

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December 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.

Parish Sister: Sr. Louise Gilbey (Home Communion & visits)

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Alice Killip

Parish Office hours: Monday to Wednesday 9.30am – 11.30am

Christmas Masses: Places are available at the 9.00pm [Vigil], 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am Masses. Reservations are required. The Church will open 40 minutes before the two vigil Masses and will open on Christmas Morning from 7.30am to 12.00.

Children's Choir practice will take place at **5.00pm** Saturday evening (18th December).

Stewards: Due to current guidelines, it will be necessary to have stewards at each Mass on Sundays and at each of the Christmas Masses.

Covid Guidelines: Face coverings (preferably masks) must be worn when attending Mass and other religious ceremonies in Church. Masks will not be supplied.

Poinsettias: if you wish to donate a Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one (living or deceased), these can be brought to Church on Sunday or during the week at 12.00 on Monday to Thursday. Alternatively, you may hand in a poinsettia at the friary at any time (Elmsley Road access). The Poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary.

Weekday Mass: Monday to Thursday at 12.00. **Friday 24th at 10.00.** Confession on Friday from 10.30-11.00.



We thank the children and their parents for creating this year's Nativity scene. Unfortunately, the crib had to be dismantled but will be reassembled and replicated in time for Christmas.

*The friars wish you a very Happy,
Holy and safe Christmas.*

Church Masses this week to be said by Fr Kevin

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|--------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------|
| 18. Vigil | 6.00 pm | Philip Gray rip | |
| 19. Sunday | 8.00 am. | Marjorie & Joe Thompson | |
| | 10.00 am. | Lilian Jones rip | |
| | 12.00 noon | Parishioners | |
| 20. Monday | 12.00 noon | Bernard Fitzsimmons rip (LD) | |
| 21. Tuesday | 12.00 noon | Maureen Riceputi rip (Anniversary) | |
| 22. Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Maureen Cunningham rip | |
| 23. Thursday | 12.00 noon | Frank Cassidy rip (Anniversary) | |
| 24. Friday | 10.00 am | Pam Thornton | |
| 24. Christmas Eve | 5.00 pm | Pro Seipso | Children's Mass |
| Vigil Mass | 9.00 pm | Pro Seipso | (+Gerard & Carmel Hanley) |
| 25. Christmas Day | 8.00 am | Pro Seipso | (Walsh Family) |
| | 9.30 am | Pro Seipso | (Hanley Family) |
| | 11.00 am | Pro Populo | |
| | | No Vigil Mass for Sunday | |
| 26. Sunday | 8.00 am. | Pro defunctis ex Ordine | |
| | | (Friars who served St. Anthony of Padua Parish) | |
| | 10.00 am. | Successful Hospital treatment | |
| | 12.00 noon | Parishioners | |
| 27. Monday | | No Public Mass today – Bank Holiday | |

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. David

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------|
| 18. Saturday | 12.00 noon | Donors Intention |
| 19. Sunday | 10.00 am. | Pauline Stitt |
| 20. Monday | 12.00 noon | Young Family members |
| 21. Tuesday | 12.00 noon | Marran Family members |
| 22. Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Judith Skinner |
| 23. Thursday | 12.00 noon | Ita Bligh |
| 24. Friday | 12.00 noon | Clare Kelly |
| 25. Saturday | 12.00 noon | Pro Seipso (Young Family) |
| 26. Sunday | 10.00 am. | Rita & John Mullen |

Masses to be said in the Friary by Fr. Vincent

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|---------------|------------|---|
| 18. Saturday | 12.00 noon | Michael Mulhern rip (A) |
| 19. Sunday | 10.00 am. | Josie McVeigh (Sp Int) |
| 20. Monday | 12.00 noon | Kathleen Price rip |
| 21. Tuesday | 12.00 noon | Janet Clarke rip |
| 22. Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Paquita Figarolas rip |
| 23. Thursday | 12.00 noon | Jim Martin (continued recovery) |
| 24. Friday | 12.00 noon | Annie Montgomery rip (18 th Anniversary) |
| 25. Saturday | 12.00 noon | Pro Seipso (Kennedy Family) |
| 26. Sunday | 10.00 am. | Successful cancer treatment. |

