


St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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Solemnity of All Saints

1st November 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke, MSP

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

Sunday Reflection from Father Pius. On this day, we celebrate and honour all baptised Christians who have died and are now with God in glory. All Saints day is meant to honour the memory of countless unknown and uncanonised saints who have no feast days. These are the unsung heroes who lived the beatitudes in their life. All Christians are called to a life of holiness. St John reminds us that "...we are God's children now and what we shall be have not yet been revealed. Yet when he appears in his glory, we know that we shall be like him, for then we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2). Everyone should aspire to go to heaven just like the saints who once lived in our world and have been justified by the grace of God to be in heaven. Their simple life and faith should encourage us to persevere and do good always so that we may be united with them at the end of our journey on earth. Pope Saint John Paul II exhorts us that to live the Beatitudes we must make a sincere reappraisal of our lifestyle with a view to living more austere and in solidarity with the poor of the world (*Mission of the Redeemer*, 59-60). The privilege of the saints is to be in the presence of God. Let us pray that we, too, may be inspired to live a holy life and to live in God's presence forever.



Public masses this week will be at 6:30 pm on Saturday and 10 am on Sunday, and on Tuesday and Friday at 9 am. In addition, **Monday 2nd Nov is All Souls' Day** and there will be a Public mass at 9 am. Live-streamed mass will be at 10 am on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday (public masses are not live-streamed). Private prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is from 5.45 - 6.15 pm on Saturday. See the mass times table for full details. **Confessions** can be arranged by appointment with Fr Pius or can be heard between 5.45 - 6.15 pm on Saturday evening (during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament). **The Rosary** is now being recited after the 9 am Friday public mass.

Coronavirus guidance. Please remember to follow the usual guidelines if you are planning to come to mass, and that a mask or face covering is necessary. As you will know, Oxford City is now at Tier 2 (High Alert) for coronavirus. See <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/tier2> for guidance. We may still continue to attend mass as we did in Tier 1, paying attention to the rules regarding mingling ("rule of six") before/after mass.

The second collection this weekend is for the Clergy Training Fund. John Barker would like to thank everybody who contributed recently to the Family Fast Day collection for CAFOD which raised £478.12.

Prayers for the Holy Souls. A book will be available at the back of church during November for you to enter the names of deceased family and friends. The book will then be placed in front of the altar so that our loved ones will be prayed for at every Mass.

The Pastoral Council will be meeting on Thursday November 5th. If there are any issues that you would like to raise for discussion please email jane.kennett@googlemail.com.

Mass Times. Public masses are said at the times **given in bold below** and are *not* live-streamed. The other masses are *live-streamed* only (see our parish web site stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/) at the given time and are not open to the public. Mass intentions are also listed. *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 Sunday one full week in advance for guaranteed inclusion.

Date	Time	Day	Intention
Saturday 31 st October	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Ximenes Da Silva 5 th birthday Fr Pius Duke on his Birthday
Sunday 1 st November	10:00 am	Solemnity of All Saints	Ann Holden and family
Monday 2 nd November	9:00 am	Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)	For the people of the Parish
Tuesday 3 rd November	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Lilian Flores and Danny Maceda birthday
Wednesday 4 th November	10:00 am	Memorial of St Charles Borromeo	For refugees and asylum-seekers
Thursday 5 th November	10:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For all the souls in Purgatory
Friday 6 th November	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For all who have recently lost loved ones
Saturday 7 th November	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For persecuted Christians everywhere For the people of the parish
Sunday 8 th November	10:00 am	32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Remembrance Day)	Clare Ashfield RIP anniversary

Please pray for Ann Ashfield, Fr John Baggley, Jean Collard, Pat Hodgson, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank and Helen Kennedy and Margaret Wipp. Pray also for Kathleen McDonagh RIP, Melody Wilson RIP, William Hudson RIP, Victor Devereux RIP, Mike Walsh RIP, Roseanne Witt RIP, Kathleen Marshall RIP and Fr Francis Ighorurhie MSP.

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage 2020 will be on Sunday 1st November at 12 noon and livestreamed via St Chad's Cathedral website <https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>. The mass is being celebrated for all married couples, especially those celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2020.

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 at fwalsh@ryestantony.co.uk.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. RCIA is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism. Those who wish to register for the programme should contact the parish office.

Food bank donations can now be brought to church at either of the public weekend Masses and placed in the box at the back of church. Any non-perishable goods are welcome, especially tea, coffee, sugar, pasta, rice and tinned vegetables and fruit. The pandemic continues to have an impact on the financial situation of many people so please give generously.

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.

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.

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 web-sites with various resources, and details of alternative live-streamed Masses for those 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.

