

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, OXFORD PARISH GUIDE (2017)



SAINT ANTHONY
Pray for Us

115 Headley Way, Oxford, OX3 7SS.

Tel: 01865 762964

E-m: stanthonyofpaduaoxford@yahoo.co.uk

Web: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/>

Parish Hall Bookings:

saphallbookings@live.co.uk

'The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the church; everyone can be part of the community...' Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 47)

Welcome to our Parish

St Anthony's is a diverse and welcoming Catholic parish, international in make-up and outlook. We are situated in the Headington area of Oxford about 1.5 miles East of the City Centre (close by the main entrance to the John Radcliffe Hospital), in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We are committed to growing together as a dynamic Catholic community, which caters for the spiritual and pastoral needs of all its members. If you are new to the area do come and visit us.

The purpose of this guide is to let you know something of the different activities that take place in our parish, how you can get involved in the life of the parish and how you can participate in activities to help you deepen your faith and knowledge of God.

As you will see, there is lots going on and we always welcome volunteers to help us build up and serve the community.

CONTACT

Our Priests

Tel: 01865 762964

Parish Priest: **Fr. Augustus Umanah, MSP**
Email: fraugustusmsp@yahoo.com

Assistant Priest and Chaplain to the Headington Hospitals:
Fr. Pius Duniya, MSP
Email: pius.duniyamp@gmail.com

Parish Office – see over

Parish Office hours and & further contact Information

The Parish Office is located behind the Church on the left and is normally open Monday – Friday. Please check our website or weekly Parish newsletter for details. Messages can also be left by telephone (01865-762964), e-mail, stanthonyofpaduaoxford@yahoo.co.uk

or via the office letter box. We also have installed a '**Communications box**' inside the Church where you can also leave comments and suggestions. This is a white box located on the back wall, by the main entrance doors. It is checked every few days.

Please contact one of the Priests for:

- Matters of a confidential nature
- Enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals
- Arranging a home or hospital visit (see Hospital Chaplaincy below)
- Enquiries about the Catholic Faith

Hospital Chaplaincy - visits by Catholic Chaplains

Our Priests serve as chaplains to the Headington hospitals (John Radcliffe, Churchill and Nuffield Orthopaedic hospitals, as well as Sobell House Hospice, in Headington). The Chaplain can be a useful first point of contact and so, if you are coming into hospital or if you have a loved one who might benefit from a visit from the Catholic Chaplain, do make contact early.

For the John Radcliffe Hospital (including the Children's Hospital and the West Wing), the Churchill Hospital, Sobell House Hospice and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre call the **central Switchboard** (01865) 741166. Ask the operator to

'Please radio page the Roman Catholic Chaplain for me and ask him to call me on my phone number.'

There is a chaplain on call 24 hours to help and advice. If you are in hospital you can also ask to see the Catholic Chaplain (please see below).

Chaplaincy website for general, non-urgent, information: <http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/chaplaincy.aspx>

Important note on practical arrangements for visits by Catholic Chaplains in Hospital

It is now difficult for members of the clergy to request information regarding your stay in hospital, including which Ward you are in. This is now regarded as confidential information and will not readily be supplied to any caller without the specific permission of the patient. Also, staff on wards will no longer be allowed to say who is on their Ward if people make a general enquiry.

If you are going in (or have been admitted to) hospital and would like a Catholic chaplain to visit you:

DO

- Please inform the priests which ward you expect to be on and when you will be there, if you know in advance that you are going into hospital.

- During the admissions process do specifically inform a member of the ward staff if you would like to be visited by a Catholic chaplain. It is important to specify that it is the Catholic Chaplain that you wish to see and that you are a Roman Catholic.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate your wish although, please understand that, the Chaplain may sometimes visit whilst, by chance, you are asleep or away from the ward having tests or receiving treatment.
- Inform your relatives about your wishes concerning visits from a Catholic chaplain if you are taken into hospital unexpectedly. Your relatives can then notify the priests or Chaplaincy Department should such an event take place.

DON'T

- Just presume that the chaplains will hear about your stay in hospital - they probably won't (so, please let the Catholic Chaplain know you are in hospital, even if you have already indicated on the admission form that you are a Catholic).
- Expect ward staff to automatically let the chaplains know you are in hospital.

Housebound and sick parishioners – prayers and visits

Parishioners can be put on the list for prayers, visits, or receipt of the sacraments at home by putting their details in the blue folder kept in the Sacristy, which is reviewed on a weekly basis. Alternatively, please contact our priests directly, or via the parish office. The Communications box at the back of the Church can also be used for this purpose.

