

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

1st Sunday of Lent

21st February 2021

RECENTLY DECEASED: + Chris Pearson, + Gianpietro Pacati and + John Pollard may they rest in peace.

REOPENING: It is our hope that the Church will reopen for Mass next weekend 27th/28th February.

FUNERALS SERVICES will take place either at the Crematorium or at the cemetery. No Requiem Masses or funeral liturgies will be held in Church for the foreseeable future. Funeral Directors in the area have been notified.

STEWARDSHIP is a ministry within the Church. It is a non-speaking role (to an extent). There have been so many offers to help with stewarding over the past months but so few seem able to commit to this ministry. The friars cannot provide this ministry. In these most challenging of times, I invite those who are not in a vulnerable category to consider this ministry. If everyone does a little then no one has to do a lot. In keeping with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, the lay faithful are essential in building up the parish and building up the church.

GRATEFUL THANKS to the ladies who take great care keeping the Church clean and tidy and to those who respond willingly to requests to sanitise the Church in order to keep us all safe.

HAND SANITISERS and PPE is available in Church. Occasionally it has been noticed that not all who attend Mass use the hand sanitisers provided. Saint Anthony of Padua parish is a welcoming parish and to keep everyone safe, it is essential that the PPE equipment is used especially when sanitising the pews and entrances. Those not prepared to sanitise their hands or wear a face covering are kindly asked to stay at home and follow Mass online.

THE FRIARS are very grateful to all who provided provisions to the friary and for your continued support and concern during our recent isolation. The trip around Asda this weekend was a welcome break from the four walls of the friary !

DAY BY DAY prayer books for Lent are available from the friary (Elmsley Road entrance).

Wishing you all a blessed and Holy Lenten Season.

Church Masses (Church Closed at this moment).

20. Vigil	6.00 pm	
21. Sunday	8.00 am.	Parishioners
	10.00 am.	
	12.00 noon	
22. Monday	12.00 am.	
23. Tuesday	12.00 noon	
24. Wednesday	12.00 noon	
25. Thursday	12.00 noon	
26. Friday	12.00 noon	
27. Vigil	6.00 pm	
28. Sunday	8.00 am.	
	10.00 am.	Parishioners
	12.00 noon	

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. David

20. Saturday	12.00 noon	Leon Makowski rip (Namesday)
21. Sunday	10.00 am.	Angela Clash rip
22. Monday	12.00 noon	Christopher Aston rip (Anniversary)
23. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Monica Leonard
24. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Safe confinement
25. Thursday	12.00 noon.	Audrey Scott rip
26. Friday	12.00 noon	Fred & Mary Gilby rip
27. Saturday	12.00 noon	Gordon Gilby rip
28. Sunday	10.00 am.	Margaret & Patrick Coolihan rip

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. Vincent

20. Saturday	12.00 noon	Frances Norman rip
21. Sunday	10.00 am.	Gianpietro Pacati rip
22. Monday	12.00 noon	Mrs Worthington rip
23. Tuesday	12.00 noon	Martin Culligan rip (2 nd Anniversary)
24. Wednesday	12.00 noon	Chris Pearson rip (LD)
25. Thursday	12.00 noon.	Successful hospital treatment
26. Friday	12.00 noon	Canon Francis Kieran rip
27. Saturday	12.00 noon	John Pollard rip (LD)
28. Sunday	10.00 am.	Safe confinement

Masses Received. Gianpietro Pacati rip (LD), Monica Leonard, Martin Culligan rip (2A), Frances Culligan rip (2A), Rose Horan rip (A), Audrey Scott rip, John Joseph Leonard rip, Mrs Worthington rip, Fred & Mary Gilby rip, Gordon Gilby rip, Margaret and Patrick Coolihan rip, Marymount Sisters rip, Marymount Staff rip, Marymount Residents rip, John & Bridget Barrett rip, Mary Caffery rip, Gerald Moore rip, Lillian & Douglas Tilbrook rip, Successful hospital treatment, John Pollard rip (LD).

Thought for today. “He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.”

Ancient legends are full of stories of great heroes who overcame tremendous tests and obstacles and emerged victorious from countless impossible situations. Filmgoers will no doubt be able to recall people like Achilles, Hercules, Jason (with or without his Argonauts), Perseus and many others. There is a recurring theme in these tales: single-minded heroes face great trials and succeed where many before them have failed and died a horrible death as a result. There is usually a prize at the end of the quest. The same basic plot is also found in opera – the hero (usually the tenor) overcomes all hurdles and wins the hand and the heart of the soprano. In Puccini’s *Turandot*, Prince Calaf solves three impossible riddles posed by the cruel princess. All who tried before him failed and were beheaded, but of course our hero succeeds and melts the icy heart of the princess.

