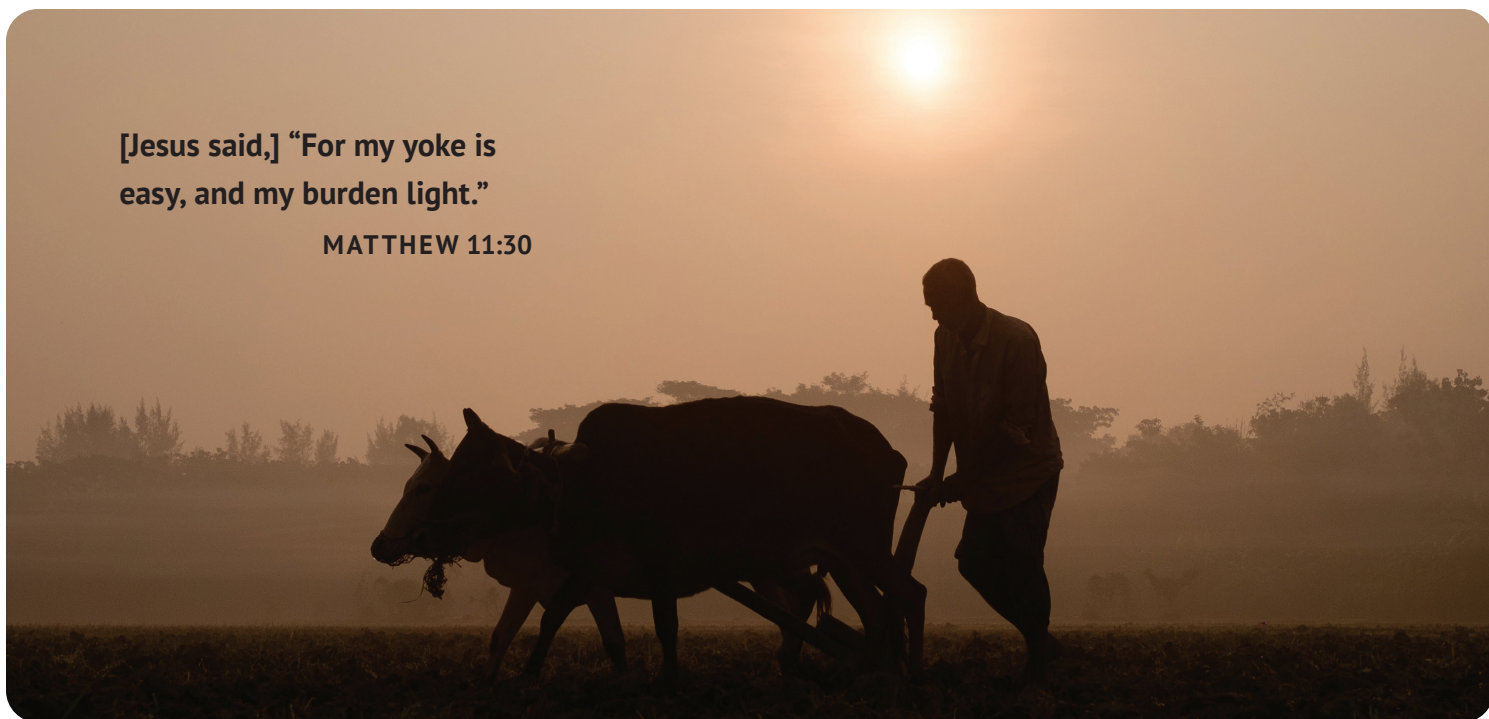




[Jesus said,] “For my yoke is
easy, and my burden light.”

MATTHEW 11:30



Take Up the Yoke

ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own? ●

Reflect

Is there a teaching of Jesus you find challenging?



