



Ss. ANTHONY OF PADUA & FRANCIS

Parish Priest: FR. DAVID SMITH (Direct No: 0191 2623882)

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Tele. No: 0191 2623817

(the answerphone will give information about contacting the Parish Secretary if required.) Parish Office Hours: Wed & Thurs 9am-2pm and Friday 9am-3pm

Parish Email Address: Newcastle.stanthony@rcdhn.org.uk

Parish Website Address: stanthonystfrancis.org.uk (with links to YouTube Channel and streamed Mass.)

Newcastle Hospital Chaplain:

Fr. Mariadass, Tele: 0191 2733903

Sunday 31st January 2021:
4th Sunday Ordinary Time
Year B



PROTECT THE NHS

save lives

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: CLOSURE OF CHURCHES

In light of the current, serious and worsening situation of the Coronavirus, the Government's advice to all people is very clear – 'STAY AT HOME' and limit our contact with other households. This is reiterated by Scientists and Directors of Public Health across the country. I've come to a difficult and painful decision that the Churches will be closed – except for Funerals – until the current national restrictions are lifted. Should the situation regarding funerals change I will liaise with families of the deceased. The warnings about the highly contagious nature of the new strain of Covid-19 are quite stark.

Medical Officers and Public Health Directors have spoken of how this situation is going to worsen over the coming weeks and that as many people as possible must stay at home this time. On March 2020, our Churches were closed when the first national lockdown was announced. The situation with the new virus and variant strain is worse now than it was at the very beginning. While Churches in England may remain open for public Mass and other Services it's not acceptable to ask volunteer stewards, cleaners and others taking part in Mass to risk their health or be the potential cause of others being infected. We also have a moral duty not to be anything that would endanger the staff in our hospitals and the limited facilities of the NHS. As the clear message from health officials is that this already a dangerous situation and is going to get worse over the coming weeks, there is no alternative but to close the Churches immediately. This situation will be reviewed on a regular basis but I expect this closure to be in effect until the national lockdown restrictions are lifted. *Thank you all so much and stay safe, God Bless, Fr. David Smith.*

DAY	SERVICES & INTENTIONS AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK VIA 'YOU TUBE'
Sunday 31 January	10am Sunday Morning Mass – Will be available on YouTube
Monday 1 February	No Services
Tuesday 2 February	7pm Tuesday Evening Mass will be available on YouTube
Wednesday 3 February	10am Mass will be available on YouTube. Mass for: PHIL GOSLING
Thursday 4 February	10.00am Mass will be available on YouTube.
Friday 5 February	10am Mass will be available on YouTube. Mass for: EDITH DOWLING 4pm VIRTUAL ROSARY will be available on FACEBOOK
Saturday 6 February	No Services
Sunday 7 February	10am Sunday Morning Mass – Will be available on YouTube

INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW OUR PARISHES' MASSES STREAMED ON 'YOU TUBE':



To access – choose 'YouTube' site on your browser and in YouTube search for 'St Anthony and St. Columba RC Churches' once on the site you will be able to subscribe (free of charge) to alerts whenever anything is posted on this site. You can also access the Masses via our Website 'stanthonystfrancis.org.uk.'

Please keep an eye on our Website & Newsletters for regular updates.

MASS INTENTIONS: As you know all Masses for the time being are being celebrated at St. Columba's (see information above.) Should you wish to have a Mass offered for an anniversary, or other intention, please contact the St. Anthony's Parish Office 0191 2623817 as usual. Or you can post your request and offering in an envelope through the Presbytery Door. We will always try to ensure your Mass is celebrated on the day of your choice but occasionally it will be celebrated as close to that date as possible. Thank you.



**Virtual Rosary:
The Rosary will
be live streamed
on Friday at 4pm
via FACEBOOK.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were
already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me
to be separated from You.

Amen.

