidding Prayers - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Loving Lord, we hear today that your mother, Mary, met her cousin Elizabeth and declared that you made her rejoice in your care for her and for our world. We also sing of your goodness as we bring our prayers before you.

1. We pray that Pope Francis will continue to inspire us to be just and compassionate to anyone who is marginalised and suffering.
2. We pray that the people of Lebanon will find the hope and support they need as they try to recover from the recent explosion and the resignation of their Government.
3. We pray for success in the efforts to control the coronavirus pandemic, for the speedy recovery of those who are sick and for eternal life for those who have died, directly or indirectly, from the effects of the virus.
4. We pray that God will watch over, bless and protect all those who, in whatever way, work to safeguard others at this critical time.

5. We pray that students who have recently received exam results will feel hopeful and encouraged as they look towards the future.
6. Let us pray that countries which are torn apart by a struggle for justice and freedom will find the peace and security for which their people yearn. We pray especially for the people of Belarus at this difficult time.
7. We pray that families, during this holiday season, will grow closer to each other in love and understanding. May the Lord bless them with health, happiness and safety.
8. Let us pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Fr Philip Doherty, Sarah (Sally) Richardson, Margaret Finegan, Brian McCaffrey, Sally Nieborg, Monica Cooper, Michael Francis Quinn, Bridget Porteus, Andrew Gore, Trevor Hill, Mary Collings, Sheila Moss, Kenneth Kenny, Jim Atherton, John McAlister, Elizabeth Wynne, Bob Keen. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
9. Let us pray for a moment for our own personal petitions.

God of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us in the days that lie ahead. Be the source of our hope and our joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **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.