Masses Received. Maureen Cunningham rip x 3, Joseph Madden rip, Bernard Fitzsimmons rip (LD), Pam & John Hardisly, Margaret & Dew Eaton, Jimmie O'Reilly, Pam Thornton, Sheila Cassimer, Jean Horden, Josie McVeigh, Jennie McVeigh rip, John McVeigh rip, Charles McVeigh rip, Jim Martin (continued recovery), Successful cancer treatment.



Thought for the day

"The child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit."

Some years ago, a young expectant mother had an illness which left her, happily only temporarily, in a coma. For most of the nine months she lay unconscious of the developing life within her. The gynaecologist who had care of her, was concerned that her baby lacked the stimulus which would have been provided by an ordinarily active mother, and so asked the nurses to place, at intervals, on the mother's abdomen, a tape recorder. The doctor himself supplied the tapes to be played, which were, as it happened, all of classical music.

The baby was born, a healthy boy: the mother recovered, and subsequently became an academically successful mature student. What surprised her was that her small son was repeatedly recognising and humming snippets of music which she knew had never been played in the house. She and her husband were pop and jazz devotees, yet here was her four-year-old child, familiar with classical themes. The womb had not been a place of isolation.

Nor was it for the unborn son of Elizabeth, who leapt for joy at the greeting of the mother of the one whose coming he was to proclaim. To the onlooker it would have seemed to be the meeting of two ordinary women, one old for motherhood and advanced in her pregnancy, and the other, a maiden-mother whose child-bearing had just begun.

But between the two women and their unborn children was a realisation, however incompletely understood, that here somehow a divine promise was being fulfilled, and that Mary was to play a crucial role in the world's salvation, when as the prophet Micah said, "she who is to give birth, gives birth".

Both women bore witness to the intervention and to the over-shadowing of the Holy Spirit; both were immediately ready to offer themselves ... to say, "Here I am. I am coming to obey your will", as their children would say later on.

John was a contemporary of Jesus; their births a few months apart. Both were men of incredible charisma, capable of attracting devoted followers and of holding minds and hearts. John prepared for his work of heralding the Messiah by a sojourn in the wilderness; Jesus spent forty days in his own wilderness before he began his public life.

But just as their mothers knew, so did they know, that in their work and their status they were different. One was God incarnate, the other was his herald; related by family ties, they were intimately connected in the Messianic plan.

Elizabeth, as the older woman carrying her first child, must have been grateful for the more youthful support of her young cousin. Mary stayed with her during the last months of her pregnancy, and one imagines that she would have been there at the birth. These were real women, together in kinship, caught into the divine, but experiencing the delights and the pains of childbirth. One can imagine Mary helping in the running of the household, getting ready the customary swaddling clothes, dealing with friends and neighbours, and helping Zechariah who would remain unable to speak until he could name his son.

The fulfilment of the age-old promise to the Jewish people was going on whilst outwardly a family was preparing for a birth, helped by the one who herself was nurturing the human body of the Christ Child, because she had believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Mary had been given the news of her future by an angel; she had heard herself called blessed among all women and had been promised that the power of the Most High would overshadow her. She might have been forgiven if she rested in this awe-inspiring message and remained in a kind of spiritual and physical retreat.

But nothing was further from her mind. She went "with haste" - in some translations "with great thoughtfulness" - to help her cousin. And she took the hidden Christ with her. Because she loved, she acted. She was not "too special" to respond to the ordinary needs of another.

