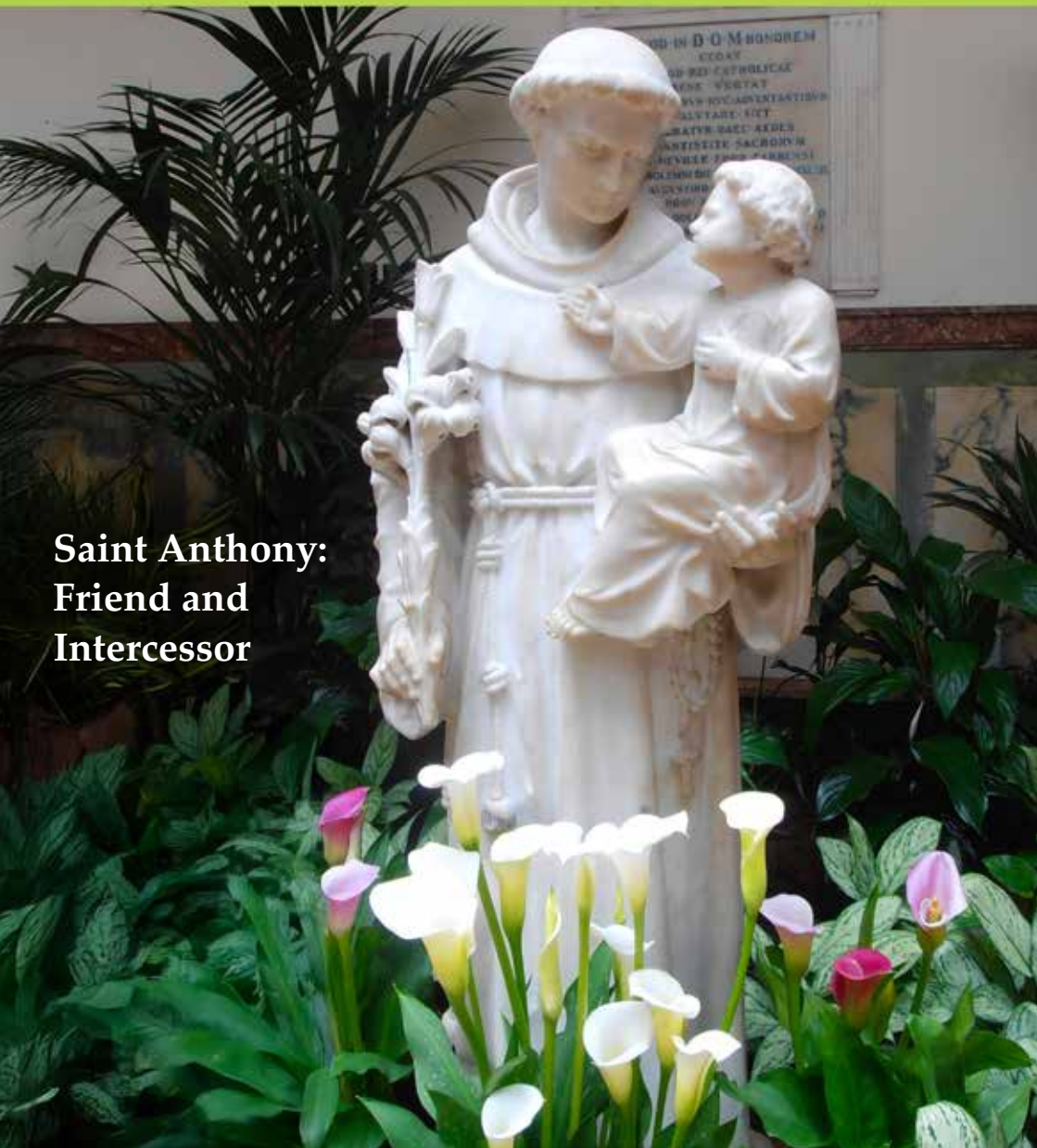


Troubadour

Volume 66, No.4

Spring 2025

**Saint Anthony:
Friend and
Intercessor**



In the 13th century Christ spoke to St Francis of Assisi:
*"Francis, go and rebuild my Church which you see
is falling down."*

Don't complain about the Church in the 21st century.
Hear Our Lord's call and do something about it!

