

St Anthony of Padua

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# Parish of Saint Anthony of Padua

Our Parish Newsletter

5th March 2023

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:48)

## A warm welcome to everyone from

Fr. Maximillian McKeown, OFM Conv, Parish Priest  
Rev. Simon South, Deacon



### Times of Mass This Week

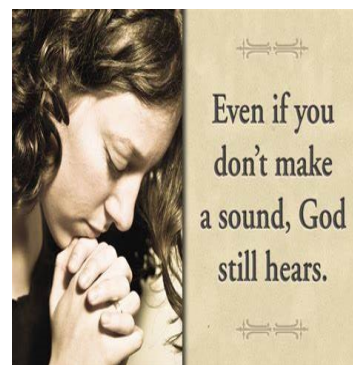
05 Mar. Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent	8:00 AM
05 Mar. Sunday		10:45 AM
06 Mar. Monday		9:00 AM
07 Mar. Tuesday		9:00 AM
08 Mar. Wed		9.00 AM
09 Mar. Thurs		9.00 A.M
10 Mar. Friday		9:00 AM
11 Mar. Saturday		9:00 AM
11 Mar .Saturday	(SUNDAY VIGIL)	6.00 P.M



Thank you for your generous donations last week, towards to running of our parish .

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED, ESPECIALLY,** Catherine Bowles, Richard Carey, John Kilroy, Ann Hamilton, Marcella Duckworth, Dominique Chapious, Roy Godwin, Dorothy and Peter Van Heuven. Patricia Swain, Veronica Pragnell, Elsie Palmer, Peter McKenzie-Smith, Tom Healey, John Russell, Timothy O’Sullivan, Paul Coleman (Aoife’s brother), and members of our parish, our families, our relatives, our friends, our acquaintances.

**PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Ron Peters, Sheila Miller, Audrey Hatter, Kathleen Sherwood, Monica Flint, Richard Horner, Janet Castro, Coleen, Louis Carnell, Isabella Rose, Judith (Angela’s sister) and all those confined to their homes or care homes along with Mass intentions this week.



## Second Sunday of Lent

In today’s readings we are brought the message of the transformative power and Grace of God. This also shows that we are on the way to Jerusalem with Jesus for the last time before His sacrifice for all of us. Lent is a journey of accompaniment, of reflection, penance and love. In the light of todays readings and in the sense of reflection and love, the beautiful words of **St Teresa of Avila** are a wonderful focus for our prayer and consideration through this week—

“Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.  
 Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.  
 Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
 Yours are the hands.  
 Yours are the feet.  
 Yours are the eyes.  
 You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
 Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.  
 Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

**I wonder what these words mean for us in the year ahead?**

## Bishop Richard looks to the future of the Church

Last Monday, Bishop Richard met with a large group from across the Deanery of Eastbourne and St Leonards (the Deanery that we are in) to discuss the direction of “the Church” over the coming decade. This is part of a tour of the Diocese by Bishop Richard as he seeks to explain and engage the whole Diocese in His Pastoral Plans. We would like to thank Christopher and Jocelyn Rowe, Helen Ross and Bill Dougherty for representing St Anthony’s at this gathering and I am sure they will be very happy to share with you the messages that they heard.



As part of this focus on the coming ten years, last Autumn, +R published his Pastoral Plan for the Diocese (for a full copy of the plan please go to - [www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan)).

Within the introduction of the revised Pastoral Plan (2022, section1) Bishop Richard embraces the reality that as the number of Priests are reducing, all of God’s faithful are called to be “salt of the earth” (Mt 4:13-14) and the challenges we will face in building this vision. We are reminded that through our baptism, we are all part of the body of Christ that is the Church, and that it is now time for us to embrace the challenge that Jesus gives to each and every one of us in our lives —

*“go make disciples of all nations” (Mt28:19)*

along with the affirmation - *“do not be afraid for I [God] am with you (Isaiah 41:10)*

### **Bishop Richard’s vision and challenge to all of the Lord’s faithful**

**(PP1.3)“I therefore take this opportunity to invite everyone in the Diocese – lay faithful and religious, deacons and priests – to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; where all are welcomed and their dignity as children of God always recognized; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the faith and seek to share it with others “**

The first question that comes from this vision is “so what does this mean and look like for us in St Anthony’s in Rye? There is a lot of work that needs to be done across the Church which is going to take time, faith and prayer, with formation, discernment of vocations, building confidence in our understanding of God’s call to each of us.

