

# St. Anthony of Padua

## Parish Newsletter

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th October 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)

### CARLO ACUTIS

#### Saint of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



**Born:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991 {London, England}

**Died:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006 {Monza, Milan, Italy}

**Aged** 15 years

**Resting Place:** Assisi, Italy

**Patron of** Youth, Students, Internet

**Venerable Carlo Acutis** (3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991-12<sup>th</sup> October 2006) was an Italian Catholic teenager. He was best known for documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloguing them all onto a website that he himself created in the months before his death from leukaemia. He was noted for his cheerfulness and for his computer skills as well as for his deep devotion to the Eucharist which became a core theme of his life. The calls for him to be beatified began soon after he died and gained significant momentum in 2013 after the cause commenced and he received the title of Servant of God - the first stage on the path towards sainthood. Pope Francis declared him to be Venerable on 5 July 2018; the same pope approved a miracle attributed to him which enables Carlo to be beatified.

**CARLO ACUTIS** was born in London on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1991 to Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano. His parents worked in London though moved to Milan in September 1991 where they settled. He became devoted as a child to the Mother of God and recited the Rosary frequently as a sign of his devotion to her. He became a frequent communicant after the reception of his First Holy Communion and made the effort either before or after Mass to reflect in front of the tabernacle. Acutis also attended the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a week.

Those around him knew he had a passion for computers and technology. He spent his school education in Milan and his high school studies were under the Jesuits at the Institute of Leo XIII. He also had several models as his guides for life: St. Francis of Assisi, Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, St. Dominic Savio, St. Tarcisius and St. Bernadette (Lourdes)

Carlo Acutis was worried about those of his friends whose parents were divorcing and so he would invite these friends to his home to support them. He defended the rights of the disabled and protected disabled peers at school when bullies mocked them.

He contracted leukaemia and offered his pain for both Pope Benedict XVI and for the Universal Church in which he said that “I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church”. He had asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages to the sites of all the known Eucharistic miracles in the world but his worsening health prevented this from happening.

Being passionate about computers led Carlo to create a website dedicated to the careful cataloguing of each reported miracle and he did this in 2005 (he had catalogued each case since he was 11 years old). He appreciated Blessed James Alberione’s initiatives to use the media to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel and aimed to do this with the website that he had created. It was on Carlo’s website that he said: “the more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven”.

The doctor treating him asked him if he was suffering much pain and he responded that “there are people who suffer much more than me”. He died on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 6:45am from *M3 fulminant leukaemia* and he was buried in Assisi in accordance with his wishes.

**Beatification.** The Episcopal Conference of Lombardy approved the petition for the cause of canonization to be introduced at their meeting in 2013. The opening of the diocesan investigation was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 with Cardinal Angelo Scola inaugurating the process and then concluding it later on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The formal introduction to the cause came on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and Acutis became titled as a Servant of God. Pope Francis confirmed his life of heroic virtue on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and named him as Venerable.

Medical experts approved a miracle attributed to him on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Pope Francis confirmed this miracle in a decree on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020. The *Venerable Carlo Acutis* will be beatified in Assisi next Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 4.00pm CET.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, inspire and protect our young parishioners. Amen.

## New Church Mass times: October 2020

03. Vigil	6.00 pm.	Recovery from illness
04. Sunday	8.00 am.	The Friars (Feast day – St Francis of Assisi)
	10.00 am.	Parishioners
	12.00 noon	Derek Garland rip (LD)
05. Monday	12.00 noon	Frank Eustace rip (BR)
06. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Healthy baby and mother
07. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Eileen Lemon's Intentions
08. Thursday	12.00 noon	Mona & Lawrence Cooper rip
09. Friday	12.00 noon	Hughes Family (deceased)
10. Vigil	6.00 pm.	Terri Valiant (Recovery from illness)
11. Sunday	8.00 am.	Pro Seipso
	10.00 am.	Successful Cancer Treatment
	12.00 noon	Parishioners

**Masses Received.** Frank Eustace rip (BR), Terri Valiant (Recovery from illness), Healthy baby and mother, Good Health (husband & wife), Successful Cancer Treatment, Eileen Maloney.

### Church Humour:



### 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 St Francis of Assisi (1102-1226)

Francis was the son of a prosperous cloth merchant in Assisi. When his father objected to having his goods sold without his consent to pay for the restoration of a church, the bishop commanded Francis to repay the money. He did. He also renounced his father and gave back everything he had ever been given, even his garments. He began a life of perfect evangelical poverty, living by begging and even then, only accepting the worst that people had to give. He preached to all the love of God and the love of the created world; because, having renounced everything, he celebrated everything he received, or saw, or heard, as a gift. A rich man sold everything and joined him, a canon from a neighbouring church gave up his position and joined them also.