*The Friars Minor have followed St Francis'
example for the last 800 years.*



Why not be one of them?

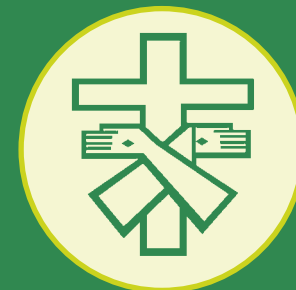
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Troubadour

A MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

at the service of

- The Franciscan Missionaries working throughout the world but especially in disaster areas.
- The Franciscan Missionary Union.



Volume 66, No 4

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	Page
The World's Favourite Saint	4
Finding the Essentials	8
Ordinations in Zimbabwe	9
How does Pope Francis pray?	12
Seven ways to celebrate Jubilee Year 2025	15
Gratitude for our shared mission of bringing Christ's love	19
"May the Good Lord reward you!"	21
St Anthony's Novena	23

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

Front cover:
Saint Anthony: Friend and Intercessor.

Back cover:
Saint Anthony of Padua
by Tanzio da Varaloc 1617-1618.

Published by St. Antony's Press for the
Franciscan Missionary Union.

Produced by:
Burns Publications Ltd.
Caledonia Business Centre,
Thornliebank Industrial Estate,
Glasgow G46 8JT

MISSION OFFICE:

FMU Director
Franciscan Friary,
270 Ballater Street,
Glasgow.
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Registered Charity
No. 232177; SCO 39191



The World's Favourite Saint

Saint Anthony: Friend and Intercessor

St Anthony of Padua is one of the world's most beloved saints. Many traditions and symbols are linked to his life and ongoing 'ministry' for those still on their pilgrim path to heaven.

Patron Saint of Lost Things

The reason for invoking St Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen things is traced back to an incident in his own life. As the story goes, Anthony had a book of psalms, a psalter, that was very important to him. You have to remember this was before the age of the printing press and so all books

were of great value, and besides the value of the book, the psalter had the notes and comments he had made to use in teaching students in his Franciscan Order.

A novice who had already grown tired of living religious life decided to depart the community. Besides going AWOL, he also took Anthony's psalter! Upon realising his psalter was missing, Anthony prayed it would be found or returned to him, and after his prayer the thieving novice was moved to return the psalter to Anthony and to return to the Order, which accepted him back. The stolen book is said to be preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna.

Shortly after his death people began praying through Anthony to find or recover lost and stolen articles. And the 'Responsory of St Anthony' composed by his contemporary and brother friar, Julian of Spire, proclaims, 'The sea obeys and fetters break / And lifeless limbs thou dost restore / While treasures lost are found again / When young or old thine aid implore.'

'Hammer of the Heretics'

Anthony was teacher, preacher, doctor of the Scriptures. Among the Franciscans themselves and in the liturgy of his feast, St Anthony is celebrated as a teacher and

preacher extraordinaire. He was the first teacher in the Franciscan Order, given the special approval and blessing of St Francis himself to instruct his brother friars.

His effectiveness as a preacher calling people back to the faith resulted in the title 'Hammer of the Heretics'. However, just as important were his peace-making skills and calls for justice in his preaching missions throughout Italy and France.

In canonising Anthony in 1232, just a few years after his death, Pope Gregory IX spoke of him as the 'Ark of the Testament' and the 'Repository of Holy Scripture'. That explains why St Anthony is frequently pictured with a burning light or a book of the Scriptures in his hands. In 1946, Pope Pius XII officially declared Anthony a Doctor (that is Teacher) of the Universal Church.

The Church wants us to learn from Anthony, the teacher, the meaning of true wisdom and what it means to become like Jesus, who humbled and emptied himself for our sakes and went about doing good.

Various legends surround the death of Anthony. One holds that when he died, the children cried in the streets and that all the bells of the churches rang of their own accord. Another legend regards his tongue. Anthony is buried in a chapel within the large basilica built to honour him

Padua, Italy: the Basilica of Saint Anthony.



“Charity is the soul of faith, makes it alive; without love, faith dies. The breadth of charity widens the narrow heart of the sinner.”