	When	Zoom ID (password if needed)
Women's group	Monday evenings from 8:00 pm	875-9181-2317 (468535)
Men's group	Contact Dominic Vella (dominic.vella@cantab.net) for details	

Rotas

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil reader	Agnes Valencak	Jane Kennett
Sunday Reader	Hilary Lappage	Catherine Mountford
Intercessions	Ann Robson	Eamonn McNamara
Vigil Stewards	Jane and Griffin family	Griffin family
Sunday Stewards	Nelia and Hilary	Ed and Josh
Cleaning	Jane and Griffin family	Griffin family

Bidding prayers

Although the bidding prayers are not currently being read out at Mass we will continue to publish them in the bulletin

Leader: As we celebrate the feast of all those holy men and women who have gone before, whether known to us or unknown, we ask the Lord to listen to their prayers and ours as we say:

Lord, please give your inspiration and courage to Pope Francis, his bishops and all priests and religious as they strive to guide us through these troubled times. Keep in your special care our archbishop Bernard and our parish priest Father Pius. *Lord, in your mercy...*

As the pandemic tightens its grip on our world and more and more lives are affected we pray for all who have lost loved ones or who are suffering themselves. We pray for all medical staff and researchers who are working so hard to keep us safe. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

We remember those who have died recently and pray that they are now safe in God's care. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for migrants everywhere, those suffering in overcrowded and insanitary camps and those undertaking terrifying journeys as they struggle to find a better and safer life for their families. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

As we look at the suffering in the world around us we take courage from the words of St John in the second reading: *Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.* We pray, Lord, that you will continue to take care of all your children and bring us safely to our future life in you. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for all married couples, especially those in our parish, as the Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage is celebrated this Sunday in St. Chad's cathedral at 12 noon. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

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

Leader: As we celebrate the lives of all holy men and women we ask, Lord, that their prayers may bring us your forgiveness and love. Amen.

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

Please use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church. Please do not touch the door handles, and also do not touch/kiss any statues or go onto the sanctuary. Also note there will be NO TOILET facilities available.

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 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 have to 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 48 hours of visiting the church please inform Fr Pius or the parish administrator (stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org).

SUNDAY PLUS

Be blessed

A Year of the Word

Sanctified brethren



by Fr Denis
McBride C.Ss.R.

Lake Wobegon is a quiet town, the seat of Mist County in Minnesota, USA. It doesn't actually appear on any map because it's an imaginary place, the centre of a marvellous portrait of small-town American life in *Lake Wobegon Days* by Garrison Keillor. We follow the fortunes of a skinny kid who is raised in this strait-laced town where the first car and the first radio were greeted with stubborn scepticism by the townsfolk. Our hero is fascinated by the Catholic Church with all its saints and processions and colour; he belongs to a small sect that meets in his Uncle Al's bare living room where they sit on folding chairs and wait for the Spirit to move them. He says:

"In a town where everyone was either Lutheran or Catholic, we were neither one. We were Sanctified Brethren, a sect so tiny that nobody but us and God knew about it, so when kids asked what I was, I just said Protestant. It was too much to explain, like having six toes. You would rather keep your shoes on."

Today we celebrate the feast of the Sanctified Brethren – not a small sect in an imaginary town, but a great many men, women and children, the faithful in Christ Jesus. They are a small part of a marvellous company of believers who struggle into holiness. Among them are people who know us and love us. There will even be some from Lake Wobegon, from the places of which no one has ever heard. The Sanctified Brethren, today we salute them.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbooks.co.uk.

Special saints

by Gráinne Treanor

Living in the countryside, I often pass derelict houses on my travels. These houses evoke mixed emotions, especially during the month of November, when we remember our dead.

There is a sense of smallness and transience. I wonder about the families who lived in these houses, once homes. No doubt the pace was slower back then, but life would have been filled with the same duties, joys and sorrows we experience today.

Outside one house, a carpet of daffodils appears each spring, the planter departed. They remind me that everyone who has lived on earth has left their mark. Not all experience celebrity or sainthood. But many continue to touch our lives today through the love,

kindness, gentleness, justice, mercy and peace they lived. They shape those who follow like a "gene" that preserves the values Jesus taught in the Beatitudes. These too are "special saints" whom we cherish.

Gráinne Treanor is a mother of three and professional editor/proofreader who works from her home in the west of Ireland.

"In meeting you, may each person at least touch the beauty of God, the security of his company and the fullness of his closeness. It is a sanctity that grows as we discover that God cannot be tamed, does not need fences to defend his freedom and does not contaminate himself as he draws near."

Pope Francis

Little saints

by Michael George

When Pope Benedict visited the UK in 2010 he addressed the schoolchildren of the nation via a "Big Assembly". Like others in Catholic schools similarly unsuccessful in an attempt to secure tickets, I watched the Pope's address in a hall full of children, parents and staff, via the Internet.

The theme of the address was "Becoming Saints". God is calling each of us to holiness and to strive for sainthood.

Work in the days and weeks afterwards revealed a real understanding amongst the children that saints are born as people like them, and that whilst not easy to reach, sanctity is attainable. They – we – can become saints, through our

relationship with God, lived out through relationships with one another.

Children can often express profound ideas in simple terms. "To achieve sainthood," one ten-year-old child wrote, "Devote your life to God. Think like God. Breathe like God. Be kind. Smile. Persevere." Amen.

Michael George has served Catholic primary schools as a teacher and headteacher for more than twenty years. He now works as a lay school chaplain.

My loving Lord, touch my heart, my eyes, my mind – my whole life. Let everything that I say, think and do radiate you to the people around me. Fill my littleness with your greatness. Amen.

Today:
Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday:
Isaiah 25:6-9
Romans 5:5-11
Matthew 11:25-30

Tuesday:
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 14:15-24

Wednesday:
Philippians 2:12-18
Luke 14:25-33

Thursday:
Philippians 3:3-8
Luke 15:1-10

Friday:
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 16:1-8

Saturday:
Philippians 4:10-19
Luke 16:9-15

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13