It may come as a surprise to learn that the triumphant hero overcoming ordeals and tests is also present in the Gospels. Indeed, this is precisely the underlying plot in today’s Gospel, commonly called “the temptations of Jesus” but more accurately described as Jesus’ testing. Matthew and Luke list three examples of these tests; Mark does not. Yet there is something in Mark’s brief account of the episode that reminds us of the ancient legends, and this is the background this evangelist draws from.

In the old legends, the hero was recognised as such from an early age. Mark’s Gospel gives no information on Jesus’ early years, but all Gospel references to what follows Jesus’ baptism draw attention to his unique status. Jesus is singled out by the highest possible authority: the voice of God the Father, which states: “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.” Throughout the rest of his time on this earth Jesus will live out that role as the beloved Son, the one on whom God’s favour rests. First, however, he is put to the test.

We are told that Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he was tempted (or better, “tested”) by Satan. We are also told that he was with the wild beasts. It was commonly believed in the ancient world that the wilderness was where evil spirits and demons lived. Jesus was also looked after by angels. To what test was Jesus put, though? There are clues. First, this happened immediately after he was called “Son of God”, so there is a clear link between naming and testing. Second, we are told he spent forty days in the desert, which recalls Israel’s forty years in the desert, where they were tested and complained to God.

There is another, less apparent link, to do with the title “Son of God”, which goes back to Jacob, the son of Isaac, to whom God gave the name “Israel” and who was also known as “son of God”. The nation founded on the twelve tribes named after Jacob’s sons was also known as Israel and, on occasion, as in Hosea, as “son of God”. The story of Israel, “son of God”, during the forty years in the desert is a tragic tale of failure to trust in God.

In today’s Gospel story, the issue is whether Jesus, the beloved Son of God, will trust his Father where the nation Israel, son of God, did not. Mark does not explicitly tell us the outcome, but we are told that Jesus emerged triumphant from this test and, after John’s arrest, proclaimed: “The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.” Only someone who has successfully passed the test could make this proclamation and back it up with actions that prove the kingdom of God is indeed at hand. This is good news for all who embrace it.

Perhaps our own test, especially during Lent, is to ask ourselves if we really believe that the kingdom of God is at hand and that it really is good news for us. The goal of Lenten repentance is to change our mindset to accepting God's good news, and letting it make a difference in our lives. After all, the English word "repentance" comes from a Greek word that literally means "a change of mind". We are called first to change the way we think about God's kingdom and Jesus' good news before we try to change our behaviour. This change of mind is what Lent is really about.

Bidding Prayers

Loving Lord, throughout Lent let us remain faithful to Jesus' teaching of love and compassion. Let us come to you in daily prayer and conversation. Let us walk through Lent with open hearts, listening ears and loving hearts.

We pray for Pope Francis as he asks us to remember those that are suffering. *"May the Lord inspire everyone to draw near to those who suffer, especially children, and to put the weakest in first place."*

We pray that the UK's collective sacrifice during the coronavirus pandemic will lead to a better future. One where our youth can flourish with new opportunities and a society with less inequalities and injustices.

As we prepare to enter a new season may we become more aware and appreciative of the wonder of creation. Help us to become guardians of our local landscapes by taking care of our green spaces and treading thoughtfully.

We pray for ourselves this Lent that we may continue to observe our Lenten resolutions and be led, by the Holy Spirit, to a deeper, more meaningful, faith life.

We remember all those who have departed this life and are now seated in the Kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks for their life and wish them eternal happiness.

We pray for those in our community, family or friendship groups that are ill, suffering or ailing in any way. May the Holy Spirit bless, protect, and restore them.

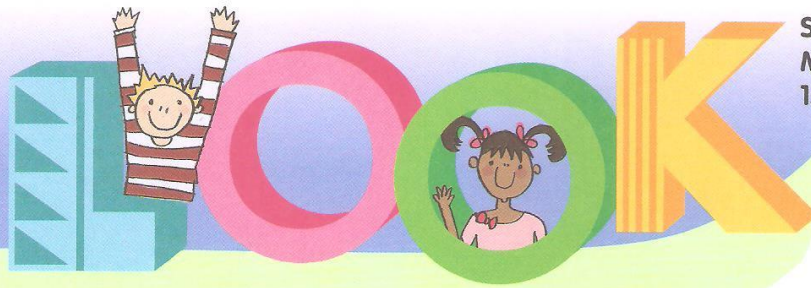
We pray for those in the world with little access to food or clean water. Let us live with charitable hearts so we can help all people have the chance to live life to their full potential.

