

SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2020: 4th SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A Cycle)
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH, WALKER, NEWCASTLE: PARISH PRIEST - FR. DAVID SMITH



CONTACT INFORMATION:

FR. DAVID SMITH (Parish Priest) direct: 0191 2623882
Email: newcastle.stanthony@rcdhn.org.uk
Keep up to date with our Website: stanthonystfrancis.org.uk
(Parish Office open Wednesday & Thursday 9am-2pm, Friday 9am-3pm.)

R.V.I. & FREEMAN HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN - CONTACT
FR. MARIADASS 0191 2676063



Current Instructions for the Celebration of Sacraments and Sacramentals of the Church.

This will include Sunday and Weekday Masses.
THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY OR WEEKDAY PUBLIC MASSES
All events in Parish/Diocese cancelled until further notice.

St. Anthony of Padua Church will remain open at this time and we will continue to observe, with great care, the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

The Parish Priest will continue to celebrate Mass in the Parish without the Faithful (Parishioners) Deacons and Altar Servers. The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the Faithful can join in Spiritual Communion with the Priests of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1364.*) Information about the 'live streaming of the Celebration of the Mass' will be made widely available in our Diocese soon, so that the Faithful can participate in the Priest's Mass prayers at home. An example of this is the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham who will continue its full Liturgical Programme. This will be available to all via Internet www.walsingham.org.uk

PRAYER: While it is possible, opportunities for private prayer in Church will be made available but should such a time come when this has to be suspended, this will be announced accordingly.

St. Anthony of Padua will be open between the hours of 10am and 11am Monday to Friday for individual private prayer without any organised services, as of MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2020. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed so please respect the silence during this Holy Hour of private prayer.

I'm sure you can appreciate we are doing our best to replenish sanitiser stocks but due to panic buying it is difficult to get hold of: so, when we have it, please use it!

Please see below the procedure in place for how we are to access the Sacraments:

BAPTISMS: Baptisms will be deferred until such time that the Public Health Advice is that congregations can gather safely. In case of necessity, Baptisms should be celebrated with all the hygiene precautions that have been laid down by the Church in its COVID-19 advice. The Parish Priest will be contacting all Parishioners who have a Baptism booked in due course.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION: These celebrations are postponed until a time that allows for families and friends to gather safely within our Church. The Parish Priest and School Headteacher will confirm new dates as soon as it is safe to do so.

MATRIMONY: If possible, the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony should be deferred until such time that people can gather in numbers safely. However, if this is not possible and only in the most pressing of circumstances, then those present for the marriage should be restricted to the Celebrant, Bride and Groom and immediate family, and if necessary, the legal Registrar. The Parish Priest will be in contact with any couples preparing for marriage in due course.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION AT THE EASTER VIGIL: This will be dependent on the forthcoming decisions of the Bishops for the Holy Week ceremonies. The Parish Priest will be in touch with those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation in due course.

CONFIRMATION: The celebration of Confirmation will be deferred until such time that the Public Health advice is that congregations can resume public worship.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: No pastoral visits will be made to people unless in an emergency. However, we will offer phone support. Anointing of the Sick will be carried out by the Priest who will avoid physical contact, adhering to the hygiene procedures which have been set out. Visits to people in care homes or hospitals will follow advice from the staff on infection control.

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HOLY COMMUNION AND PASTORAL VISITS TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: As our Eucharistic Ministers are mainly over the age of 70 we are suspending visits for the time being and will be offering phone support where we can. Should you have any difficulties please contact the Parish Office: 0191 2623817 – office open Wednesday to Friday 9am-2pm – answerphone. You can also email: c.dixon@anthonycareservices.org.uk and your email will be picked up very quickly Monday to Sunday. Alternatively, you can call Our Lady & St. Columba's 0191 2623882 and we will endeavor to offer help and support where we can.

