



"Charity is the soul of faith, makes it alive; without love, faith dies." St. Anthony of Padua

## **Saint Anthony of Padua**

### **Catholic Parish**

**41 Bee Lane, Fordhouses  
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**Website: [www.stanthonysrcchurch.org](http://www.stanthonysrcchurch.org)**

**Parish Priest Fr George Thomas**

### **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday 1st Mar—Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales**

9 am Adoration 9.30am Holy Mass Malayalam

6 pm Holy Mass—Maureen Tannian: Bridie Tannian RIP

**Sunday 2nd Mar**

10am Holy Mass—People of the Parish

**Monday 3rd Mar—Feria in Ordinary Time**

6.30 pm Holy Mass Malayalam

**Tuesday 4th Mar—Feria in Ordinary Time** *Perpetual Novena of St Anthony of Padua*

9.30am Silent Adoration 10am Holy Mass

### **Season of Lent**

**Ash Wednesday 5th Mar—Feria in Ordinary Time**

10 am Holy Mass (School Mass)

7.00 pm Holy Mass

**Thursday 6th Mar—Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

9.30am Silent Adoration 10am Holy Mass

**Friday 7th Mar—Friday after Ash Wednesday**

9.30am Silent Adoration 10am Holy Mass

6.30pm Night Vigil Holy Mass Malayalam

### **First Sunday in Lent**

**Saturday 8th Mar—Saturday after Ash Wednesday**

6 pm Holy Mass—Bridie Tannian RIP

**Sunday 9th Mar**

10am Holy Mass—Garrido Filipe Deceased Family

### **Gift Aid—Forms are available in the porch and from Fr George.**

Gift Aid enables a registered charity to obtain an additional 25p from the Government for every £1 donated by an individual who pays income tax on their earnings or pension. To apply Gift Aid to your donations complete the Gift Aid section of the form, if you wish to apply Gift Aid and pay by standing order complete both parts of the Gift Aid form and return the completed form to the Parish Office. Thank you.

**RC Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity 234216**

**Diocesan Website: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk) Diocesan Safeguarding: [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk)**

**St Anthony's Safeguarding Representative: Barbara Kosdoj [sg.stanthony.wolves@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stanthony.wolves@rcaob.org.uk)**

<b>Parish Finance SO Feb £541.70</b> Gift Aid           £148.00 Cash               £140.36 <b>Total               £288.36</b>  <b>This weekend 2nd collection for Cathedral Maintenance</b>	<b>50/50 Club</b> The February draw will take place after Mass this Sunday.  CAFOD Family Lent Fast Day collection 15th/16th March
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**Please pray for the sick and those who care for them especially** Janet Cooper, Chris & Mary Scott, David Walsh, Trevor Quinton, Julie Kendrick, Margaret Smith, Harminster Luis, Martyn Davies, Mary Therese Richard, Doris McShane, Maura Gallagher, Carole Mountford, Mary Doll Gallagher, Robert and Eileen Palmer, Ann O'Rourke, Margaret Clemson, Maureen Tannian. *Names may be added to the list with the consent of the person*

**We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**  
 Clifford Secker, John O'Neill, James Clarke, Rita Hicken, Elizabeth Beddows, Daphne Anderson, Kathleen Shannon, Vincenzo Occhipinti, Thelma Edmonds, Robert Ryan, Peter Hammond, Kathleen Clarke.

Rota	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Counting Team
Sat	Claire C	Martyn	
Sun	Jo	Anne	Anne, Wendy, Marie, Donna
Sat (Next weekend)	Gemma	Richard	
Sun	Robert	Sandra A	Liz, Gail, Anne

**If you have a child attending a non Catholic School and would like them to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation, please see Martyn or Fr George with proof of the child's baptism.**

**Preparation for First Holy Communion for Children attending non-Catholic schools**  
 Dates will be as follows: Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March, 4th and 11th April. 4pm in St Anthony's Sacristy.  
 First Holy Communion will be on Saturday 10th May.

**Preparation for Confirmation for Children attending non-Catholic schools**  
 Dates will be as follows: Friday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th May and 6th June. 4pm in St Anthony's Sacristy.  
 Archbishop Bernard will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 12th June.

**News from St Anthony's Catholic Primary Academy:**  
 We are asking if any members of the Parish are available to join a local litter pick on Tuesday 4th March at 3:30pm. We will be meeting in the church car park - we will have disposable gloves and bin liners but you may wish to bring gardening gloves. We will be litter picking in Bee Lane, church grounds and if there are enough people, into Cottage lane and/or Primrose Lane. The children involved are the St Francis Eco-Warriors who work weekly as stewards of God's creation, taking part in tasks and educating the community in how they can also save our world. If you can give your time, please just turn up on this date. If this is a success, then we will repeat this each half term. Thank you in advance.

<u>Important Dates for your diary</u>			
5th March	Ash Wednesday	10am (School Mass)	7pm
22nd & 23rd March	Parish visit Bishop Timothy Menezes	Sat/Sun Masses	
13th April	Palm Sunday	10am	
17th April	Maundy Thursday (Thursday of Holy Week)	7pm	
18th April	Good Friday	3pm	
19th April	Easter Vigil	8pm	
20th April	Easter Sunday	10am	

**The first reading (Sir 27:4-7) explained:** In the Greek version of the Bible, the first title of this book was "*The Wisdom of Ben Sirach*." It was the book most used in the liturgy. In fact, in the early Church it was a kind of official catechism used in the catechumenate, and hence its Greek name in the Septuagint is *Ecclesiasticus*. According to the prologue and other passages in the book, the inspired author was a learned scribe, a humble and zealous man, who lived in Jerusalem. From an early age he had meditated deeply on Sacred Scripture. This book played an important part in shaping the Faith of the Jewish people. It equipped them to cope with the imminent menace of Greek culture, which ran completely counter to the monotheism of the people of the Old Covenant. Since the book was written in Greek, not in Hebrew, the Jewish scholars who finalized the canon of the Hebrew Bible after Jesus' Resurrection did not include it in the canon of the Hebrew Bible. But since it was included in the Septuagint, the Catholic Church retains it as an inspired book of the Bible. Sirach advises us not to praise any man before he speaks, for it is then those men are tested. Speech is the principal criterion for evaluating a person's character. The sacred author first uses an agricultural image to explain his point. When a sieve is shaken, the grains fall to the basket beneath the sieve and the husks remain in the sieve showing their ugly emptiness. The same thing happens when a man speaks: his faults, his pride, and his ignorance are exposed. The second image used is the potter's furnace. If the clay isn't completely dry, the piece explodes in the kiln (furnace). In the same way, conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; As an example, sycamore fruit had to be punctured to grow fat and juicy; this was the job of the "dresser of sycamores." In the same way, a man's speech discloses the bent of his mind. *Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested.*