Whilst we can't make it to daily Mass we can still make an **Act of Spiritual Communion (left.)** This involves expressing our faith in Jesus and in His Presence in the Eucharist and asking Him to unite Himself with us. Basically the Act of Spiritual Communion is an Act of Faith, an Act of Love, a desire to receive Christ, and an invitation to Him to come into our hearts. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it, the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'" Here is a prayer for those times we would like to make a spiritual Communion:

Please pray for all our sick:

Rhoda Robertson, John Gourley, Doreen Graham, June Stephenson, Margaret O'Brien, Dorothy Milor, Elaine Clayton, Rosemary McIlvenna, Monica McKinnon, Martin Finchen, Allison Maghie, Gail McDonnell, Aileen, Sam Lee, Peter Graham and Nicola Campbell.

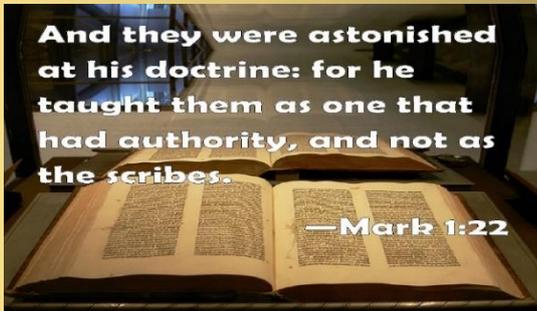
We remember all of our Children who need our prayers, including:

Joseph Relph, Josh Graham, James Taylor, Theo James Abbott, Martha and Rosemary Prest.

Can we also remember in prayer: Our NHS & frontline workers, our own St. Anthony of Padua Carers, all our Priests, Deacons and other Clergy ministering to the sick. Also for all those preparing and administering vaccines



Some thoughts on today's scripture



Jesus taught with authority; and the authority came from his person. There we see what it can mean to be fully human: compassionate, fearless, loving, with a passion for justice and awareness of what is in the human heart. It is by watching Him and pondering His words and behaviour, that we too will learn what it is to be human.

The teaching of Jesus is straight from His heart, from his relationship with God. We ask God to bless us so that all our words and actions profess our faith.

Although we may value the authority given by education, ordination or election, we consider how God's Spirit is given to us so that we, like Jesus, might minister healing and truth.



Bishop's House 26 West Avenue Gosforth Newcastle NE3 4ES
Tele. No: 0191 228 0003

CALLING ALL OUR SCHOOLCHILDREN

The North East Catholic Writers` Guild are running a literary competition for schoolchildren – the theme is: **“Compose a hopeful prayer for this difficult time”**

Maximum 20 lines. The lines don` t have to rhyme. Open to 8-10 year-olds. Please include your age, name, address and phone number and send to:

Veronica Whitty, Secretary, Catholic Writers` Guild (NE), 51 Queen`s Crescent, Wallsend, NE28 8DW
Or e-mail: veronicawhitty@hotmail.com

NB: Entries: excludes anyone related to any member of the Guild or related to anyone connected with the Northern Cross. **Deadline: 8th April 2021**

Please pray for: **TERENCE EVENETT** who has died. May he rest in peace.



Racial Justice Sunday

31st JANUARY 2021

This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.



In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource [Global Healing](#)". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

When 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Thursdays from 18 February – 25 March 2021

How to join

To register please click [HERE](#) Via Zoom) or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global

Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience, Truly, much can be done!” (*Laudato Si'*, 217)



OUR LADY OF LOURDES
PRAY FOR US
FEBRUARY 11TH
{1858}



A Novena for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Beginning on Tuesday 2nd February, Fr Stephen Watson (Lourdes Pilgrimage Director) will lead a novena for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February. Fr Stephen will lead us daily in a few minutes of prayer, accessed [via the 'Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes' Facebook page](#). Daily prayers will be shared at 8am and can be viewed at any time after that. You are invited to join the prayer.

WALKER FOODBANK & 'WALKING WITH' FOODBANK

Many people continue to face hardship and financial difficulties. Sadly, as a result of the pandemic foodbanks up and down the country have reported, in many cases, a 250% increase in the uptake of their services. Many families through no fault of their own have struggled to put food on their tables, due to being furloughed – trying to exist on 80% of their salary - or losing their jobs in this pandemic. Charities helping refugees, asylum seekers and those without status are also in need of our support. If you are in a position to be able to give just one or two food items next week then we, as a parish, can help in a very practical way. Examples to include dried food, rice, pasta, sugar, tinned foods and toiletries.