St Anthony



in Padua, where his tongue is displayed for veneration in a large reliquary. When his body was exhumed thirty years after his death, it was found to have returned to dust, but the tongue was claimed to have glistened and looked as if it was still alive and moist; apparently a further claim was made that this was a sign of his gift of preaching.

St Anthony Bread

St Anthony Bread is a term used for offerings made in thanksgiving to God for blessings received through the prayers of St Anthony. Sometimes the alms are given for the education of priests. In some places parents also make a gift for the poor after placing a newborn child under the protection of St Anthony. It is a practice in some churches to bless small loaves of bread on the feast of St Anthony and give them to those who want them.

Different legends or stories account for the donation of what is called St Anthony Bread. By at least one account it goes back to 1263, when it is said a child drowned near the Basilica of St Anthony, which was still being built in Padua. His mother promised that if the child was restored to her she would give for the poor an amount of corn equal to the child's weight. Her prayer and promise were rewarded with the boy's return to life.

St Anthony and the Child Jesus

St Anthony has been pictured in all kinds of ways by artists and sculptors. He is depicted with a book in his hands,

with a lily or torch. He has been painted preaching to fish, holding a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament in front of a mule, or preaching in the public square or from a nut tree.

But since the 17th century, we most often find the saint shown with the child Jesus in his arms or even with the child standing on a book the saint holds. A story about St Anthony projects back into the past a visit of Anthony to the Lord of Chateaufort. Anthony was praying far into the night when suddenly the room was filled with light more brilliant than the sun. Jesus then appeared to St Anthony in the form of a little child. Chateaufort, attracted by the brilliant light that filled his house, was drawn to witness the vision but promised to tell no one of it until after Anthony's death.

St Anthony and the Lily

Most images of St Anthony of Padua depict him holding the Child Jesus and with lilies. It has been a part of tradition in Christian art to use lilies as a symbol of purity when portraying Our Lady or the saints and even angels.

With St Anthony, lilies have special significance. Lilies are in bloom around much of the world in the month of June, the month of his

feast day on 13 June. Of even more import, there are two incidents hundreds of years old relating to the Saint of Padua and these magnificent flowers.

In 1680, on 13 June, in the church at Mentosca d'Agasco in Austria, someone placed a cut lily in the hand of his statue. For an entire year the lily remained fragrant and fully alive, without wilting. Then the following year it grew two more blooms, so that the church was filled with the fragrance of the flowers.

A little over a century later, during the anti-clerical, anti-Catholic French Revolution, on the island of Corsica, the Franciscans were forced to leave their parishioners. The people refused to give up their devotions, although they had no choice in the matter of the sacraments because they had no priests.

They invoked the intercession of St Anthony. On 13 June, they erected a shrine to the saint in the deserted church; the shrine included lilies in his honour. Months later the blooms were still fresh as if they had just been placed there.

Permission to bless lilies in honour of the saint was given by Pope Leo XIII in the 19th century. Many favours have been granted through this devotion, such as help to the sick who have been touched by the petals of the blessed flowers.

Finding the Essentials

St Anthony of Padua packed a lot into his 36 years. Through a life of preaching and prayer, St Anthony expressed and witnessed to his faith in God. Many people turn to St Anthony when something is missing, or someone is lost.

As we celebrate his feast day on 13 June, we pray for the many families who have experienced the disappearance of their children, without trace, explanation or contact. It is the greatest loss.

We can all recall many lost aspects of our own lives:

- The positive outlook of our lives, now lost, through negative pessimism.
- The love in our lives, now lost, through indifference and cynicism.
- The lost ideals that we have squandered.
- The generous enthusiasm that is lost through mediocrity.
- The zest and passion for life that is lost by greed and selfishness.
- The gift of faith that is lost because we solely rely on ourselves.
- The time lost due to festering resentments that ruin family relationships.