This work is going to be at the centre of parish life going forward. We are all called and gifted by God in different ways and it is in coming together, living our faith together as a family in Christ that we are able to share these gifts with each other for the glory of God (1Cor12:21).

After Eastertide this year, we will start to come together as a Parish to explore the challenges, the needs and the mission of St Anthony’s in Rye - were all are invited, we are all are called and we are all welcome.



## Just a thought ....

Sometimes, without knowing it or even being aware of it, we can get locked into our own world and our particular situation. We can forget about or lose sight of the fact that we are part of a much bigger world.

In the Gospel today, Jesus takes some of His friends away from the business of the village and market place. He invites them to travel with Him as He makes His way up the mountain. This is not unusual. We know from the Gospels that Jesus often went off by Himself to the mountains to pray. While they were there praying something wild and wonderful happened. Jesus was *transfigured*; he was changed; *his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light*. Imagine how surprised, shocked and taken aback those with Jesus were. Once composed, Peter utters the famous words, 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here'. But more importantly than what was said, is what they heard; 'This is my Son, the beloved, He enjoys my favour, listen to Him'.

These words are as much meant for us today as they were for those who first heard them. We may never experience anything as powerful as the Transfiguration. But every day in countless and seemingly small ways God does break into our world and our daily lives. Every time we experience a moment of peace, joy, reconciliation or forgiveness, God is with us. Every time that we reach out to help another person is a moment of Transfiguration both for ourselves and for those we help. Each time somebody shows care and concern for us is a moment when God is reaching out to us.



## A date to add to your diary . A Parish trip to see the paintings of St Francis

The National Gallery is holding the 1st major art exhibition in the UK to explore the life and legacy of St. Francis of Assisi. We are arranging a PARISH DAY OUT on Tuesday 23rd May to visit the exhibition and we hope that lots of parishioners will be able to join us. (admission to the gallery is free).

**Please could you let Jocelyn know if you would like to join us so that we can liaise with the Gallery over any group arrangements/discounts (tel: 01797 222014).**

## Stations of the Cross

We will be praying with *the Stations at 9.30 a.m after Friday morning Mass, and again on Friday evenings at 6.00p.m* throughout Lent.

Let us join together as a community in Christ through Lent, journeying with Christ, and contemplating the mutual sacrifice of Lent, with all the Lord means for us and offers us.



**Saint Vincent de Paul Society** If you would like to support the Parish in making a difference in the Rye area, helping the housebound, visiting the isolated, those in care homes, befriending the lonely, raising money for good causes or praying for the work being done, why not think about joining the Parish SVP? **Our first meeting will be on Monday 17th April 6.00p.m—7.00p.m at St Anthony's. All are welcome to come and hear the proposals and to contribute to our ways of working.**

**Churches together** This Friday is World Day of Prayer and a service will be held at St Mary's at 10.30am all are welcome

**Rye and Tenterden come together for Lenten journey of discovery . Monday 27th February and Monday 6th and 13th March, we are invited to join Tenterden on a Lenten journey of discovery the course will from 10.30 a.m to 12.00 noon each week. **If you need a lift please let Simon know—07415 306222****

## Building a relationship with Christ.

Why not join our weekly Scripture Group held at the Rye Hub (top of Rye Hill) from 3.30p.m to 5.00p.m each Monday excluding Bank Holidays. Everyone is very welcome— Come one come all. For more info speak to Angela Tyson (10.45 Mass)