If you are able to help with donations, you can either drop them off to St. Columba's Presbytery, Wallsend, or St. Anthony's can organise for them to be collected, if you call St. Anthony's Parish Office 0191 2623817. Thank you



Weekly Offering

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PARISH 3rd LOCKDOWN:

To set up a regular **STANDING ORDER** or make a one off donation. Please print the 'Standing Order Mandate Form' on our Website and pass on to your own Bank.

If you have personal **ONLINE BANKING** you will be able to set this up yourself, you will need the following information. (All bank payments are accounted for in our Parish Audit Trails.)

Account Name:

"DHN Newcastle Ss. Anthony of Padua & Francis : A Registered Charity"

Bank: HSBC

(Sort Code: 40.34.45)

Account No. 61165089

'GIFT AIDING' for the first time and are a UK Taxpayer? You will need to download the 'Gift Aid Form 2020-2021' which can be found on our Website. Please complete and send it back to the Parish Office. This is a legal document required by HMRC, the Office is required to forward it the Diocese. **Please be assured that in completing this form means that the Parish will receive a small percentage back from HMRC and will NOT affect your own tax.**

YOU CAN (as previous lockdowns) HOLD ONTO YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING UNTIL WE RESUME OUR MASSES, thank you.



'It's the lockdown look.'

Lent



FOR YOUR DIARY: Lent this year begins on ASH WEDNESDAY (Wednesday 17th February 2021)



Pope Francis at General Audience 27.01.21: The Bible, the place where God meets man

Pope Francis reflects on the importance of the Sacred Scriptures in the life of prayer, saying it was written for each one of us. ***"The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart."***

Bible written for each one of us

Reflecting this week on prayer that accompanies the reading of Sacred Scripture, the Pope underlined that the Bible was written for every one of us individually, to bring us "a word of God." This experience, he said, happens to all believers. A passage from the Scripture, heard many times already, unexpectedly will speak to a person one day, and enlighten a situation that they are living, offering fresh insights and often challenging our habitual way of thinking about and seeing the world.

However, the Pope stressed that it was necessary "that I, that day, be present for that appointment with that Word," in order for it to sow a seed "in the soil of our lives."

Christians as tabernacles

Pope Francis noted, "Through prayer a new incarnation of the Word takes place. And we are the 'tabernacles' where the words of God want to be welcomed and preserved, so that they may visit the world."

Pope Article Continued:

He went on to say, "The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that they were written in the Holy Spirit." It is a grace, said the Pope, "to be able to recognize oneself in this passage or that character, in this or that situation." In off-the-cuff remarks, Pope Francis said that it irritated him "to hear Christians reciting Bible verses 'like parrots'." He went on to say that it was important to encounter the Lord with the heart and not just to recite a verse from memory.

Lectio divina

Pope Francis went on to describe how the Christian tradition is rich in experiences and reflections on prayer with the Sacred Scripture. In particular, he observed, "the method of '*Lectio divina*' has been established; it originated in monastic circles, but is now also practised by Christians who frequent their parishes." "One then enters into dialogue with Scripture so that those words become a cause for meditation and prayer," while also asking what it "says to me". The last step of *Lectio divina*, explained the Pope, is contemplation. "Words and thoughts give way here to love." "The biblical text remains, but like a mirror, like an icon to be contemplated," he said. Concluding his Catechesis, the Pope emphasized that "Through prayer, the Word of God comes to abide in us and we abide in it."

The Word a source of peace

"The Word inspires good intentions and sustains action," he said. It becomes an inexhaustible source of peace, wisdom and strength as we grow in faith and give it concrete expression in charity and service of others.

Keep in touch



Website

Our Website address:

stanthonystfrancis.org



You Tube Channel (search for)

St. Anthony's & St. Columba's R.C. Churches

(You can access the Channel by going to our Parish Website, following in the search, the link which takes you to our 'You Tube Channel.' Here you will find recorded Masses and Services.)

Email Newsletter:



If you'd like to receive an electronic copy of the weekly Parish newsletter then please contact the Parish email address below:

newcastle.stanthony@rcdhn.org.uk



Fr. David Directly

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Parish Office

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