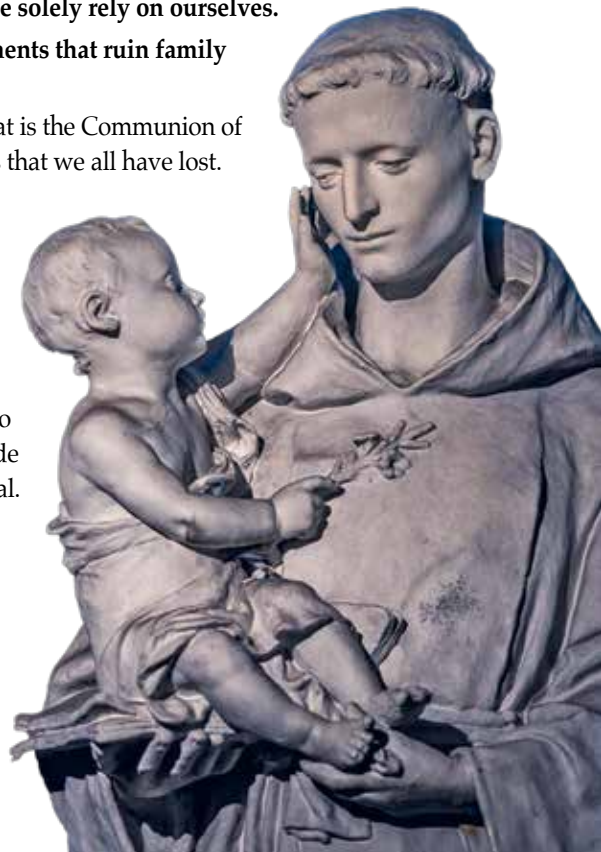
St Anthony is part of the vast family that is the Communion of Saints. He will help us find the essentials that we all have lost.

Perhaps, in our own lives, we are not aware of the loss yet. This is why we all need the 'amazing grace' of God's love. 'I once was lost, but now am found.'

These words are from the hymn 'Amazing Grace', written by John Newton in 1748. It is a prayer in thanks to God for being rescued after his slave-trade ship was wrecked off the coast of Donegal.

In all our lives there are special times when the 'amazing grace' of God's love and mercy surround us. By his grace we will not lose hold of what is essential.

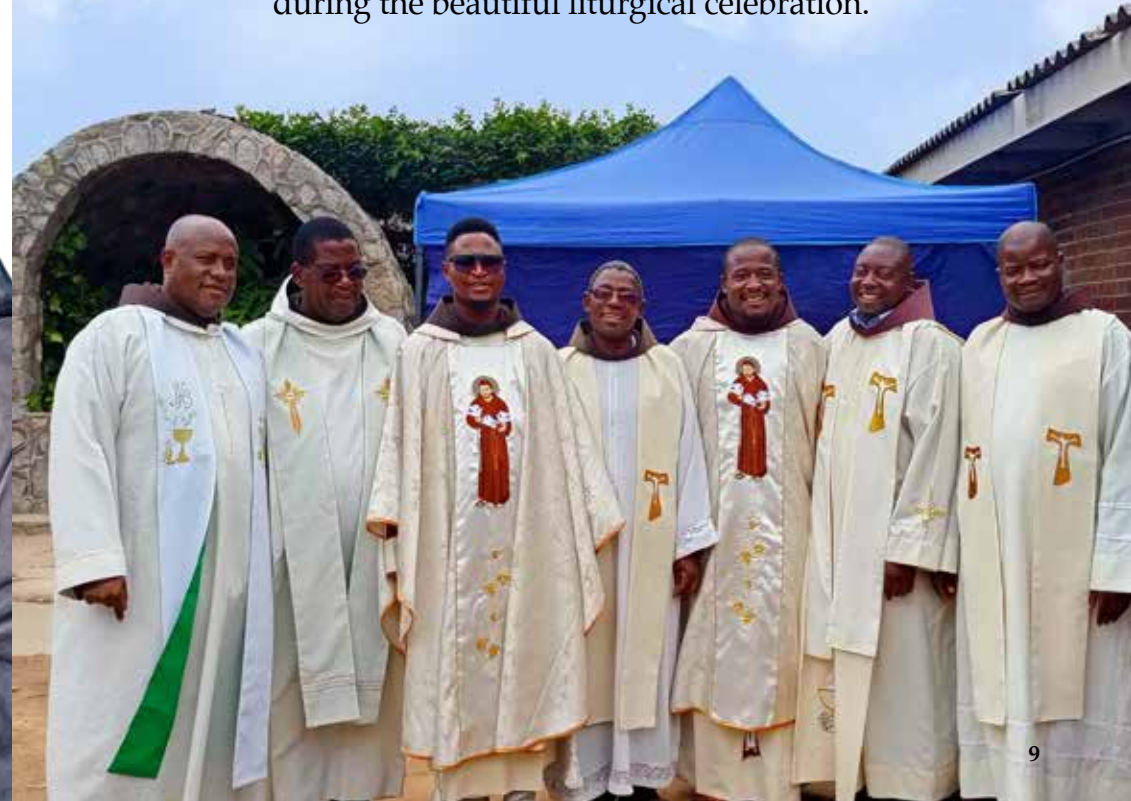
St Anthony, powerful in word and work, intercede for us with the Lord Jesus.