Parish Organisation and Lay Participation

Pastoral Council

The St Anthony of Padua Parish Pastoral Council (PC) is a consultative and advisory body, first formed in May 2013. It exists to support and advise the Parish Priest with regard to (a) strategic planning and (b) maintaining a broad over-sight of the activities of operational groups within the parish.

The Council have the task of investigating the pastoral reality, to reflect on it, and to recommend their conclusions to the Parish Priest. By developing the Pastoral Council, the Priest acknowledges the wisdom of his parishioners and shares with them the task of investigating, considering and reflecting on all matters relating to the life of the parish. In 2016, after consultation with parishioners, the Pastoral Council created a vision and mission statement for the parish to help aid development (see below).

The full terms of reference, membership and roles of different members are posted on the parish notice board at the back of the Church, along with minutes of meetings (these are also available on request from the secretary).

The Chairperson of the Pastoral Council is currently Tom Czepiel: (01865-760764) t.czepiel@talk21.com

The Secretary to the Pastoral Council is currently John Kirwan: (01865-436936): Johnkirwan1a@gmail.com. The Council normally meets 4-6 times a year and parishioners are welcome to suggest agenda items, in writing, via the Secretary.

Pastoral Council members

Fr Augustus

Fr Pius

Tom Czepiel (Chair)

John Barker

Jane Kennett

John Kirwan (Secretary)

May Macpherson

Fran Walsh

Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council assists the Parish Priest in the administration of parish temporal matters. An active, well-informed parish finance council is a key element for promoting the financial health of a Parish, assuring accountability and assisting the parish Priest with his temporal responsibilities. Membership of the Parish Finance Council is at the discretion of the parish Priest. The Council normally meets once every quarter. Parishioners are regularly updated on the state of parish finances.

Finance Council members

Fr Augustus

Fr Pius

John Griffiths

Penny Jenner

Catherine Mountford (Chair)

Andrew Pollard

Parish Forum – we hold an annual Parish Forum each Autumn, to reflect on the past year and to discuss matters of interest to parishioners. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Vision and Mission of our Parish

Our vision (our long term inspiration)

To become an increasingly welcoming and dynamic Catholic community, united through prayer and action in the service of God, which reaches out to those in need across our World.

Our Mission (our practical purpose)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself (Ref: Matthew Ch 22 v34-40)

We do this by...

- Welcoming others to our parish
- Supporting and encouraging each other and anyone interested in finding out about the Catholic Faith
- Growing in our faith through prayer, the Sacraments of the Church and further exploration
- Nurturing the faith of our young people and their development into mature Christian men and women
- Supporting those who are in need, whether hungry, homeless, bereaved, sick, housebound, or in hospital.
- Being outward looking: with a concern for justice and peace, fellowship with our local Christian churches and other faith communities.
- Exercising care for creation

The Vision and Mission were approved by Pastoral Council, following consultation with parishioners, on 3 May 2016.

Other Communities using St Anthony of Padua Church for Liturgy, etc.

While everyone is welcome to pray with us, we also have several other Catholic communities who make use of our church and facilities for liturgy and social events:

Syro–Malabar Community: we welcome the Syro-Malabar community for Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite is on every First Sunday of the Month at 3.30pm. The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is an East Syrian Rite, in India, which is in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Syrian–Orthodox Community: we welcome the Syrian-Orthodox community for Mass in the Syro-Malankara Rite on every Third Saturday of the Month from 8.30am to 1.00pm. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church is a West Syrian Rite Eastern Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See. It has a total membership of around 500,000 and is one of the Saint Thomas Christian churches centred in Kerala, India, which trace their origin to the evangelism of Saint Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century.

Polish Community – we welcome the Polish community, from the Oxford area and surrounds, who celebrate a 12.00 mass in Polish on Sundays, along with Children’s Liturgy, at St Anthony’s. They also use the Church for other services during the week.

Parish Activities, Groups and Information (an alphabetical listing)

Altar Servers

Young people who have made their first Holy Communion and adults are very welcome to train to become altar servers. If you wish to begin serving you should speak to the Priest after Mass. The Priest will introduce you to the Master of Ceremonies (lead altar server) who will be able to help or give you details of an altar server-training day.

Baptismal Preparation

Pope Francis has described baptism as “the door” to the Catholic Faith. For details of baptism preparation and arrangements please contact one of the priests. Baptisms are conducted either during the Sunday morning 10.00am Mass or on Saturdays at 12 noon (other than on the third Saturday of the month).

