

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2nd August 2020

Parish Clergy: Fr. Pius Duke, MSP; Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo, MSP

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Sunday Reflection from Father Pius. A comical presentation showing a child sitting down with his chin capped in his palms grew popular in the late 2000s. The child in the picture was worried and asking probing questions. One of the questions he asked was “who shall look after this world when I am gone? And a voice retorted “who had been looking after the world before you were born?” God the Father has more than enough capacity to look after the world he created, to care for humanity. Jesus gave the people the word of God and he healed them physically as well as spiritually. His



compassion showed the depth of God’s love and concern for all who are truly needy, and we know that God’s love is made visible through Jesus as St Paul tells us the Second reading. According to St Paul, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. His message underscores the undeniable fact about God’s care for his people. God is ever ready to give to those who earnestly seek him out. In our world, with all the technological advancement, philosophical heights attained and the economic prowess in place, man has not been able to squarely tackle the problem of insecurity, whether food, health, wealth distribution etc., and this makes him loose hope. At a time like this when the world is experiencing a global pandemic, we are invited to make the message of St Paul from Romans a sure foundation of our hope that God knows our predicament and he is seriously determined to come to our assistance if we turn to him. The feeding of five thousand in the Gospel shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. Hence, God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God’s generosity? Do you share freely with others, especially those who struggle?

Church opening this weekend. This weekend there will be public masses at St Anthony’s as listed in the bulletin (and also private prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.45pm - 6.15pm on Saturday). Please read carefully the guidelines given below if you are planning to come to Mass, and in particular remember that a mask or face covering is necessary. We will try to accommodate all who wish to attend, but please be aware that the numbers are limited by government guidelines on social distancing. Please respect the decision of the stewards if you are informed that the church is full. We shall ask Mass attenders for their names and contact details for potential “track-and-trace” purposes. This will be done in a confidential manner, and records will be destroyed after 21 days. This is voluntary: nobody will be refused admittance to Mass if they do not wish to give their details.

CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal. CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee (DEC) to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD’s Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: cafod.org.uk/summerofhope. In this online talk youtu.be/HDgl25yoFls, Geoff O’Donoghue, Director of Operations at CAFOD, shares the stories of people whose lives have been transformed by the care of CAFOD.

Keeping in touch. We send a weekly **Bulletin** by email: please let us know if you would like to join our email list, and forward the bulletin to anybody who may be interested. We have a **WhatsApp** group. Let Shalini Lalvani know (via the parish email address) if you would like to join. Please follow our **Facebook** page [facebook.com/saop.oxford](https://www.facebook.com/saop.oxford).

Mass Times. Public masses are said only at the times **given in bold below** and are *not* live-streamed. All other masses are *live-streamed* only (see our parish web site www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/) at the given time and are *not* open to the public. **Mass intentions** are also listed below. *New mass intentions* or the *names of those for whom you would like us to pray* should be sent to the Parish Office address by email or phone (01865 762964 or 07484 271876) by 10am Thursday morning at the latest for inclusion in the upcoming week/weekend's masses and bulletin.

Please pray for Ann Ashfield, Fr John Baggley, Jean Collard, Pat Hodgson, Frank and Helen Kennedy and Margaret Wipp. Pray also for Kathleen McDonagh, RIP, Melody Wilson, RIP and William Hudson, RIP.

Date	Time	Day	Intention
Saturday 1 st August	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Memorial of St Alphonsus Mary de' Ligouri	For all those who work and live from the sea
Sunday 2 nd August	10:00 am	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the people of the parish
Monday 3 rd August	10:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For those suffering from COVID-19
Tuesday 4 th August	10:00 am	Memorial of St John Vianney	For all health and care workers
Wednesday 5 th August	10:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For persecuted Christians in the world
Thursday 6 th August	10:00 am	Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	For the deceased members of the Alder and Gonzalez family
Friday 7 th August	10:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For the sick and the housebound
Saturday 8 th August	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Memorial of St Dominic	For all suffering economic hardships

Calling all young people! We invite all young people of secondary school age to join Fran, Bro Paul, his youth team and young people from Greyfriars for a virtual youth group on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm. To find out more, email Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk.