Ordinations in Zimbabwe

Saturday, 15 February 2025, marked a very significant moment for the Franciscan friars and the Redemptorists in Zimbabwe.

Two deacons from each of these religious congregations – Redemptorists Celestino Magwenzi and Ngonidzashe Magaya, and Franciscans Tatenda Marunga and Colin Tapiwa Munyanyi – were ordained to the priesthood during the celebration that was held at St Gerard's Parish in Borrowdale, Harare. They were ordained by His Grace Robert Ndlovu, the Archbishop of Harare, during the beautiful liturgical celebration.



It was a day of great jubilation when many priests, religious, and the laity thronged from near and far to witness the occasion of priestly ordination.

Priestly ordination is a significant event in the Catholic Church's life, marking an individual's transition into the priesthood. It is a sacrament that configures the ordained to Christ, the Head and Bridegroom of the Church. The ordained priests are called to serve Christ and the Church, building up and guiding the faithful in the name of Christ, who is the Head of the Body.

In his homily, Fr Elias Gweme, Vicar Provincial of the Redemptorist Province of London and Zimbabwe, reminded the ordinands of the weighty responsibilities they were assuming, including preaching the Word of God both by their words and the witness of their lives. Also, they were encouraged to uphold their vocation in a manner that reflects

Christ who called them.

Redemptorist Provincial Superior Fr Richard Reid encouraged the newly ordained to always remember the support of the faithful gathered to witness their ordination. 'Look around you. Never forget this. Never forget this day because you are surrounded, behind, in front of you, and beside you, with everyone here who is so full of love,' he told them.



*Newly ordained friars
Tatenda Marunga and
Colin Tapiwa Munyanyi.*



The ordination was performed by His Grace Robert Ndlovu, the Archbishop of Harare.

Towards the end of the ordination ceremony, Archbishop Ndlovu reminded the new priests that their role is to live for others, emphasising the importance of humility and service. He reiterated that the new

priests should not take the occasion of their ordination for granted. He encouraged them to be witnesses, shepherds, and sheep, listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd and following it.

Many attended the joyous occasion and offered their love and respect to the ordinands.



How did Pope Francis pray?

Pope Francis described his own prayer in the preface to a book, *As Jesus Taught Us: The Prayer of Pilgrims of Hope*, that collected some of his teachings on prayer.



I learned to pray from my grandmother. She is the one who taught me to pray and also instilled in me a devotion to St Joseph. Then, the spiritual fathers I had, both in the seminary and in the Society of Jesus, helped me grow in my experience of prayer.

Among them, I would like to mention Fr Miguel Angel Fiorito, an Argentine Jesuit, a philosophy professor, but also an enthusiast of spirituality. He offered many courses on spirituality. He taught me

to pray as a son before God and not to seek the 'sweeties' of consolation. How does prayer happen? How do we get used to praying? What should we do when there is consolation or even desolation, when we don't feel like praying? He was a teacher of spiritual life for me. Over time, my formation in prayer has remained the same.

Sacrament, I endure moments of dryness. My prayer continues through beautiful things and not-so-beautiful things. Sometimes I think I need to pray more, that's true. There's no time, but I need to pray more.

I always stick to the Liturgy of the Hours; I never abandon



Praying as Pope

Even as Pope, nothing has changed. I pray as I always have, with the same rhythm. Sometimes I say vocal prayers. Sometimes before the Blessed

it. In the afternoon, Vespers; later, the Office of Readings; in the morning, Lauds; and then Mass. And then there's mental prayer, the prayer of meditation. During the day, when I have a little time, I try

to have a conversation and ask the Lord something, but I fear he might respond!