They looked into the Gospel and saw the story of the rich young man whom Jesus told to sell everything; they saw Jesus telling his disciples to take nothing with them on their journey; they saw Jesus saying that his followers must also carry his cross. And on that basis, they founded an order. Francis went to Rome himself and persuaded the Pope to sanction it, though it must have seemed at once impractical and subversive, to set thousands of holy men wandering penniless round the towns and villages of Europe. Ten years later 5,000 men were wearing the Franciscan habit; a hundred years later Dante was buried in it because it was more glorious than cloth of gold. There is too much to say about Francis to fit here. He tried to convert the Muslims, or at least to attain martyrdom in doing so. He started the practice of setting up a crib in church to celebrate the Nativity. Francis died in 1226, having started a revolution, which endures to this day.

## **Sunday Thought for the day;**

"The Kingdom of God will be given to a people who will produce its fruit."

There are numerous stories of motorists blindly following their satellite navigation systems and missing the obvious signs about them. A German motorist was proudly driving his new car, crammed full with the latest in technology. He was particularly taken with his on-board computer. All he had to do was key in his destination, and his computer would find the quickest and most convenient route, using updated information to avoid roadworks, traffic jams, accidents and so on.

Part of the motorist's journey involved crossing a river over a bridge. As the driver followed the computer's directions, it led him closer and closer to the river, though he in fact could see no road sign to indicate that he was coming up to a bridge. Nevertheless, knowing that the information on his computer was constantly updated, he drove on with confidence right up to the river and over it. Except that there was no bridge there - it hadn't been built yet – and the man - and his brand new car - ended up in the bottom of the river.

We might laugh at such stupidity. How could the man ignore the fact that there were no signs? How could he fail to trust his own eyes and realise that there was no bridge? How could he fail to get the message in such a drastic way?

The religious leaders in today's gospel did precisely that - and perhaps we too, in our own way, are deaf and blind to the messages we are given. The story Jesus told of the vineyard and the tenants would have been clearly understood by all his hearers. The religious leaders knew that the story was aimed at them - they are the tenants whose task it is make sure that the vineyard - God's people - produces the harvests he expects.

Like the tenants in the story, they had forgotten who the owner of the vineyard is, who they should be working for. They had forgotten God, and the expectations he has of his people. Instead, they looked only to their own self-interest, their own security and comfort, and failed to give to God the harvest he expects.

What is this harvest? Isaiah says very clearly that God simply expects that justice should flourish among his people; he expects integrity, that is, faithfulness, right living, fairness. Instead of justice there is violence and oppression. Instead of integrity, we hear the cries of distress from the exploited and dispossessed.

Indeed, in the Old Testament, oppressing the poor is the equivalent of murder. So it is only a small step to go from ignoring the needs of the poor to actual murder. The duty to work for justice and to protect the weak is as serious as that - there is no room for compromise or indifference. We are either on the side of the poor, or we are on the side of those who kill and oppress.

Obviously, this gospel serves as a warning to all those in authority - both religious and civic leaders. There is a duty to ensure justice and respect for basic human rights, not just in our own country or Church, but world-wide. But it doesn't stop there. What about the local communities

we belong to - our city, our parish, our family? How is justice worked out here? Are we deaf to the cries of those who are the victims of injustice, do we ignore the signs of inequality and unfairness?

And what of us as individuals? God sends all kinds of messengers to speak his truth to us, to give us warning, to explain, to teach, to encourage, to guide.

Do we listen to the voice of God speaking in our conscience, or do we smother it?

Do we heed the voice of God speaking to us in the Scriptures, or do we block out that voice by never even opening the Bible?

Do we hear the authentic teaching of the Church?

Do we turn away from the poverty of our neighbours, their loneliness, their sadness, their pain?

It is easy for us to cocoon ourselves in a comfortable little ghetto, just as those tenants did, safely protected from the outside world behind the physical and emotional fences we construct to keep our world safe and undisturbed. It is easy to ignore the signs, like that motorist, and just keep on going the way we are.

There are many ways of killing God's messengers, of insulating ourselves from the needs of others. But if we do, if we fail to produce the harvest of good works, then one day we too will have to face the judgement of the God who asks us simply to work for his kingdom through lives based on justice, compassion and integrity.

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## **Bidding Prayers**

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year**

**4th October 2020**

Dear Lord, help us to live by your son's example. Help us to draw closer to Jesus Christ through thoughtful prayer. We place all our trust, hope and faith in you. Hear our prayers.

