Anthony of Padua
13 June

Born: 1195 AD

Died: 1231 AD

Feast Day:
13 June

DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Anthony was born in 1195 in Lisbon, Portugal and given the name of Fernando at Baptism. At 15 he joined the religious order of Saint Augustine.

He became a public preacher. He spoke in a simple way. He impressed everyone with his great knowledge and his holiness.

He realised soon that words were not enough. People wanted their priest to live as Jesus.

Anthony called on people to love and forgive and to be concerned with the needs of others and to totally trust and depend on God.

In Padua, he preached his last and most famous Lenten sermons. The crowds were so great—sometimes 30,000—that the churches could not hold them,

After his morning Mass and sermon, he would hear confessions. This sometimes lasted all day—
as did his fasting.

He died in 1231 on a journey back to Padua. He was only 36 and had been a Franciscan for 10 years.

The following year, his friend, Pope Gregory IX, moved by the many miracles that occurred at Anthony's tomb, declared him a saint.

Anthony was a simple and humble friar who preached the Good News lovingly and with fearless courage.
The youth whom his fellow friars, thought was uneducated became one of the great preachers and theologians of his day.

He was a man of great penance. But he was primarily a saint of the people.

Anthony is patron of lost or stolen things. He has been pictured by artists and sculptors in all kinds of ways. 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 arm or even with the child standing on a book the saint holds.

In Portugal, Italy, France and Spain, St. Anthony is the patron saint of sailors and fishermen.