And then there's the Our Father, the prayer of Jesus. It has everything! When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, he didn't call a catechist to instruct them on some methodology of prayer or a specialist in the art of meditation. He said, 'Say this: Our Father'. The Our Father is the universal prayer, the prayer of children, the prayer of trust, the prayer of courage, and also the prayer of acceptance. It is the great prayer.

Praying to Our Lady

And there are prayers to Mary: I also have great trust in the Madonna; I always pray the rosary. I like to feel her close because she is a mother and she guides us. There's a very beautiful story, which is of course a legend, that tells us how Our Lady saves everyone! It's the of Our Lady of Thieves, protector of robbers. They steal, but because they pray to her, when one of them dies, Our Lady, who is at the window of heaven, gestures for him to

hide. She tells him not to go to Peter, who won't let him in. But in the evening, she opens the window of paradise and lets him in from there.

I like this. Our Lady is the one who lets you in through the window. It's almost like smuggling. Just like at the wedding at Cana. The Lord did not have the freedom to say no. She's like this with her Son. It's like this, pleading omnipotence.

It is also because of this trust that, at the end of my public addresses, I always ask people to pray for me. I need the community to support me in this service to the Church. If the Church doesn't support you with prayer, you're done.

Prayer opens the heart to the Lord, and when the Spirit enters, it changes your life from within. That's why we must pray: to open the heart and make space for the Spirit. We pray to Jesus, the Father, and Our Lady, but we don't often converse in prayer with the Holy Spirit. Yet it is the Holy Spirit who changes our heart, enters our heart, and transforms it.

**PILGRIMS
OF HOPE**
Jubilee
2025



Seven ways to Celebrate Jubilee Year 2025

Adapted from www.osvnews.com

Maria Wiering suggests ways we can participate in Holy Year 2025 without travelling to Rome.

As many as 35 million visitors are expected in Rome in 2025. Many of them will be pilgrims for the Jubilee, a Holy Year the church celebrates every quarter-century. While numerous events are planned in Rome and at the Vatican to mark the Jubilee 2025, this Holy Year is for the whole Church. Here are some ways to

celebrate without travelling too far from home.

Go to Reconciliation

The idea of a Jubilee or Holy Year is rooted in the jubilees marked by the Israelites, who saw every 50th year as a special time for forgiveness and reconciliation with God

and others. They would leave their fields fallow, replenishing the soil, allow those under slavery to regain their freedom, return land to its former owners, and forgive debts that could not be repaid. Reconciliation and righting relationships are also at the heart of the Church's Holy Year, making the sacrament of reconciliation a key component of this year.

In the papal bull announcing the year, *Spes Non Confundit* – Hope Does Not Disappoint, Pope Francis called the sacrament of reconciliation ‘the essential starting point of any true journey of conversion’. During the Jubilee, in local churches, ‘Special care should be taken to prepare priests and the faithful to celebrate the sacrament of confession and to make it readily available in its individual form,’ he said. Expect many dioceses to hold a period of round-the-clock confessions for the Lenten initiative ‘24 Hours for the Lord’, taking place this year, 28-29 March.

Read the Jubilee Document

The papal bull *Spes Non Confundit* was issued in May last year. The papal bull reflects on the Holy Year theme, ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. It includes a scriptural reflection on hope, as well as an explanation of the meaning of a Jubilee Year; ideas and encouragement for Christians living out the Holy Year; appeals for accompaniment, mercy and

charity for various people in need; and some of the key events and anniversaries the Holy Year will observe.

Among Pope Francis’ words of wisdom is a reflection on patience, which he calls ‘both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation’, but which, he says, ‘has been put to flight by frenetic haste in the age of “now” that we live in’. He tells us, ‘Were we still able to contemplate creation with a sense of awe, we might better understand the importance of patience which could only prove beneficial for ourselves and for others.’ He writes, ‘Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life.’

You can find the full document on www.vatican.va

Make a Pilgrimage

In *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis states that, ‘Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.’ While traditional pilgrimage routes to Rome and in Rome itself are expected to be well trod during the Holy Year, Catholics can also make pilgrimages to local holy sites, or even their own diocesan cathedrals,

for prayer, Confession or Mass.

