



Sunday Supplement.



The Good Shepherd with St. Anthony.

LENT NOW FINDS ITS FULFILMENT in its preparation for The Sacred Triduum which begins on Maundy Thursday. It is perhaps best summed up with the invitation of Jesus, "follow me". "Unless a man take up his cross every day and follow me, he is not worthy of me". To take up the cross to express is the fulfilment of what it is to be human. Our involvement within the Divine Liturgy of the Sacred Triduum will be the means in which ad 2024 really will become the meaning of the letters "AD" (Latin Anno Domini = The year of The Lord). Some time past, somebody gave me a copy of the Spiritual Diaries of St. John Paul II, "In God's Hands", which I have been using as an opportunity of getting to know the Lord better, and the Lenten call to take up "The Cross". In his entry (12th March, 1984) the Saint tells us: "Mysterium iniquitatis - the mystery of evil; sin. The light of Faith is necessary to understand the mystery of sin: when Faith fades away, the awareness of sin fades away to!" He continues with an awareness of sin beginning with the primordial expression found in the Evil One himself; "I will not serve", and reflects powerfully upon the meaning of it in the lives of our first parents, Adama, the son and daughter of the soil. By contrast with the search of Almighty God, in the Paradise of the original creation, summed up in the words "Where are you?", St. John Paul identifies the expressions of humanity summed up in "sin = not to obey", iniquity = injustice, ingratitude = ingratitude (for the Divine Love), impietas = impiety (manifest in so many expressions that deny the Holy, our thoughts, words and deeds that fail to reflect love!), breaking up friendship with God; a reflection of the free person given to the Absolute; the Father". He further reflects upon its effects and asks what does this mean in my personal life? "Death; the effect of sin. Hell - not to be able to love any more" and concludes with a simple plea; "Lord, I entrust my freedom into your hands. Have mercy Lord, have mercy". These thoughts I have found invaluable, especially the encouragement that follow. "The Father did not spare His own son, but gave Him up for us all". "Christ is the new Adam", the gift of the Father; the gift expresses the Giver; the present = represents the Giver". The antidote to a lack of love is to journey forth on Good Friday to kiss the feet of Jesus crucified.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE GREAT JUBILEE YEAR 2025. Our schools have been invited to participate in a diocesan project, focused on the Lord's Prayer. Christ the King is looking to celebrate this by putting together a video of different sections of the Lord's Prayer spoken in different languages, by different people from across our community and we would love it if anyone in our parishes would like to take part. Please contact Eddy Walton for more information. (ewalton@christtheking.notts.sch.uk)

APPRECIATION: Our sincere thanks to all who have supported the tremendous tradition of the Way of the Cross during this Lent and especially the community celebrations in the Good Shepherd Church (a tradition as old as the parish itself!) and at St. Anthony's. We offer thanks to Cath Verhoeven for developing the vision of leadership and express thanks to all of the groups who have led us each Friday. It has been especially pleasing to experience the youthful voices of the Youth of the Polish Uniformed Groups who annually take one of the Friday evenings in the Good Shepherd and this year to note the "Minnie Vinnies". Young people from our parish Senior Academy of Christ the King who are being inspired by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Mrs. Toner (Principal of the Good Shepherd Academy) and the staff of the School have developed the tradition in recent years, of the School leading the Stations of the Cross at 12 noon on Palm Sunday. All are welcomed to join with our children and the School Leadership Team in this devotion that will open our Holy Week.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CALVERTON: St. Anthony's Community are very involved in Churches Together in Calverton and hosted one of the Lenten luncheon Fellowships as usual this year. Together with the other communities in the fellowship a total of £588:20 was raised. Churches Together have forwarded this equally between "Emmanuel House", and "Framework" charities. Thank you.

ARNOLD FOOD BANK & EMMANUEL HOUSE: The need continues and we express our sincere thanks for the tremendous and regular support for both of these worthy charities. Any donations can be left in Admin Suite Corridor of the Good Shepherd Assembly Rooms or in the Atrium of St. Anthony's Church.

CONDOLENCE: Word reaches us as we go to press of the passing to eternal life of Reg carter's father. May he rest in peace.

May we all be blessed by the Lord as we try to follow Him in the journey of Holy Week, to the joy of life in the Resurrection.

CANON ANTHONY PATRICK DOLAN was born on 1st June 1939 in Bulwell, and studied in Saint Hugh's College, Tollerton, and the seminary in Innsbruck, before ordination on 23rd July 1966 in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell. He served on the staff of Oscott College, and as Vice Rector at Tollerton, as well as assistant priest in Holy Spirit, West Bridgford, Sacred Heart, Leicester, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Leicester, and Christ the King, Alfreton; he was appointed parish priest of All Saints, Ashbourne, in 1980, and then in Ilkeston (1983), Melbourne (1992) and Grantham (2003), before retiring on 8th September 2015 to the bungalow next to the church in Bulwell. He was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 2009, and as well as being chaplain to East Midlands Airport was the long-serving Diocesan Archivist.

On the occasion of his golden jubilee in 2016 Anthony wrote:

As I write this in late June 2015 immediately after receiving a request from the Editor of the Year Book to do so by the middle of September, I am in the process of sorting out books, papers, clothing, etc. prior to my retiring from active priestly ministry later this year. Some of these items – clothes in particular, have accompanied me on my travels over the last half century and more. The cassock which I wore at my ordination on 23 July 1966 was given to me by my then parish priest when I began my course of theology four years earlier. I hope to wear it at my Golden Jubilee celebrations – if I can squeeze into it, and I intend to be buried in it when such a consideration will no longer be relevant!

In sorting out my material possessions, and trying to decide what I want or need to take with me into retirement, memories of all kinds come flooding into my mind. I think of all the people with whom I have come into contact as a seminarian and as a priest. Some of them have had an influence on me in ways neither they nor I could have ever suspected, and I am most grateful, to them and to God, for this. I think, too, of decisions I have made which have influenced the way in which my life has unfolded. A simple example was when, at the age of twelve, I was asked whether I would prefer to take up French or German. Having been told that French grammar was particularly difficult, I opted for German only to discover later on that German grammar is also very difficult! But because I had some slight knowledge (two years of it) of German, Bishop Ellis decided to send me, at the age of eighteen, to a major seminary in Austria, a decision I have never regretted! Those who know me are (only too) well aware of the influence my six years in the Austrian Tyrol has had on my life and on my ministry as a priest.

My prayer as I prepare to enter the next stage of my earthly existence is that, like the cedar and the palm tree mentioned in Psalm 91, I will still bear fruit even though I am old and that I will retain a certain youthfulness and vigour in spite of declining mental and physical powers. I hope that the readers of this article will pray for me and for my brothers in the priesthood who have retired from active ministry as I know we pray for you.



May Anthony now rest in God's peace, and rise in glory.

Canon Anthony Patrick Dolan

Born 1st June 1939

Ordained 23rd July 1966

Died 16th March 2024