

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

(01865) 762964 stanthonyp.oxford@rcaob.org.uk www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk



22nd March 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Dear Parishioners

We would like to update you about our response to the Coronavirus situation. Church is community, and despite the need for social distancing we will be working hard to stay together as a community. Please read the information provided below and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. We will attend to all answerphone messages within 24 hours.

From the Pastoral Council

Coronavirus update

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales announced that the public celebration of Mass will be suspended in order to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays is also suspended. Accordingly:

- There will be no public Masses held at St. Anthony's until further notice.
- The church will be open for private prayer from 8am to 6pm

In case of urgent need due to illness, please get in touch with the Parish Office: phone 01865 762 964 stanthonyp.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

If you or someone you know in the parish is self-isolating and is in need of support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with the Parish Office

Corpus Christi Parish in Headington will be live streaming weekday and Sunday Mass. See <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk>.

We will be keeping the parish website up to date with the latest information, so please visit www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk for more details

Masses and Intentions

Mass will still be celebrated each day privately at 6pm by the parish clergy for the advertised intentions

Saturday 21 st March	Lent Feria	Daniella Dunleavy RIP
Sunday 22 nd March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	For the wellbeing of our Parish
Monday 23 rd March	Lent Feria	Mary undoer of knots – thanksgiving
Tuesday 24 th March	Lent Feria	Domingas Family
Wednesday 25 th March	Annunciation of the Lord	Andrew Szewczyk RIP
Thursday 26 th March	Lent Feria	Thanksgiving for St Anthony of Padua
Friday 27 th March	Lent Feria	University Exam
Saturday 28 th March	Lent Feria	For all health workers

Spiritual Resources

While it is not possible to get to Mass, there are a number of resources available on the parish website:

- **Universalis** is an app for iOS, Android, Windows and Mac, which provides the readings for Mass each day, as well as the Divine Office.
- **Pray As You Go** is a daily podcast created by the Jesuits with a Scripture reading and reflection.
- **The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales** has produced a short order of service for use in families at this time when Mass is not accessible. This is available to download from the parish website.
- **Stations of the Cross**, with meditations written by Fr Martin Flatman, who served as priest in our parish.

Sunday Reflection from Father Pius Duke

Many things that happen in our lives happen for a purpose. Nothing happens in vain. The universe belongs to God and God wields his power over it. This is a fact that we find very difficult to accept as humans. We often want to find out the cause of every ill that happens in our lives and society, and we often attribute it to something in order to quench our thirst for answers. In the Gospel story, the disciples of Jesus inquired from him to know if the blindness of the man born blind was as a result of the sin of the man, or that of his parents. Their question invites us to consider these two questions:

1. How possibly can this man sin before birth?
2. Has the prophet Ezekiel (18:2-4) not clarified it before now that 'no longer shall the parents eat a fruit and it sets the teeth of the children on edge?'

Jesus quickly answered the question. It was neither the sin of the man nor that of the parents that made him blind, but so that the power of God will be manifested. Thus, the blind man receives sight; but more than that he receives the light of faith. The Pharisees are jealous and in trouble as they go about investigating the miracle and interrogating all concerned. They are at pains to disprove the miracle because it challenges them to accept Jesus as their Messiah. Their religion sadly blinded them to see and acknowledge Christ as their saviour.

Sometimes our sins make us spiritually blind like the Pharisees. Jesus came so that the physically blind may see, while those who see but are obstinate in their crooked ways may spiritually go blind. It is our choice to accept Jesus and he will restore our sight and make his power manifest in our lives.

We pray: Lord, open our eyes to recognise you in the small and big events of our lives, and may your healing and protection accompany your people at this challenging period. Amen! **Fr Pius Duke**

Parish Clergy: Fr. Pius Duke, MSP; Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo, MSP.
The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216