

St Anthony of Padua – Roman Catholic Church,
115 Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
OX3 7SS

Our Vision (our long term inspiration)

To become an increasingly welcoming and dynamic Catholic community which, with the Eucharist at the centre of parish life, is united through prayer and action in the service of God, reaching out to those in need across our World.

Our Mission (our practical purpose)

Is rooted in the command of Jesus Christ to...

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind;
and love your neighbour as yourself*

(Ref: Gospel of Matthew: Chapter 22 v34-40)

We do this by...

- Welcoming others to our parish, irrespective of their background.
- Enabling our parish priest to fulfil his office, which includes: celebrating the Sacraments, ensuring that the Word of God is proclaimed in its entirety, visiting the sick, housebound and families to ensure that he not only shares their joys but also their cares, anxieties and sorrows. ⁱ
- Supporting and encouraging each other and anyone interested in finding out about the Word of God, making every effort to share the Gospel message (the 'Good News') and to reconcile those who have fallen away from the practice of the Catholic faith.
- Growing in our faith through prayer and receipt of the Sacraments of the Church
- Nurturing the faith of our young people and their development into mature Christian men and women.
- Supporting those who are sick, either in their homes, in hospital, or in nursing homes; ensuring that they are nourished with the Sacraments
- Seeking out and supporting those in need, whether poor, hungry, homeless, lonely or bereaved, exiled from their homeland, or burdened with special difficulties.

- Being outward looking with a concern for justice and peace, both within and beyond our parish
- Being ecumenical, fostering fellowship and cooperation with our local Christian churches and other faith communities, recognising that it is through praying together that the gift of Christian Unity will be achieved.
- Exercising care for creation, through how we use the resources of our earthly environment.

Whilst some aspects of our mission can only be fulfilled by an ordained Catholic priest, enabling our vision and mission is the shared responsibility of the whole parish, with the parish priest recognising and promoting the specific role which the lay members of Christ's faithful (the 'People of God') haveⁱⁱ.

**Updated October 2018, following appointment of Fr Pius as Parish Priest
Initially approved by Pastoral Council on 3 May 2016, following consultation with parishioners.**

ⁱ The full role of the Parish Priest is defined in Catholic Canon Law, see particularly paragraphs Can. 527 – Can. 530 of The Code of Canon Law English Translation (1983): http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_P1U.HTM

ⁱⁱ The 'People of God' - the role of the faithful is given in Can. 204 (onwards): 'The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through baptism, have been constituted as the People of God. For this reason, made sharers in their own way in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal function, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each'.