1. Let us pray for Pope Francis as he reminds us that a Christian life is not made up of dreams or beautiful aspirations, but of concrete actions, the capacity to open ourselves to God's will and to love our brothers and sisters.
2. On the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi let us pray to be better Christians. Like St Francis, let us get closer to the human Jesus and live our lives through kindness.
3. As the world's coronavirus death toll crosses one million let us pray for all those that have departed and are now seated in the Kingdom of Heaven. May they enjoy eternal peace. We pray for their families and loved ones.
4. Let us pray for NHS workers. As hospitals and GP surgeries struggle to cope with new admissions and the backlog of appointments we pray that health workers will be restored and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. Let us pray for families that are separated due to lockdown restrictions. May they remain hopeful for better days ahead.

6. Let us pray for all those who working tirelessly in the Church to keep the faithful nourished. We thank them for all their efforts, time and resources. We keep them in our prayers.
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 Br. Gerard Riegler, Fr Brian Crane, Anthony Jones, Eileen McNicholes, Mary Lally, Harry Wright, Susan Mould, Louise O'Halloran, Joan Davis, Gerard Moran, John Clay, Anthony Langdon, Martin O'Brien, Ethel O'Gorman. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
8. We pray for a moment for our own personal petitions.

Heavenly Father, cast your loving light upon us that we may bask in your great glory. Walk beside us as we place you above all else. 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 neighbors. 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.

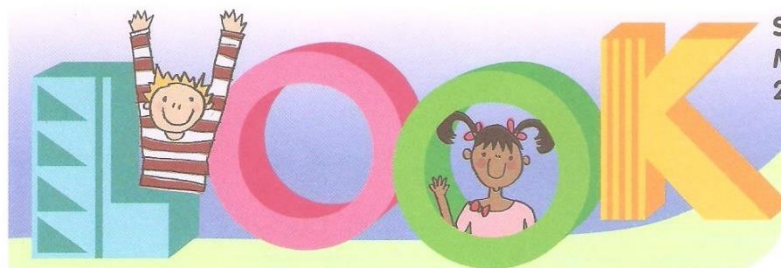
**God of Strength**, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

**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.

**Please scan the TEST and TRACE Barcode** as you enter Church. If you do not have a smartphone, please **sign your name** on the information sheet provided. This applies every day.





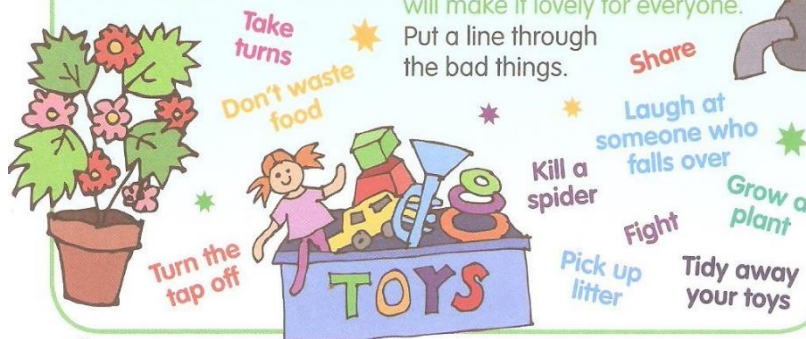
Sunday 4 October 2020  
Matthew 21:33-43  
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

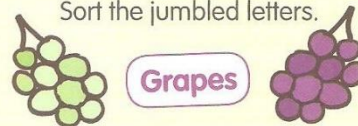
## GROW GOD'S FRUIT

We can help to make God's world a good place to live in. Tick the things you can do that will make it lovely for everyone. Put a line through the bad things.



## Where does the fruit grow?

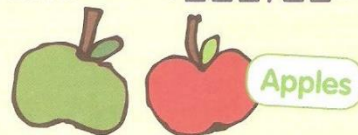
Sort the jumbled letters.



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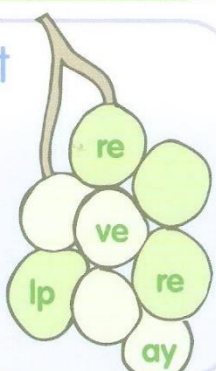
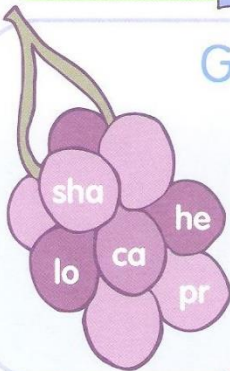
Oranges

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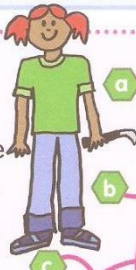
## Grow good fruit

We grow good fruit when we do as God asks. Match the letters in the purple grapes with the endings in the green grapes to find out how we can produce good fruit.



## Harvest

Join the dots and colour in the picture of a vine. Which path will Mia take so that she can harvest the ripe grapes?



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Father in heaven, you love everyone in the world. Help us to love everyone too, by always being kind and thoughtful. Amen.

Answers: Where does fruit grow: vineyard, orchard, plantation, orangery. Grow good fruit: share, love, help, care, pray. Harvest: path c