So too, when we go at once when our help is needed, we take Christ with us, and in so doing we invoke the care of his mother. Christ longs to reach out to those in want, and we who have been given so much are often so unwilling to allow him to do so, because it is through us that he can offer his healing and his peace. He was hidden in Mary when she went so willingly. He will be hidden in us, but because in him we have our being, he will go with us also.

**Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP,
Archbishop of Liverpool**

Christmas is a special time, and at the heart of our celebrations is the fact that God became man for us. Two thousand years ago there wasn't a feast of Christmas yet there was still expectation as people longed for the coming of the Messiah to transform their lives. We don't always get what we expect at Christmas and two thousand years ago people didn't expect that the Messiah would be born in poverty, to a refugee family forced to leave their home to take part in a census for an occupying power. Homeless, with nowhere to stay they found refuge in a cold, dark stable with only the farm animals for company. Yet lives were about to be transformed.

I am sure celebrations were far from the minds of shepherds on a cold, bleak hillside and yet suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, there was light, and glory shone around them – no wonder they were terrified. The first words of the angel to them were 'Do not be afraid...' as they went full of joy to Bethlehem to greet the new born king. So many of us need those words of the angel today: 'Do not be afraid...' Weighed down with the cares of life we fear for the future, but Christmas gives us hope as we know that Christ is with us. The Prince of Peace comes to us to bring his peace and healing and to give us hope.

Christmas is a time for precious memories too. Memories of Christmases past - maybe recent or long ago. Memories of loved ones, just by thinking of them we are saying, 'we love you...you are still with us in our hearts...' There may be tears too, 'Do not be afraid' of them, they are fine because they are a sign of love.

The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, especially to those in need. So many people work in the weeks before Christmas to help those in greatest need. We see people giving up their time to feed the hungry, and to provide a place of refuge for those who are lonely. Those who work in our essential services are there for us too. During the pandemic we have renewed our spirit of care and generosity – we have reached out to others and offered them hope and readily give thanks to those who care.

For Christians the joy of Christmas is found in the Eucharist and the crib. We give thanks to God for the gift of his Son who cried out from the manger to remind us of the continuing plight of the homeless, refugees and those escaping terror. When we gather as far as restrictions allow us, we remember what it is to be a family no matter how few we are or how distant we are from each other. The Holy Family was only three people yet proved to be the source of a great love which has overflowed into our lives two millennia later. May our families have the child Jesus at their centre as a source of love and a true source of strength.

May this Christmas time be happy, blessed and peaceful.

**The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool
December 2021**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December 2021

Prayer of the Faithful.

Let us now bring our prayers to God, who is always more ready to hear us than we are to listen to him.

1. We pray for the Church, for the Pope and all clergy and religious, as they work to serve God and spread his Word.
2. As Christmas approaches, we pray for all those who will not have family or friends to share it with, for those who are homeless, poor or hungry. May we as a society help them see God's love in the help we give them.
3. We pray for all expectant mothers: may they be especially blessed during their weeks of waiting and be rewarded with the joy of new life.
4. We pray for the children of our time may they know love and affection, care and attention from those charged with their care.
5. We pray for those who mourn the loss of someone special at this time, that they may experience the warmth, comfort and support of others.
6. As the Advent season draws to a close, we remember the real meaning of Christmas, and ask God that the birth of his Son will bring peace on Earth to all.
7. Let us pray for the repose of the souls of those who have recently died Bernard Fitzsimmons and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Fr. Dominic Ellis, Rona Elizabeth Hansen, Maureen Riceputi, John Routledge, Sr Agnes, Frank Cassidy, Donald Anthony Philip, Ann Whelan, Annie Montgomery, Stephen Dooley, Jennie & John McVeigh, Michael Lawrence, Ron & Joan Roche, Doug Anwyl, Kath Mobbs, Neil Steven Williams, Malcolm Wylie, Margaret and James Hynes. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Hear our prayer, O heavenly Father, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to bring your message of salvation to the world, we offer these prayers in your name, O loving and generous God. Amen.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal, or participate in the Fun Run on December 27th at the Mystery and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



Please pray for those who ask for prayers.

