

## St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

115 Headley Way, Oxford OX3 7SS | Web: [www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk](http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk) | [www.facebook.com/saop.oxford](https://www.facebook.com/saop.oxford)  
Parish Priest: 01865 762964 | Administrator: 07484 271876 | Email: [stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

### First Sunday of Advent

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke, MSP

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

**Sunday Reflection from Fr. Pius.** The season of advent is a season of hope, longing and waiting. It is a forward looking moment in our lives as we live in eager longing for the birth of our Saviour. In our times of perils and confusion, the season of Advent gives us the hope to be part of that peace and joy the Child in the manger offers us. Advent is therefore a time to see our life for what it is and to acknowledge our failures caused by our own indifference and apathy.



In the Gospel, we are invited to be on the watch and to stay awake to meet the Lord as we do not know when he will come. Our duty is to be ready at all times so that whenever he comes, he may find us ready and waiting. Let us have that faith which enables us to wait in love so that the Lord may find us welcoming homes to be born in and dwell. Advent is God's gift to us, a gift that invites us to shake off the old man in us and put on Jesus Christ to become new persons acceptable to the Lord. Let us cast off the darkness in us and become part of the light.

**Message from Fr. Pius.** As we return to Church next week and continue to follow Government directives on the reopening of Churches, I wish to joyfully welcome everyone back to Church in time for the beginning of the season of Advent. Let us not lose hearts but keep our faith alive with hope that the coming of Christ the infant King may fill us all with courage and the blessing that his coming brings. Wishing you peace and love!

**Mass times and church opening.** Live-streamed mass will be at 10 am daily from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November until Thursday, inclusive, and also on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The first public mass at St Anthony's will be at 9 am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Thereafter, weekend masses will resume as before (see the mass times table). **Confessions** can be arranged by appointment with Fr Pius or can be heard between 5.45 - 6.15 pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> evening (during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament).

**Coronavirus update.** From next Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Oxford will enter the Tier 2:High Alert category ([www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#high-alert)). Places of worship remain open but parishioners must not socialise with people from outside our household or support bubble while in the church. Please remember to follow the safety guidelines if you are planning to come to mass, and that a mask or face covering is necessary.

**The Pastoral Council** will be meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. If there are any issues that you would like to raise for discussion please email [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com).

**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.

**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/](http://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 28 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For all the souls in purgatory
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 am	First Sunday of Advent	For the people of the parish
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 am	Feast of St Andrew	Margaret Denning RIP - anniversary
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	10:00 am	Feast of St Edmund Campion	Madeleine Carvell: get well soon
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:00 am	Weekday in Advent	For refugees and asylum-seekers
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:00 am	Memorial of St Francis Xavier	For the sick and the housebound
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>9:00 am</b>	Weekday in Advent	For all who have recently lost loved ones
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00 am <b>6:30 pm</b>	Feast of St Birinus Vigil Mass	For persecuted Christians everywhere For the people of the parish
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>10:00 am</b>	Second Sunday of Advent	For the people of the parish

**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.

**Offertory during lockdown:** The Archdiocese has set up a web page which allows us to make offertory donations to our own parish: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work>. There is an orange button that you choose for one or more single donations. During the subsequent steps you select the parish you want from the “Donating to” drop-down menu (Oxford: St Anthony). Please choose the option to *Gift Aid* your donation if you pay any tax (the government gives us 25p for every pound you donate). To set up a regular donation, please contact us at the parish email address. Standing orders are by far the most cost-effective way of supporting St Anthony’s through the ups-and-downs of the coronavirus restrictions.

**The Foodbank still needs your help**, especially now as we enter a second period of lockdown. Please take donations of non-perishable food to the back of St Francis’ Church, 226 Hollow Way, OX3 7JF on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays between 11am to 1pm [*note* that this is a change from last week’s bulletin]. If you would like someone to pick up your donation from your home, please email [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com).

**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.

**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](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family.

**On-line prayer and faith resources.** A range of resources is given on our parish website [stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/resources/](http://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](http://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk) and [greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com](http://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com).