St. Anthony's Church

26 Middle Road -Warwick WK03, Bermuda
Phone: (Office Direct Line) 441-238-1784

Parish Email: stanthonybermuda@gmail.com

Father Jacob Swapan Gomes

Telephone Number – 292-0607 Ext. 5

Cell Number -- 704-1874

Reconciliation: By appointment

Baptisms: By Appointment – One month in advance

Weddings: By Appointment –A year in advance

Organist: Jane Farge

St. Anthony's Club (CCD): Fridays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Coordinator: Anna Daniel 236-2438

Email: stanthonycdd@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Rep: Pat Rodrigues

St. Vincent de Paul No. 525-1191

Mass Schedule at St. Anthony's

July	4	6:15 pm	Manuel Moura+
July	5	11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Anthony
July	7	8:30 am	
July	8	8:30 am	
July	9	8:30 am	
July	10	8:30 am	
July	11	6:15 pm	Manuel & Ana Reis++
July	12	11:30 am	Parishioners of St. Anthony

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to serve as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, collection counters, etc. If you can assist kindly let a member of the Parish Council know or call Pat Rodrigues at 524-1026

St Vincent de Paul Poor Box Donations

Please use: BDA # 2000 6060 4767 11100 or

US # 8400 7847 30010

Cash donation - please use the SVDP envelopes and place in the collection baskets at the weekend Masses.

Any amount goes a long way to support those in need.

Holy Rosary

Please note that the Holy Rosary is recited every Wednesday morning at St Patrick's Church at 10:00 am. Please join.

Bulletin – July 4/July 5, 2026

Weekly Collections at St. Anthony's

June 20/21 \$ 1,140.00

June 27/28 \$ 2,942.00

Online payments can be made directly into the Bank account of St. Anthony's – Butterfield Bank –

BD \$ Current A/c – 20006060061567100 and

US \$ Current A/c - 20006840061567100.

Please make sure to indicate what the donation is for in the memo field when making the payment online – i.e., General collection; Maintenance; Mission Sunday, etc. Multiple payments can be made for those times when you are away or on vacation. Please note that we are charged \$20 for US checks drawn on a US Bank. Kindly **do not** place Canadian or British currency or any old Bermuda currency in the collection baskets.

Maintenance Collection –this weekend

St. Anthony's Ministry Schedules

Counting Ministry June 28: Annette and Pat

July 5: Annette and Anna

Saturday July 4

Lector: Alice Astwood-Smith

Eucharistic Minister: Raynae Fleming & Pat Rodrigues

Collection: Alice Astwood Smith & Pat Rodrigues

Hospitality: Jackie Tailford

Sunday July 5

Lector: Sylvester Augustine

Eucharistic Ministers: Anabelle Saunders, Julita Looby & Louise Vizien

Collection: Kenrick Shillingford & Sylvester Augustine

Hospitality: Denis Thornhill

Saturday July 11

Lector: Annette Boyle

Eucharistic Minister: Levy Rodrigues & Marlene Bicheri

Collection: Jackie Tailford & Pat Rodrigues

Hospitality: Jackie Tailford

Sunday July 12

Lector: Dapo Siyanbola

Eucharistic Ministers: Anabelle Saunders, Julita Looby & Louise Vizien

Collection: Kenrick Shillingford & Sylvester Augustine

Hospitality: Denis Thornhill

Bishop's Corner

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"We need you. We need your imagination, your narrative creativity, and your lively thinking. We need these to create spaces of freedom and authenticity, within which divine grace can make the promise of consolation and peace resound." This is the encouragement Pope Leo XIV expressed on Wednesday to writers from many parts of the world, who have gathered in Rome to mark the centennial of the founding of the Vatican Publishing House. He noted that Writing is a form of human expression in which a variety of styles and languages serve as teachers and as role models.

Firstly, the Pope said that writing is an act of truth, of revelation, for it reveals who we are, what we believe and hope for, the world we strive toward, and the future of which we dream. The Pontiff said that he hopes writers will inspire others to be drawn to the truth, because they themselves are drawn to it.

Secondly, he stated that writing is an act of humanity, observing that literature encompasses the full spectrum of human experience, gaining a breadth of perspective that broadens our humanity. The Pope said, "The great training ground of humanity that you allow your readers to experience, because, in a sense, readers 'live' many lives in addition to their own. It also helps us to discover different perspectives, to avoid treating our own views as absolute, and to piece together, as in a mosaic, the outline of that truth, which always transcends us."