FUNERALS: The Funeral Service will not take place in Church but instead at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. Arrangements can be made for a memorial Mass to be celebrated later when congregations are allowed to gather. The Parish Priest and Funeral Directors will work together to support families who are experiencing bereavement.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed (e.g. a physical barrier between the Penitent and Priest, such as a grille and cloth.) The use of Rite II and Rite III of the Rite of Penance is not permitted as this, by necessity requires the gathering of people in our Churches.

THANK YOU EVERYONE, GOD BLESS AND STAY SAFE, FR. DAVID

ISOLATED AND IN NEED OF SHOPPING OR A PRESCRIPTION?

We do have volunteers who are willing to help while we are not on complete 'lock down.' Please contact the Parish Office and we will do our best to help. If we don't answer the phone, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will phone you back.

VOLUNTEERS: People have been very kind and offered to help others during these difficult times. Whilst we are not on complete 'lock down' if you have time on your hands and are able to go and shop for someone, or pick up a Prescription and would like to have your name added to our volunteers list then please email the Parish. Contact details below. We will of course keep your contact details safe, according to the rules of GDPR in the Diocese.

**** TO CONTACT FR. DAVID VERY URGENTLY please call 0191 2623882**

**** IF URGENT:** you can email Parish Secretary at any time and your query will be dealt with as soon as possible. Please use email address: c.dixon@anthonycareservices.org.uk

**** IF NON-URGENT -** The Parish Office is open Wednesday to Friday 9am-2pm (3pm on Fridays.) If you call on **0191 2623817** you can leave a message on our answerphone. This will be picked up during office hours shown.

**** WEBSITE:** Check out our Website which is being updated regularly: stanthonvstfrancis.org.uk



ELECTRONIC COPY OF NEWSLETTER: If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter via email, or anyone you know then please let us know by emailing: newcastle.stanthony@rcdhn.org.uk and we will add your to our mailing list.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA WILL BE OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE PRAYERS AS FOLLOWS:
Please note that Fr. David will be celebrating daily Mass without Faithful present (see the guidelines) but he is assuring everyone that where there are Mass intentions in the Diary that these will be offered as before.
Sunday 22nd for Pauline Lewis and Sunday 29th for Alan Lawler

Church Opening Times St Anthony of Padua, Walker & Our Lady and St Columba, Wallsend

Monday 23rd March	10.00 am—11.00am Church will be open for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer
Tuesday 24 th March	10.00 am—11.00am Church will be open for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer
Wednesday 25 th March	10.00 am—11.00am Church will be open for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer
Thursday 26 th March	10.00 am—11.00am Church will be open for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer
Friday 27 th March	10.00 am—11.00am Church will be open for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private prayer

Please pray for all those who are sick: Bernard Geeling, Rhoda Robertson, Alice Simpson, John Gourley, Mary Garrity, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Margaret O'Brien, Dorothy Milor, Elaine Clayton, Rosemary McIlvenna, Monica McKinnon, Martin Finchen, & Allison Maghie. **Children:** Joseph Relph & babies: Josh Graham and James Taylor
Alan Lawler's Funeral changes: Heaton Graveside 12pm Wed 25th March FAMILY ONLY THANKS.

Statement regarding the Hexham & Newcastle 2020 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Due to the Coronavirus COVID-19, it is with great regret that the Pilgrimage Core Group for Hexham & Newcastle have decided to cancel the 2020 Diocesan Pilgrimage. Following current advice from our Tour Operator, and the information given by the statutory authorities in France and the United Kingdom, the ongoing uncertainties and the risks involved are too high to proceed. Bishop Robert Byrne shares our disappointment and fully supports this decision. We know many people will be very disappointed, however, the health & safety of all pilgrims is of paramount importance. We ask the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Bernadette for all those who have been affected by the spread of this virus throughout the world. With regards to bookings made with Tangney Tours, they will be in contact with you over the course of the coming weeks. Please be patient with them at this difficult time. They have an Air Tour Operators Licence (ATOL) & are members of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). Your money is always 100% financially protected. **We look forward to the next pilgrimage when we once again gather in Lourdes.**