

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

2nd Sunday of Christmas

3rd January 2021



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)

The Epiphany: 6th January - Mass will be at 12.00 and 7.30pm.

Daily Mass. Monday 4th at 10.00am; Tuesday to Friday at 12.00;
The 7.30pm Mass on Tuesday evening is cancelled.

Sacramental Programme: Having examined numerous options and discussed the matter at local and diocesan level, a feasible solution to proceed with the *With You Always* programme for 2021 has not been found. Therefore, the Sacramental Programme is deferred to 2022.

Congratulations to - Grace Cornally and Thomas Monk on the occasion of their marriage on December 31st 2020 in St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Welcome into the parish community of St. Anthony of Padua Lola and Claudia Hannah who will be baptised this weekend.

Baptisms will take place either on a weekday evening or on Saturday. A number of baptisms have had to be deferred. We thank the parents and children for their patience.

Retirement – The Funeral Directors, Eifion and Violet Wynne-Jones, of Leadbetter and Murphy, have, for many years, provided care for the deceased and their families of this parish. Leadbetter and Murphy have directed the funerals of our deceased friars since the 1950's. Some families in the parish may have been looked after by Eifion in the office of the funeral home with Violet directing proceedings at Church. We wish Eifion and Violet every contentment and blessing in their retirement and thank them for their service to the parish community of St. Anthony of Padua.

Anti-bacterial Spray: These are no longer being supplied by the Archdiocese as it transpired that anti-bacterial spray is less expensive in supermarkets. As a suggestion, may I ask if you could supply the Church with one bottle of anti-bacterial spray please? Any brand mark will suffice (as long as it kills 99.9% germs). Supplies can be left in the Sacristy before or after Mass. We use at least 6 bottles per week to cleanse the pews.

2021 - As we begin our new year, let us pray that there will be a more tranquil time ahead for all and that the uncertainties which were encountered last year may ebb.

Mass times: Church Masses by Fr. Kevin

02. Vigil	6.00 pm.	David Coult
03. Sunday	8.00 am.	Marjorie & Joe Thompson
	10.00 am.	Sara Mellon rip (LD)
	12.00 noon	Parishioners
04. Monday	10.00 am.	Mattie Dunn rip (LD)
	12.00 noon	(<i>Funeral</i>)
05. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Pro se ipso
06. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Fr Gerard Toman (Speedy recovery)
(Epiphany)	7.30 pm.	Lee McNeil (Successful Chemotherapy)
07. Thursday	12.00 noon	Carmel Hanley rip (A)
08. Friday	12.00 noon	Michael Mohan (Successful Operation)
09. Vigil	6.00 pm	Sara Mellon rip
10. Sunday	8.00 am.	Parishioners
	10.00 am.	Dennis Hatton rip (LD)
	12.00 noon	Susan Mullholland rip (LD),

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. David

02. Saturday	12.00 noon	Peter Barber
03. Sunday	10.00 am.	Pro se ipso
04. Monday	12.00 noon	Sara Mellon rip
05. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Dili Hermans (Covid patient)
06. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Dorothy Keane
07. Thursday	12.00 noon.	Maureen Riceputi rip
08. Friday	12.00 noon	Maureen Riceputi rip
09. Saturday	12.00 noon	Donors Intention
10. Sunday	10.00 am.	Donors Intention

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. Vincent

02. Saturday	12.00 noon	Andrew Bowers rip
03. Sunday	10.00 am.	Freda Marnick rip
04. Monday 1	2.00 noon	Mattie Dunne rip (LD)
05. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Sara Mellon rip
06. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Frank Thornton rip (A)
07. Thursday	12.00 noon.	Maureen Riceputi rip (LD)
08. Friday	12.00 noon	Frances Peers rip
09. Saturday	12.00 noon	Albert Peers rip
10. Sunday	10.00 am.	Dorothy Hutchin rip

Masses Received.

Michael Mohan (Successful Operation), Dennis Hatton rip (LD), Fr Gerard Toman (Speedy recovery), Lee McNeil (Successful Chemotherapy), Maureen Riceputi rip (LD) x 2, Mattie Dunne rip (LD), Clare Thornton Wrigley rip (7th A), Frank Thornton rip, Frances Peers rip, Albert Peers rip, Dorothy Hutchin rip, Susan Mullholland rip (LD), Dili Hermans (Covid patient).