The Foodbank needs your help. As a result of the economic pressures caused by lockdown, our local food bank has seen a doubling in requests for food parcels, and is currently providing 500 parcels a month to families in need. Please consider contributing non-perishable food goods (they are especially in need of tinned meat products, coffee and tinned vegetables and fruit). If you feel you can help please take any donations to the back of St Francis' Church, 226 Hollow Way, OX3 7JF (on Mondays or Thursdays between 11am and 1pm). If you would like someone to pick up your donation from your home, please email jane.kennett@googlemail.com. Thank you.

On-line prayer and faith resources. A range of resources is given on our parish website stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/resources/. Our sister churches Corpus Christi and Greyfriars, also have very informative newsletters and web-sites with various resources, and details of live-streamed Masses for those as-yet unable to attend in person: corpuschristiheadington.co.uk and greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com.

Parish meetings on Zoom. To access a meeting visit zoom.us/join and type in the ID number given below

Meeting or activity	When	Zoom ID (password if needed)
Women's group	Meetings will resume in September	
Men's group	Contact Dominic Vella (dominic.vella@cantab.net) for details	
"Tea, coffee, juice & biscuits"	Sunday after the 11am mass at Corpus Christi	929-5988-4912

Rotas for this weekend and the next

Rota	This weekend (1 st & 2 nd August)	Next weekend (8 th & 9 th August)
Vigil reader	Bill Mansell	Agnes Valencak
Sunday Reader	Caroline Griffiths	John Barker
Intercessions	Eamonn McNamara	Dominic Vella
Vigil Stewards	Jane and Griffin family	Jane and Griffin family
Sunday Stewards	Ed and Josh	Francis and Eugene
Cleaning	Jane and Griffin family	Jane and Griffin family

Bidding prayers

Note: although the archdiocese has informed us that, for the time being, the bidding prayers should not be read at Mass, we will continue to publish them in the bulletin

Leader: Lord our God, your Son Jesus gave hungry people more food than they could have imagined through the simplicity of a few fish and some bread. We are hungry for your presence in our lives. Knowing your unlimited love for each one of us, we bring before you ourselves, our hearts and all those for whom we care.

Reader:

Pope Francis prayed that, "The presence of the Risen Lord in His Word and through the celebration of the Eucharist will give us the strength we need to resolve the difficulties and challenges that we will face after the coronavirus crisis." We pray that he and all Church leaders will continue to inspire hope and courage. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, that we might find God in the busy-ness and in the quiet moments of our daily lives and responsibilities. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that families, during what should be their summer holidays, might stay safe and will grow in togetherness and peace. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that all those who are facing business and job insecurity at this time will find hope and security as they look towards the future. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that governments across the world will make wise and just decisions as we face a possible second wave of the coronavirus. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all people, wherever they might be, who cope with daily food shortages, that they will find enough food to live healthy and happy lives. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick and the suffering in mind and body. May you heal and comfort the sick, bless all who care for our loved ones. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We remember our relatives, friends and those in our community who have died; we pray that they would have eternal rest in your heavenly kingdom, and that those who mourn their passing would be comforted by your healing presence. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Mary our Mother to join her prayers with ours as we say, Hail Mary

We pray now for our own personal intentions.

Leader: Loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us. Stay with us. Feed our hungry souls with your love.

GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS ATTENDING PUBLIC MASS AT ST ANTHONY'S

Our overall priority is to keep everyone safe. Those who have been shielding and those with underlying health conditions are still encouraged to stay at home. The Sunday obligation REMAINS SUSPENDED. We will accommodate as many parishioners as we can for each Mass but numbers are limited by government guidelines on social distancing. Please DO NOT visit the church if you have a fever, new cough or have noticed recent changes in your ability to taste or smell.

PLEASE wear a face covering (unless you are in an exempt group).

Please arrive in plenty of time for Mass, bearing in mind the seating process will take longer than normal and there may be a queue. If it is raining please wear suitable rainwear or bring an umbrella, as only limited numbers will be able to queue undercover.

Family members will sit together but otherwise there will be at least a metre between members of the congregation. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Please use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church.

Please do not touch the door handles.

Please do not touch/kiss any statues or go onto the sanctuary.

Unfortunately congregational singing is not allowed but on Sundays we will have a cantor with keyboard accompaniment.

Please follow the instructions from the stewards and respect the one-way system inside the church, leaving by the side door on the left.

Please note there will be NO TOILET facilities available.