Bidding Prayers - Weekly Intercessions

The parish operates a rota to write the weekly intercessions (bidding prayers) for the Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses. If you would like to contribute to this please contact: Jane Kennett jane.kennett@goolemail.com

Bulletin – the Parish Weekly Newsletter

If you have items for the parish weekly newsletter, please e-mail them, or drop them in, to the Parish Office by 7pm each Wednesday.

Contact e-mail: saopbulletin@outlook.com

CAFOD - Overseas Aid

The parish actively supports the work of CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. CAFOD works with partners across the world, wherever the need is greatest, to bring hope, compassion and solidarity to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. <http://www.cafod.org.uk/>

Children’s Liturgy & Family Mass

We run an active liturgy for children on Sunday mornings. All Children (and parents/carers) up to First Communion age are very welcome to join in the Children’s Liturgy at the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Helping our children to grow in faith is an important aspect of parish life and we support parents by running a Children’s Liturgy for those who have yet to receive their First Communion. The children leave the Church, shortly after the Collect (before the First Reading), for their own Liturgy of the Word in the church hall, during the 10.00 am Sunday Mass. If you would like to help provide the Children’s Liturgy, you would be most welcome.

Contact: Sally Ching de Mello sallykung@gmail.com Tel: 07746 3234341

We normally hold a Family Mass on one Sunday a month, in term time.

Christmas – Journey of the Magi

As part of keeping Christmas as a season of prayer, as well as the more formal liturgical celebrations, we have developed our own tradition of the ‘Journey of the Magi’. On each of the nights between Christmas and the feast of the Epiphany the carved figures of the three kings are ‘hosted’ at a different home in the parish. Some simple prayers and reflections are shared informally, followed by some basic refreshment. Prior to Christmas we ask people to sign up to host an evening.

Church Cleaning Rota

Keeping our church clean is an act of service and community participation. We encourage all parishioners to help support this task. A rota is in place, and we also ask for extra volunteers prior

to important feasts.

Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Church Wardens – welcoming others

We try to extend a warm welcome to everyone coming to our parish. If you are new to the parish we are very happy to chat with you about what's going on, as well as introducing you to other parishioners. We normally have tea and coffee in the parish hall after the Saturday evening (6.30pm) and Sunday morning (10.00am) masses. Our church wardens help to welcome people to Mass and take up collections at weekends and at major celebrations. They are supported on Sunday mornings by younger members of the parish community.

Contact: Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Coffee/Tea Rota for Sunday Mass

Help us to serve the parish community by joining the tea/coffee rota for Sunday Mass (the tea and coffee is provided). You can expect to be called upon probably once every 2-3 months.

Contact: Margaret Roberts 01865-766688 margaretaroberts@aol.com
Shauna Masters 01865-736891 s.masters30@btinternet.com

Communion – First Communion Preparation

We run a programme of preparation for children each year. Registration normally takes place in September, and First Holy Communion is celebrated around the Feast of St Anthony each June.

Contact: Catriona Fleming 01865-741498 eloisefleming@btinternet.com

Note: If you are an adult seeking to make your First Holy Communion, please contact one of the Priests.

Communication

Please let us know your views and suggestions. You can do this by talking to the priests, or members of the Pastoral Council, contacting the parish office, or dropping a note in the white Communications Box at the back of the church (inside, by the entrance door).

On one Sunday of the month we give out name labels to everyone attending the main morning mass to encourage people to get to know others.

Confirmation – Preparation

We run a programme of preparation for Confirmation each year for young people. Registration normally takes place in September each year. Young people and adults wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact one of the Priests for further information, or Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Catholic Faith – Enquiring about (Journey in Faith/RCIA Programme)

We welcome enquiries and expressions of interest in finding out more about the Catholic Faith, from people of any, or no, current faith perspective, as well as from Catholics who have been away from regular practice for a while. Journey in Faith/RCIA is a programme of informal and supportive discussions for adults who are searching and inquiring about the Catholic way of life, which may lead (in due course) to reception into the Catholic Church. The talks may also be of interest for existing parishioners who wish to deepen their understanding of the Faith. We organise RCIA programmes from time to time, where there is demand. If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith please contact one of our Priests.