**Parish meetings on Zoom.** To access a meeting visit [zoom.us/join](https://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	856-7873-6992 (276659)
Men's group	Contact Dominic Vella ( <a href="mailto:dominic.vella@cantab.net">dominic.vella@cantab.net</a> ) for details	

### Rotas

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil reader		Agnes Valencak
Sunday Reader	Jane Kennett	O' Donoghue family
Intercessions	Jane Kennett	John Kirwan
Vigil Stewards		Jane and Griffin family
Sunday Stewards		Francis and Eugene
Cleaning		Jane and Griffin family

### Bidding prayers

**Leader:** Knowing that the Father is close to all who call on him from their hearts, we place our needs before him. We pray for Pope Francis, for Archbishop Bernard and for Father Pius. May they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they carry out their work. *Lord, in your mercy...*

As we start the season of Advent may our spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ Child not be overshadowed by earthly concerns. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

We pray that we may remember the words of the gospel, keeping awake for when the Lord comes again, when we will be asked whether we loved our neighbour and cared for all. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for victims of violence, poverty and natural disaster. We pray also for those mourning loved ones, may the Lord bring them peace and comfort. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

We pray for our politicians and scientists that they make the right decisions concerning the physical and economic health of our nation. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the parish community of St Anthony of Padua as we prepare to open our church once again. May we continue to work as a team to support Fr Pius through these difficult times. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the sick of our parish, whether they are at home, in hospitals or in nursing homes. We pray also for their carers and families. May the Lord give them strength. *Lord, in your mercy ...*

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

We now pray quietly for our own needs.

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we pray that you may hear our prayers, which we ask through your son Jesus and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, 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](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org)).

# SUNDAY PLUS

Stay awake!

A Year of the Word

## We are not alone

by Gráinne Treanor

Today's Gospel instilled fear in me when I was a child. If there was one reading that made me feel like "going to confession" in preparedness for my own end or "the end of the world", this was it. It was about getting caught, punishment and eternal damnation. Of course, my theology was immature and my interpretation out of context. I'm not sure it was much clearer to those who had the difficult job of explaining it to children.

Years later, with the benefit of study and life experience, that childhood fear has eased. Study reveals a context – the coming of the Son of Man

and the kingdom of God. The Gospel of Mark shows Jesus trying to encourage both preparedness for that time and patient endurance of whatever suffering precedes it. Experience reveals that suffering – including sudden and severe suffering – is entwined in life's journey. It is not something we must always accept unquestioningly, but neither is it something we should expect to always escape. Recently, we have seen suffering shake even those who normally have the privilege of feeling in control of their destiny.

We cannot be complacent or banish fear. We do not know the day of our individual ends or the end of time as we know it. But we are not alone in our waiting. As Christians, we support each other in our staying awake, balancing unavoidable suffering with patience, solidarity and sometimes action as we wait in hope for the salvation of all humanity.

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



## Learn from others

by Br Royston Price  
C.Ss.R.

Christ tells us forcefully in the Gospel to stay awake. This certainly means looking forward to his return at the end of time, but perhaps we can take this attitude into other parts of our lives? I may be very keen to listen to God speaking through scripture, but am I so keen to listen to God speaking through my neighbour, particularly the ones I don't get on with? The Lord wants what's best for us and never misses an opportunity to help us grow in love, so perhaps we should be awake and alert to the lessons we can learn from those around us. An attitude of respectful listening can help people see the dignity

that they have in your sight and, indeed, their dignity in the sight of God. This Advent is the perfect time to "wake up" to what matters most and our "alarm clock" might not be sitting on our bedside table, but might actually be our neighbour.

Br Royston Price is the Vocation Director for the Redemptorist London Province.

**"May Jesus help you to discover the beauty of being alive and awake. Alive and awake."**

Pope Francis

## Do I count my blessings?

by Eldred Willey

Dr Donald Nicholl, Rector at Tantar, near Jerusalem, inspired many people with his book *The Testing of Hearts*. He also inspired people by the way he finished his life. In great pain with terminal cancer, he looked out of his bedroom window one evening and rejoiced in the beautiful full moon which he could see.

The angel Gabriel calls on Mary to rejoice, although nothing has happened yet. She is simply to rejoice in God's favour: the fact that she is chosen, that God has good plans for her. Her agreement opens the way to the great miracle.

We always have something to be thankful for, always have blessings to count. It is in recognising the

good which God is already doing for us that we open the way to receive greater things. So let us choose to rise above discouragement and despondency, for God loves to give good things to the joyful.

Eldred Willey works in communications for the Diocese of Northampton.

**Loving Lord, I don't always enjoy waking up. Sometimes I'd prefer to sleep. Help me to be awake and alert to life's challenges during Advent. Don't let me doze off halfway. Amen.**

Today: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:33-37

Monday: Romans 10:9-18  
Matthew 4:18-22

(S) Solemnity  
Wisdom 3:1-9  
Romans 10:9-18  
Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Isaiah 25:6-10  
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6  
Matthew 7:21. 24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24  
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26  
Matthew 9:35 – 10:1. 6-8

Next Sunday: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8