Some dioceses have designated particular parishes or holy places to serve as pilgrimage sites during the Holy Year. These sites provide the opportunity for pilgrims to receive the Jubilee indulgence. The plenary indulgence can also be received through pious visits to sacred places and through performing works of mercy.

Visit Your Cathedral

Unlike the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy 2015-2016, diocesan cathedrals will not designate Holy Doors to correspond with the traditional Holy Doors in Rome and at the Vatican. Each diocesan bishop officially opened the Holy Year locally with Mass on 29 December in his cathedral. This will also be where bishops will close local Holy Year celebrations on 28 December 2025. In the meantime, cathedrals are likely sites for diocesan Jubilee events. Make the effort to par

Perform Works of Mercy.

In *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis asks Catholics ‘to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind’. He specifically mentions prisoners, a group he has highlighted by designating a Jubilee Holy Door at Rome’s Rebibbia Prison. He also mentions that signs of hope are needed by the sick, the young, migrants, the elderly

and grandparents, and the poor. The Holy Year should inspire Catholics to increase their exercise of the corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, and burying the dead.

Practice Hope

Pope Francis underscores that the hope the Jubilee offers is for the universal Church. ‘In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring,’ he wrote. Hope, he said, comes from Christ, and Christians deepen their hope through prayer, the sacraments, and growing in virtue. ‘For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the door of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as our Hope.’

Pray the Jubilee Prayer

Pope Francis has issued a special Jubilee prayer. Therefore, a simple way to mark this Holy Year is to pray this beautiful prayer daily. The prayer is easily incorporated into an individual’s prayers or those of a family.

Jubilee Prayer :

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new

heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, pilgrims of hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



“Gratitude for our shared mission of bringing Christ’s love.”

Friar Rajasekhar Gopu, OFM writes from India of the positive impact of a donation to their mission.

The Franciscan Friars of the Reddypalem Mission are pleased to report the successful completion of the project for acquiring a four-wheeler to support our pastoral and educational ministry. With immense gratitude, vehicle has already begun to make a transformative impact on the mission, enabling safer and more efficient travel for pastoral visits, school administration, and emergency response.

The Reddypalem Mission serves a remote and economically vulnerable community in Ranga Reddy district,

Telangana. The lack of public transportation, challenging terrain, and increasing safety risks with two-wheelers made it essential for the friars to acquire a four-wheeler. This vehicle was crucial for ensuring uninterrupted pastoral care, facilitating school administration, and responding swiftly to emergencies.

The impact of this acquisition has been immediate and significant. The friars can now travel safely, especially during the monsoon season, reducing the risk of accidents



and ensuring their well-being. Pastoral visits to the Catholic families and surrounding villages have become more frequent and reliable. The friars are now able to travel efficiently for administrative tasks, ensuring the smooth operation of the mission school that serves 600 children. The vehicle has provided the friars with the ability to promptly attend to medical and pastoral emergencies in the community.

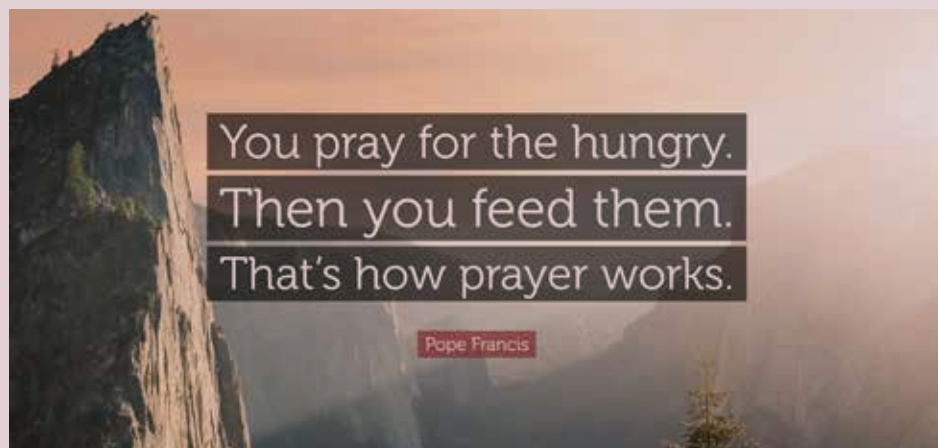
On behalf of the Franciscan Province of India, I, Friar Rajasekhar Gopu, OFM, as the project coordinator, wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all the kind benefactors who support the FMU. You have made this possible. Your generosity and solidarity with our mission have provided us with a vital tool that enhances our ability to serve the people entrusted to our care.