For more about Catholicism and RCIA <http://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-rcia-stages>

Catholic Faith - Proclaim '15 initiative – ‘Building Missionary Parishes’

Launched in 2015 Proclaim'15 is a nationwide evangelisation initiative aiming to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation. Evangelisation, put quite simply is bringing the ‘Good News’ of the Gospel to others. <https://sycamore.fm/evangelisation/what-is-evangelisation/>

A project of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Proclaim'15 is designed to affirm the good work already being done by the Catholic community, and to provide resources and events to profile and develop new expressions of Catholic joy and missionary outreach. See Proclaim '15 <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15>

In 2016 the parish ran several ‘café’ style faith development programmes arising from initial Proclaim 15 discussion groups. These included:

Sycamore Programme- <https://sycamore.fm/films/> offering a gentle introduction to questions about the Catholic Faith, via video clips and small group discussions.

‘The Gift’ - <http://www.thegiftofthespirit.org/> a course exploring the gifts of the Holy Spirit, through film and discussion in a Catholic context

Ecumenical Outreach - Churches Together in Marston & Northway (CTMN)

The parish has good links with other Christian churches in the local area and we join together from time to time, for shared worship and activities. For example, at lunchtime on Good Friday for an act of collective witness at the Marston shops, and after Christmas we gather in one of our Churches for a carol service. St Anthony's has also hosted youth led Stations of the Cross in Lent. Ecumenical Quiet Days are held on the Third Thursday of the month from October to June at a member church. St Anthony's is currently represented on the Executive Group of Churches together in Marston and Northway by Kathryn Hopkins and Madeline Carvell. The Executive Group meets approximately four times a year and an AGM, open to all, is held in June. Notice will be given of events via the parish bulletin and Notice Board.

Churches Together website: <http://www.stnicholasmarston.org.uk/churches-together-in-marston-northway/>

Our parish contact: Kathryn Hopkins 01865-247864 khopkins256@btinternet.com

Eucharistic Ministers Rota

We have a rota for lay Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic to support the Priests at Mass in distributing Holy Communion and in bringing Communion to those who are sick, or in hospital. If you have been confirmed and are interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister please speak to one of the Priests.

Flower Rota

If you are interested in joining the Church flower rota, or perhaps in contributing to providing the flowers which help to make our church beautiful, please contact Kit Adlington.

Contact: Kit Adlington 01865-769121

Hall - booking our Parish Hall

We are always keen to maximise use of our modern hall for parish activities and other functions. Parish liturgical celebrations and functions take priority and there are certain times when the hall is

unavailable due to celebrations in Church. To book the hall, and for all enquiries, contact Penny Jenner.

Contact: Penny Jenner saphallbookings@live.co.uk

Health & Safety

The Parish Priest retains overall responsibility for health and safety matters, in accordance with Diocesan policy. A health and safety representative is also normally appointed from among the parishioners to assist the Parish Priest. The position is currently vacant, so do contact one of the priests if you have relevant skills or experience and might be able to serve in this capacity.

Concerns about health and safety should be reported to one of the priests

Liturgy Group

Our priests convene a Liturgy Group several times a year to plan the practicalities of forthcoming liturgies and to reflect on past liturgical events. For example, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Lunch Club (for older parishioners)

The lunch club provides an opportunity for older parishioners (those over 50, or retired) to meet together to share lunch in the Parish Hall, normally, once a month. Details are published in the weekly parish newsletter.

Maintenance matters

Matters relating to parish maintenance may be notified via a note/e-mail to the parish office, or the communications box at the back of the Church.

Men's Group

We are an informal and welcoming group which principally promotes prayer, fellowship, friendship and faith among men who regularly attend Mass at St Anthony's (whether Catholic or not) and their invited guests. The group normally meets on a monthly basis at someone's home, or at a suitable alternative venue. Activities include:

- A friendship and support network
- Discussion group for parish initiatives
- Prayer (often informal)
- Social gatherings e.g. pub, restaurant, walks and trips away
- Attending local lectures on religious issues
- Practical help with parish events and longer term projects

To join the e-mail list, contact: dominic.vella@maths.ox.ac.uk

Music

Our choir sings on major feast days and on the first Sunday of each month. It also leads the congregational singing for many of the other Sunday Masses. The music group provides music for the Sunday Mass about once every three weeks. The Choir is more traditional, while the music group uses modern liturgical music based on guitar, flutes, strings and part singing. Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome. For more information please contact:

Choir: Tom Czepiel 01865-760764 t.czepiel@talk21.com

Music Group: Manus Henry 01865-750397 manus.henry@eng.ox.ac.uk

Prayer requests

Requests for prayers for parishioners and their families may be given to the priests, sent via e-mail or note to the parish office, or put in the communications box at the back of the church. Names will

be added to the parish weekly newsletter and appear for a period of four weeks in the first instance, after which a new request will need to be made.