Finally, Pope Leo stressed, writing concerns God. He quoted Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe who wrote, "For Christians, nothing human is alien to Christ. Every attempt to grapple with the fundamental questions of our lives; how to love, how to be just, how to be free, how to face suffering and death, helps us to understand Christ, the one who is most human of all."

"God," the Pontiff reminded the writers, "works in our lives through what we do and who we are and through the many people we meet." He concluded by thanking writers for their efforts to sow seeds of reconciliation, encounter, and friendship.

Perhaps the summertime and holidays may inspire us to read good books we had no time to read during the busy year.

Enjoy your weekend and have a good week!
Bishop Wes

SUMMER SCHEDULE

There will be no 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at St. Theresa's. The last 12:10 pm Mass was celebrated on Friday, June 26th. There will be no 9:00 am Portuguese Mass on Saturdays at St. Theresa's. The last Saturday morning Mass was celebrated on Saturday, July 4th. Finally, there will be no evening Portuguese Mass on Wednesdays at St. Patrick's. The last Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, July 1st, at 7:00 pm. Masses will resume in September.

Apartment Wanted

There is a parishioner in need of a studio apartment. This single man is hoping to rent for a maximum of \$1400 a month a studio or one bedroom, with washer and dryer, plus electricity included. The rent is paid directly into the landowner's account by financial assistance. He does not have any pets, is quiet and not a smoker or drinker. Would prefer any area, hopefully not on a hill and that this place is safe. Hoping to move at the end of August. If you have such a place, please phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236.



Summer Lunch & Movie Program

On Thursday July 9th at 12:00 pm in St. Theresa's Hall, there will be the Summer Lunch & Movie Programme. As has been announced in previous bulletins, there will be soup with bread/sandwiches at 12:00 pm and then a movie, with ice-cream during the intermission. The movie will be the 2008 film "Fireproof" directed by Alex Kendrick.

Kirk Cameron stars as Caleb Holt, a heroic fire captain who values dedication and service to others above all else. However, the most important partnership in his life, his marriage, is about to go down in smoke. This gripping story follows one man's desire to transform his life and marriage through the healing power of faith and fully embrace the fireman's code.

The film's length will be 118 minutes and it is suitable for all audiences.

Dear Padre,

Is it appropriate to display the American flag in our church?

A diocesan bishop—who often delegates this matter to the discretion of the pastor—determines regulations on whether and how to display the American flag in a Catholic church. Displaying the flag, and a book of remembrance for those serving in the armed forces, seems to have originated in many US parishes during World War II. The practice has continued through subsequent wars and national tragedies.

While the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy advised that national symbols should not be *permanent* fixtures of a worship space, they may be appropriate at worship services on a civil holiday, etc. This same committee discouraged pastors from displaying the American flag within the sanctuary itself—a space reserved for the altar, ambo, presidential chair, and tabernacle—but instead to place the flag in the vestibule of the church together with a book of petitions for the living and deceased.

Fundamentally, a church building is where the liturgical assembly gathers as one body in Christ—the same Christ of the Eucharist who is beyond time and place, who came to unite our divisions. “The church building is a sign and reminder of the immanence and transcendence of God—who chose to dwell among us and whose presence cannot be contained or limited to any single place” (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Built of Living Stones*, 2000). ●



JOAQUIN OSSORIO CASTILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom, and mediocrity?... We need to lift our eyes...to the “things that are above” (Colossians 3:2).

HOMILY, TOR VERGATA, AUGUST 3, 2025

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

July 6
Weekday
Hos 2:16, 17c–18, 21–22
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday

July 7
Weekday
Hos 8:4–7, 11–13
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday

July 8
Weekday
Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday

July 9
Weekday
Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9
Mt 10:7–15

Friday

July 10
Weekday
Hos 14:2–10
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday

July 11
St. Benedict, Abbot
Is 6:1–8
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday

July 12
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:10–11
Rom 8:18–23
Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9