In Memoriam. Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently Chris Pearson, Gianpietro Pacati, John Pollard and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Fr. Bernard O'Callaghan, Fr Aloysius Blundell, Fr. Anthony Featherstone, Martin Culligan, Christopher Aston, Patricia Tolmaer, Ryan Barrett, Isabella Kelly, Maria Kelly, Daniel Templeton, Thomas Smith, Peter Beswick, David MacDonald, Margaret Mary Daly, Ron Lucas, Maria Alfonso, Patricia Burns, Lena Somers, Catherine Walsh. We remember all those who have departed this life and are now seated in the Kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks for their life and wish them eternal happiness. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Lord God, we give thanks for your never-ending love and compassion. Amen.

Please pray for those who ask for prayers.

Arthur (baby), Margaret Barrow, Angela Bebb, 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, 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, Marisa 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, Noah (teenager), 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 21 February 2021
Mark 1:12-15
1st Sunday of Lent

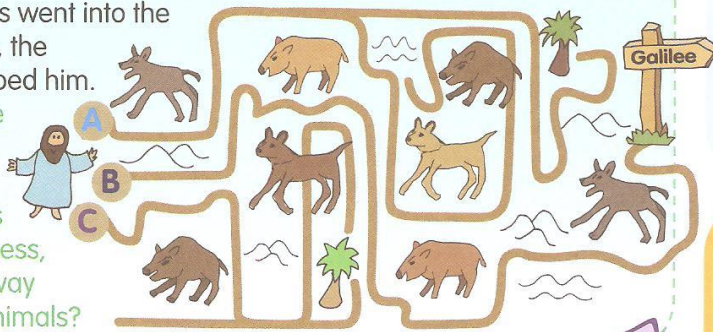
IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

Jesus goes into the wilderness for forty days where he is tempted by the devil. There are wild animals in the wilderness, but angels help Jesus. After this, Jesus goes into Galilee and tells people that this is the right time - the kingdom of God is near! "Turn away from your sins", he says "and believe the Good News".

GOOD NEWS!

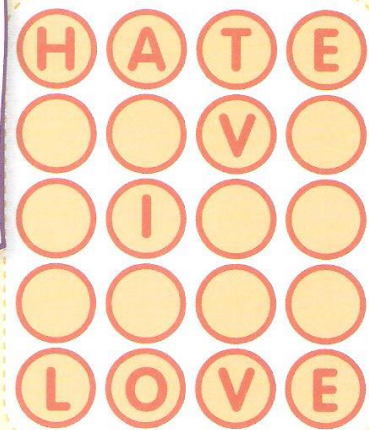
When Jesus went into the wilderness, the angels helped him. Can you be an angel and help Jesus cross the wilderness, keeping away from the animals?



Repent!

Jesus asks us to turn away from what we know is wrong and live as God asks.

Can you turn **hate** into **love**, by changing just one letter at a time?



Good News!

We make God's kingdom real when we live as God asks. Draw a picture of you sharing God's love with the people you know. Write about your good news under your name on the other side.



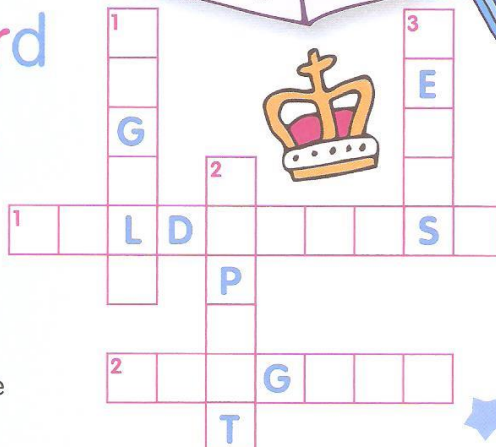
Crossword

Across

- Where Jesus was tempted
- Ruled by a king

Down

- They helped Jesus
- Be sorry and change
- The Son of God



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, help me to be more like you. I want to make the right choices and ask you to help me to be strong. Amen.