Furthermore, Friar Xavier, the Minister Provincial of the Franciscan

Province of India, along with Friar Bhaskar and Friar Briyan from the Reddypalem Mission, express their heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable support. Your contribution is not just a financial gift but an affirmation of our shared Franciscan mission to bring the love and care of Christ to those in need.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity. Know that you are remembered in our prayers, and we hope that this partnership in mission continues to bear fruit in the years to come.

With the successful completion of this project, the Reddypalem Mission is now better equipped means for transportation to serve its community. This achievement would not have been possible without the fraternal support and generosity of the FMU. We remain ever grateful and look forward to continued collaboration in our shared mission of serving Christ's poor.



"May the Good Lord reward you!"



English Franciscan, Fr. Peter Williams OFM serves as parish priest of Saint Pius X Parish in Waterkloof, South Africa. He reports on necessary repairs to parish buildings made possible only by your generous donations.

Thanks to the generous support of Franciscan Missionary Union (FMU) the following work has been carried out in our parish buildings:

Repairs to the church roof

The roof is now in a good state of repair. The heavy rains in the November/December period did not reveal any defects at all after the repairs were carried out. The leaks that used to occur at the spaces occupied by the piano did not recur at all.



Catechism Classrooms and Roof

This part of the project is also one hundred percent complete. The additional work that emerged at this section of the project

were repairs to the four sliding aluminium doors. The rollers all required to be replaced. This has been completed. We have now a completely renovated section of the building.

Repairs to the courtyard

The repairs to the courtyard have been completed with new paving laid over the entire courtyard and the stormwater drainage for this area attended to afresh.



Parish Hall

The damage to the flooring of the parish hall that had been minor over a period, suddenly deteriorated and became widespread. This put almost half of the floor out of service. Undoubtedly, this resulted from the ingress of stormwater into the underlying timberwork as a result of the recent heavy rains. A major public safety risk suddenly confronted us. Given the frequent

use of the parish hall for events, functions, meetings of parish groups, the decision to attend to the damage had to be made rapidly. This work is still ongoing.

Back-up Water Supply Works

Given the serious water crisis in the country and especially in the Province of Gauteng in which the parish is situated, it was felt that this challenge be faced and the use of the borehole on the property potentialized. Work on this is well underway.

The Friars residence

This building has to be completely renovated. It is in an advanced state of deterioration. There has been little or no work carried out on this building in recent years and it does not comply with building regulations currently in force in South Africa. This work is ongoing.

The prayerful gratitude to the friars and people of our parish go out to all those people whose generosity enabled the FMU to come to our aid.

May the good Lord reward you in this life and in the next!

June 4th—June 13th

St. Anthony's Novena 2025



Blessed John Duns Scotus Parish, Glasgow G5 0YT

Times of Services

Wednesday 4th June to Friday 6th June: 10am Mass with Novena Prayers & Homily.
8pm Novena Prayers, Homily & Benediction

Saturday 7th June: 10 am & 5.30pm Mass(Vigil), Novena Prayers and Homily (Blessing of children)

Sunday 8th June 10am Mass with novena Prayers and Homily
12 noon Parish Mass with Novena Prayers

Monday 9th June to Thursday 12th June: 10am Mass with Novena Prayers and Homily
8pm with Novena Prayers, Homily & Benediction

Tuesday 10th June: Special blessing of the sick at 10am Mass and 8pm Novena

Friday 13th June – Feastday Mass at 10am with blessing of the lilies
Blessings of sick and lilies at 3pm
Novena at 8pm with blessing of the lilies.

Please send your petitions, If you wish them to be included in the Novena to

: St Anthony's Novena, 270 Ballater Street, Glasgow G5 0YT

O glorious Saint Anthony,
Beloved friend of God and tireless intercessor for those in need,
In this sacred moment, when Heaven touches Earth,
And my soul feels the gentle whisper of God,
I come to you with an open heart and humble spirit.



Saint Anthony of Padua
by Tanzio da Varallo 1617-1618