Thought for today. 2nd Sunday of Christmas. 3rd January 2021

“Grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.”

One of the great martyr bishops of the Church, St Ignatius of Antioch, once wrote: “It is better to be silent and to be, than to speak and not to be.” What did he mean by this mysterious utterance? He presumably meant more than, “Least said, soonest mended.” That itself is good advice, when the situation demands it. On the other hand, sometimes it is necessary to speak up. Perhaps St Ignatius meant that silence is sometimes both more dignified and more eloquent than speech. Perhaps he meant that, sometimes, a lot of pointless blether can somehow diminish us as people. This is certainly true if our chatter is negative, or malicious about others.

However, the main thing that distinguishes us from the other animals is our creative and complex use of the spoken word. We can not only communicate complicated things on a day-to-day level, but we can also create whole new worlds through storytelling and poetry and drama. Our words are creative and can bring things about. We can name ships, start wars, make peace, all with the use of words. The American journalist Edward Murrow said of Winston Churchill, “He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle.” All this is true because our words participate in the eternal Word of God, who is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. Our words only exist because of the Word.

The prologue to John’s Gospel is one of the great pieces of human literature, not simply religious literature. The cadences of the passage suggest that some of the verses were, at least originally, a poem in honour of the divine Word. The heart of the Gospel reading is that this divine Word, who is God, has permanently taken on our human nature. Jesus of Nazareth is both truly God and truly human. In the divine person, our human nature has entered permanently into the realm of the divine.

But there is more. “The Word was the true light that enlightens all men.” By our human nature being lifted up to partake in the divine nature, we share in the creative, truth-giving life of the divine Word. In fact, even before our redemption, as we were made through the Word, human beings had a share in that divine life. That is what we mean when we say that we are made in the “image and likeness of God”.

This taking on of our human nature becomes all the more awe-inspiring when we consider the child in Mary’s womb and the child in the manger.

God, who is the infinite source of all being, comes to us as an embryo, as a child in the manger, an infant and finally an adult human being, without ceasing to be God. As one of our Christmas carols puts it, “Lo, within a manger lies, he who built the starry skies.”

This has tremendous implications for us, of course. Through our baptism and participation in the sacraments, we are joined more and more closely to Christ, and made more deeply participators in the divine nature. Since the Word is “full of grace and truth”, our own speech can become more gracious and more truthful. Being fashioned by the Word, our minds are made for truth, and the closer our minds are conformed to the truth the happier we will be.

In our media-driven world, words can sometimes seem to have been cheapened and trivialised. There are seemingly endless words in text messages, tweets, blogs and newspaper headlines, in print and online. Many of these words are either shallow or misleading; they do not build up a culture of truth and grace. Perhaps in these circumstances, it is often better to be silent and to be, than to join in the stream of meaninglessness and cease to be.

Since God our Father has spoken his eternal Word to us, however, we are called to respond. The sacraments let us respond with the whole of our being. The liturgy helps us raise our voices in praise. As St Paul wrote to the Ephesians, we are called to sing “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart”. Acting justly and graciously can make our whole life into a hymn of praise to the Word, the Word who was made flesh and dwelt among us.



Thought for the day. 6th January. The Epiphany

“We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.”

At this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere, we long for light. Often the days are dark and grey. The sun seems to have lost its strength and the light is weak. It is now just over two weeks since the winter solstice and there is slight, almost imperceptible, lengthening of the day. This brings a feeling of hope. The sun will return, and heat and warmth will once again stir the cold earth.

Five thousand years ago, ancient peoples built burial chambers that would be illuminated by the sun on the shortest day, such as at Newgrange in the Boyne Valley in Ireland. The sun shone along a carefully fashioned stone passage and illuminated the entire chamber where human remains had been placed. Did such building projects originate from the desire for the return of light and warmth of the sun or was there a primitive understanding of a rebirth after death? We can only speculate. These stone monuments still evoke a sense of wonder and mystery as they are illuminated on the shortest day. Looking towards the eastern sky in the morning, it is a great sign of hope when the sky begins to brighten. A modern hymn opens with the words, “Longing for light, we wait in darkness”.