Please limit your personal belongings as much as possible and be sure to take them with you when you leave the church. Any items left in the church will be disposed of.

Holy Communion will be given row by row starting at the front, Please follow the instructions from the stewards and maintain at least 1 m distance from the person in front. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Communion will be given into the hand only, and in silence.

If you are a wheelchair user and are attending Mass with a family member who can negotiate the step at the church entrance then please do so. If you are alone or your chair cannot negotiate the step, the steward will direct you to the side entrance with a ramp.

If you become ill with symptoms of Covid-19 within 48hrs of visiting the church please inform Fr Pius or the parish administrator (stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org). Note: Stewards will ask Mass attenders for their names and contact details for potential "track-and-trace" purposes. This will be done in a confidential manner, and records will be destroyed after 21 days. This is voluntary, and nobody will be refused admittance to Mass if they do not wish to give their details.

SUNDAY PLUS

Feed the hungry

A Year of the Word



Respond with compassion

by Claire Wright

When you have young children, you can truly empathise with Jesus in today's Gospel. Just as you pour a cup of tea, or sit down to read, or shut your eyes for a minute, the inner radar in your children switches on and before you know it, your sleeves are tugged, body prodded and shouts of "muuuuuuummy" follow you down the stairs.

I always admire Jesus' patience in this passage. When my children have had yet another two seconds to themselves before coming to find me, I find my temper wearing thin and the desperate desire to

go to a "deserted place" grows strong. But when the crowds followed Jesus to his, he responded with compassion. He tended to their scrapes, listened to the whining and when their hunger grew, he fed them.

As parents (or siblings, children, friends) we can lose ourselves in the craziness of family life and forget that what we are doing, what we are called to do, is sacred. We daily have the opportunity to live as Jesus lived by caring for our "crowds", those he has entrusted to us to "feed", physically, and spiritually.

Claire Wright is a Brighton-based freelance writer who runs a faith blog and a healthy family food website, all while taking care of two lively toddlers.

Don't wait to be asked

by Moire O'Sullivan

We all have something we'd like to change. Perhaps we want to be thinner, fitter, wiser. Maybe we dream of having a different career, home or lifestyle.

Change is hard. It can be overwhelming, confusing, tiring. We can convince ourselves it can't be done.

But what if we just take the first step, even a little one? What if we eat that salad, go for a walk, email in that CV, pick up a book?

The disciples only produced a meagre five loaves and two fishes, a token gesture, but it was enough for Jesus to take it from there to feed a whole five thousand.

Maybe God will reward us for

our initiative, help us to take our dreams one step further. Maybe God will grant us more confidence, more drive, more support from those around us so that we can really make that change we want in our lives.

Moire O'Sullivan is a mountain runner, adventure racer, an author, mum and a regular contributor to *Look*, the younger children's Sunday sheet of Gospel-focused activities and games, available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

Loving Lord, help me to recognise ways in which I can share what I have with people who, in some way, have less than I do. Most of all, Lord, let me give of myself and my time. ☪ Amen.

"I am thinking about the many hungry people and how much leftover food we throw away... Let each of us think about this: where does the food that is left over from lunch go, from dinner, where does it go? What is done with the leftover food in my house? Is it thrown away?... Never throw away leftover food."

Pope Francis

A different kind of hunger

by Michael George

"There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves," Jesus instructed his disciples. To feed the hungry is a corporal work of mercy; Jesus' instruction was not just for his disciples standing amongst the crowd of five thousand, but was for all of us.

Providing food to the hungry certainly does mean responding to the needs of those who do not have

enough to eat, but it also means recognition of a spiritual hunger. We are called to address our own spiritual hunger and to seek to feed others who hunger spiritually by helping them to become closer to Jesus, as Jesus tells us we cannot be nourished and "full" without him.

Today's Gospel reminds us that with Jesus, all things are possible. It reminds us of our duty to serve, and it encourages us to use initiative, whilst placing all our trust in him.

Following more than twenty years as a teacher and headteacher, Michael George has recently started work as a lay school chaplain.

Today:
Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

Monday:
Jeremiah 28:1-17
Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday:
Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22
Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday:
Jeremiah 31:1-7
Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday:
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

Friday:
Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Matthew 16:24-28

Saturday:
Habakkuk 1:12 - 2:4
Matthew 17:14-20

Next Sunday:
1 Kings 19:9, 11-13
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33