Prayer & Catholic Faith development – some practical resources

Sacred Space – short daily reflections - <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Pray as you go - <http://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

Pope Francis daily meditations-
<http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/cotidie/2016.index.html>

Birmingham Archdiocese website - <http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

Maryvale Institute – is the Diocesan centre for Catechetics (teaching) and Adult Education – helping lay people to a deeper knowledge of their faith <http://www.maryvale.ac.uk/>

Catholic Church in England & Wales - <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/>

CAFÉ - Catholic Faith Education – resources for faith development <http://faithcafe.org/>

Radiant Light - inspiring Christian art and images <http://www.radiantlight.org.uk/>
http://www.radiantlight.org.uk/art_gallery/most_popular_images/

Reading at Mass

A regular rota is maintained of those who have volunteered to read at Mass. Parishioners who have been confirmed are welcome to ask to join the rota. You are likely to read approximately once a month. The rota covers the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses; extra readers are needed during Christmas and Holy Week, when we draw up separate rotas of volunteers to cover the main services.

Contact: John Kirwan 01865-436936 johnkirwan1a@gmail.com

Sacristan

Our sacristan helps to maintain the Priests' robes, altar linen and supplies, etc.

Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Safeguarding

The parish takes its responsibility to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults seriously and operates in accordance with guidance from the Archdiocese of Birmingham's Safeguarding Team.

Contact: May Macpherson 01865-761256 maymacpherson@hotmail.com

Social Committee

Our Social Committee helps to organise social events in the parish. In 2016 this included a Christmas Bazaar, a parish barbecue, an international evening and planning for a New Year's Eve party. The aim is to work as a team and share responsibilities around so that no-one gets overloaded (we also draw on the Men's and Women's groups and other parishioners for support). You are welcome to join us. For more information:

Contact: Maria Blanquet Bras: mariablanquet@gmail.com

Schools – Catholic schools in the Oxford City area

St Joseph's Catholic Primary school, Headington, Primary school for 4-11 year olds, located on Headley Way almost opposite the church. OX3 7SX

School office: 01865-763357

Web site: www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Email: office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk for general enquiries

admin.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk for admissions and recruitment enquiries

St Gregory the Great, Cowley, Primary/Secondary school 4-19yrs.
Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DR

School office: 01865-749933

Web site: www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk

E-mail: stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

St Gregory the Great is an Academy within the Dominic Barberi Multi Academy - a developing system of 7 Catholic schools in Oxfordshire, formed in 2013.

Web site: www.dbmac.org.uk

Rye St Antony, Headington, Independent day and boarding school
(boys and girls to 11yrs, girls only beyond 11yrs).
Rye St Antony, Pullen's Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BY

School office: 01865-762802

Web site: www.ryestantony.co.uk

E-mail: enquiries@ryestantony.co.uk.

Shop/Repository

The repository is our small shop at the back of the church, where you can buy cards, books and religious artefacts. It is normally open before and after weekend Masses.

Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Sick and housebound parishioners

Please notify the priests of sick, seriously ill or housebound parishioners. We regularly pray for the sick of our Parish and our Priests are happy to visit sick parishioners unable to attend Mass, or to confer the Sacraments, on request. If you want to be prayed for, or to have a home visit, it is important to let the priests know. **See Hospital, Housebound and sick parishioners (above).**

Stepping Stone Project - support to people with housing problems

Each Advent our children and young people bring toiletries and chocolates to the church on the Sundays leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Day these are delivered to the Stepping Stone project. The chocolates are shared with all those gathered for their Christmas Day Lunch at the project and the toiletries are used to support the shower and bath facilities at the project. The idea is that our children are encouraged to share things with others who have less than we do.

Website

Our parish website is maintained by Hilary Lappage 01865- 766393 larybean@tiscali.co.uk

Women's Group

The St Anthony of Padua Women's Group welcomes all women of the parish. We meet on Monday evenings in school term time; the time and venue is published in the weekly bulletin. We meet in each other's homes to pray together and to discuss and reflect on faith related topics. During Lent and Advent we will often reflect on a theme over a few weeks.

Contact: Catherine Mountford staofpwomensgroup@gmail.com

Young People

We actively encourage our younger people to be involved in every aspect of parish life as we believe that every young person has something important and unique to offer. We take seriously the gifts and talents of all our young people and what they can offer the community. We welcome all those between 11 and 18 years old to come and join us in youth events, and in serving the community, throughout the year. For more information please talk to the Priest after Mass, or contact Fran Walsh. **Birmingham Catholic Youth Service website:**

<http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/education-and-formation/youth-services/bcys/>

Contact: Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Version 4 12 December 2016 JK