As we wait for the light to return, so the people of Israel waited for the light of a Messiah who would proclaim a new kingdom and give people a new promise. Today’s celebration of the Epiphany proclaims that Christ is the Messiah, the glory of God, who is like light breaking into the night and who gives a new hope and rebirth to the people that walked in darkness.

We come to the crib and look into the manger to see the Christ child lying in the feeding place for the animals. He is our food for life. With childlike wonder we look into the crib and see the kings gathering to worship this child and bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are gifts of great extravagance fit for a king and God. The gift of myrrh is a sign of suffering and the anointing of the dead, and so a shadow falls over this scene of joy and hope.

The fulfilment of the life of this child will be poured out on the cross so that we can have life, with our sins forgiven. The cross stands over this scene of Christmas and promises victory, hope and rebirth.

Another shadow falls over the scene. It is the long shadow reaching from Jerusalem and the court of Herod, who lives in the fear of a new king who will replace him and

usurp his throne. Herod's desire to speak to these travellers from the east was not out of curiosity or love but rather full of malicious intent. The recently completed Temple of Herod, glinting in the sun with its golden roof, was one of the wonders of the world, to be admired and wondered at by the many pilgrims to the city of Jerusalem. A child who would be king of the Jews might threaten Herod's power and his corrupt and oppressive reign. From the backwater of Bethlehem there comes a new king and a new shepherd of Israel. The magi worship and adore the Christ child in all his fragility, vulnerability and innocence. He becomes the new temple before whom we bow down and worship.

After the hectic celebration of Christmas, this feast helps us to grasp more deeply the gift that has been given to us and the revelation of the Christ child who will save us and who desires that all people hear his message of hope. What difference does this birth make to our lives as we resume our regular timetables and schools reopen?

Pope Francis challenges us to share the joy of the Gospel with people we meet. Maybe we can help a friend to find new meaning because of the celebration of Christmas. Perhaps we may have a new desire to speak of the birth of Christ. Maybe we are more ready to love in a difficult situation. The Epiphany invites us to find a new path and a new route as we begin this year. The Gospel message calls us to be more open to people who are fragile and vulnerable, weak and poor, and in this way share our hope and joy with others.

Bidding Prayers

2nd Sunday of Christmas

3rd January 2021

Lord God you call us to use our human words in order to make your Word real and living amongst us. We come before you with our love and our prayers that Jesus, your Son, the Word you spoke from all eternity, will walk with us through the days that lie ahead.

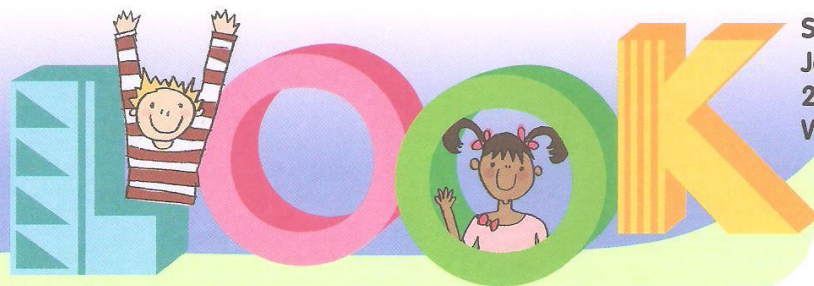
1. Let us pray for Pope Francis and all religious leaders at the start of this new year, that they might inspire us with the courage to make new beginnings and, together, to come closer to God and to each other.
2. Let us pray for all those in government throughout the world, that they might work to make 2021 a year of peace and greater understanding between all people, regardless of their nationality, race, culture, gender and economic status.

3. Let us pray that the United Kingdom's new relationship with Europe and the rest of the world will bring about the greatest good for the greatest number of people.
4. Let us pray for everyone whose life has been turned upside-down by the effects of the coronavirus, that 2021 might be a year of hope and that God will bless all the front-line workers whose generosity and concern made a difference to people's lives.
5. Let us pray for children and young people, that the disruptions to their education, family life and ability to find meaningful work will give way to joy and purpose in the coming year.
6. Let us pray for employers and employees who face uncertainty and insecurity in their workplaces and families, that they will find hope, security and new confidence.
7. 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 Fr Michael Monnelly, Fr Cletus Fitzpatrick, Carmel Hanley, Anne Rylands, Michael Morley, May Doyley, May-Anne Curtis, John Grice, Ralph Foringo, Margaret Ryan, Sheila Grist, Stephen Clintworth, Pauline Ryder, Jack Foster, Joseph Gorman, Maureen McPhee, Jenny Rutt, Marion Douglas, Peter McKenna, Catherine Walsh, Lionel Wood, Maureen Fearn, Patricia O'Prey, Margaret Corry. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
8. Let us pray for ourselves and our families, colleagues, friends and acquaintances, that 2021 will be a year of hope, new beginnings and happiness.

Loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us in all that we say, think and do in the coming year. Give us the courage to dream dreams and to spread your love to everyone we meet. Amen.

Please pray for those who ask for prayers.

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



Sunday 3 January 2021
 John 1:1-12
 2nd Sunday after the Nativity (England, Wales and Ireland)

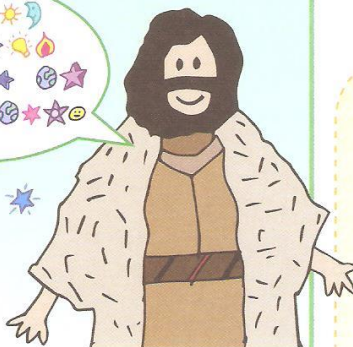
IN THE **GOSPEL** TODAY

My name is _____

We hear today that Jesus is the light of the world and that Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, was sent by God to share this message. Everyone who believes in Jesus is one of God's children. **That includes you!**

SHINE JESUS SHINE!

What message does John the Baptist have for us all?

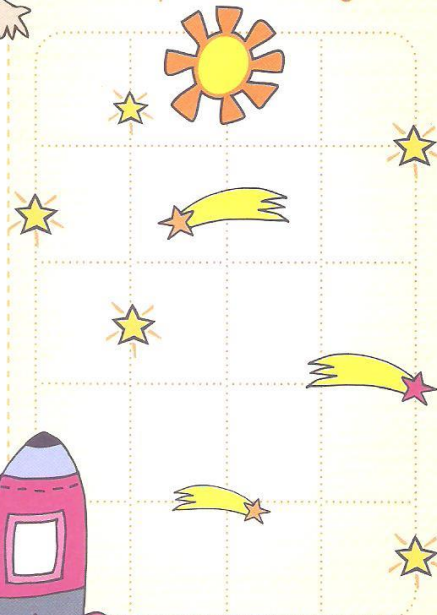


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Closer to the light!

Can you follow the dotted lines to connect the stars and take the space rocket to the sun?

Don't bump into a shooting star!



Sudoku

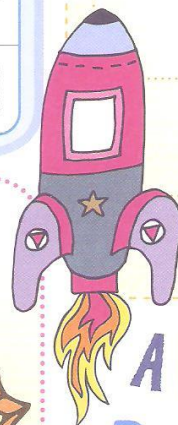
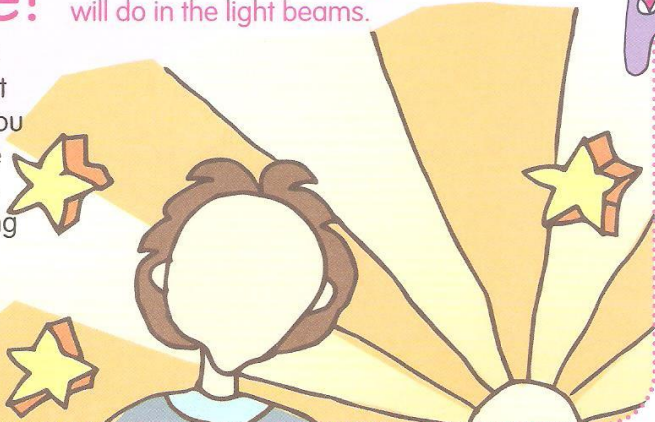
Can you fill the grid with light?

Each row, each column and each mini-grid should have just one of each type of light.

Shine!

Draw, or write about, the good things you will do in the light beams.

How will you let God's light shine from you today? Make this face into you by adding a smile, glasses or freckles and changing the hair.



Draw yourself in the window of the rocket.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for shining on me. You light up my life with your love. Help me to let my light shine and share your love with everyone I meet. Amen.