Arthur (Infant), Margaret Barrow, Angela Bebb, Sonia Bechka, Carol Bennett, Joanne & Julian Bone, Michael Brooks, Christopher Browne, Lora Busa, Seamus Carten, Timothy Clarkson, Derek Checkland, Ken Corkery, Joan Corkery, 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, Crystal Hede, Fr Gerald Hicks OFM Conv, Adrian 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, Lola (Infant), Patricia McAuley, Winnie McFadden, Joseph McKenna, Simon McLeod, Lee McNeil, Danny McSweeney, Kevin McSweeney, Stephan Malick, John Martin, Angela Millan, John Monaghan, Rihanna Mughan, Otilie, Marisa Pacati, Cheryl Power, Terence Randles, Paul Rattigan, Hugh Reily, 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, Pam Thornton, Tony and Marie, Pat Unwin, Ewan James Vicars, Annie Ward, Tricia Ward, Peggy Westhead, James Whelan, Sophie Williams, Michelle Worthington, Mary Worthington.

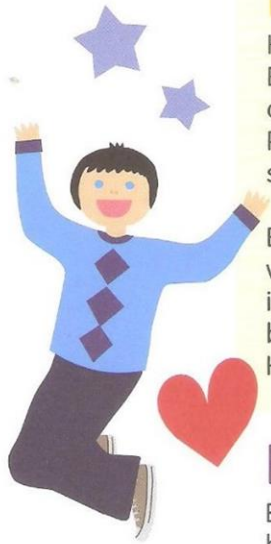
LOOK

Sunday 19 December 2021
 Luke 1:39-45
 4th Sunday of Advent

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Jump for Joy

Arthur is really happy and is jumping for joy! What makes you really happy? Draw yourself jumping for joy next to Arthur.



Mary rushes to meet her cousin, Elizabeth. They are both expecting babies and are really happy to see each other.

Mary and Elizabeth

Here is a picture of Mary meeting Elizabeth. They are really excited and pleased to see each other. Put a big smile on their faces to show how happy they are.



Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was very special. Even the baby in Elizabeth's womb knew the baby Jesus was very special. He jumped for joy!

Hail Mary

Elizabeth's words to Mary have become part of a special prayer. We know this prayer as the Hail Mary. Can you fill in the missing words?



I want to jump for joy when...

Hail, full of, the Lord is with thee.
 art thou among women and blessed is the of thy
 womb, Holy Mary, of God, for us
 sinners now and at the hour of our death.

A PRAYER TO SAY

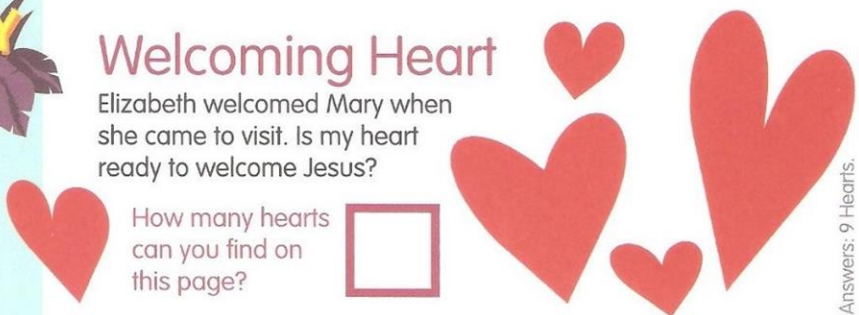
Mary, you are very special. You said "yes" to God and showed us how to love. Help me to say "yes" to God so that I can bring love into the world and spread joy too! Amen.

redemptorist

Welcoming Heart

Elizabeth welcomed Mary when she came to visit. Is my heart ready to welcome Jesus?

How many hearts can you find on this page?



Answers: 9 Hearts.

