

## 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)

### Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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 Baptism of the Lord is another chapter in the unfolding manifestation of Jesus as the Messiah sent by God. The focus of this final day of the Christmas season is the inauguration of Jesus' public mission. Throughout the rest of the liturgical year, we shall see how his mission unfolds in words and deeds, ultimately leading to his death and resurrection. Today, Christ enters the waters of baptism not to be cleansed but to cleanse the same waters so that we can be cleansed by baptism. To be baptised means to be immersed, soaked or dead drunk in this Good News; to proclaim with Jesus that social and religious outcasts belong to the Kingdom of God and like Jesus we too will be persecuted not by our enemies but by those we love and care about most. Having been baptised, we belong to Christ. We do not belong to the world. We become children of God, and as children of God, we cannot be slaves. Hence, the baptism of Christ reminds us of our own baptism, of the freedom given to us, and of our continued dependence on the grace of God so that we remain sanctified in a world where sin is fashionable. Our life should therefore, show the world that we are no longer slaves of sin.



**A message from Fr Pius.** A word of thank you to all who made my work at St Anthony of Padua and the hospital a memorable, fulfilling and fruitful one despite the pandemic. Special thanks goes to members of the pastoral council and the finance committee for their support, criticisms, and suggestions. I could not have succeeded without your inputs. My profound thanks go to Jane Kennett, Penny Jenner, John Kirwan, Philip Mountford, John Denning, Dominic Smith and Mary Griffin, and all the numerous volunteers whose dedication have been outstanding. I remain grateful to everyone else who contributed towards the parish growth under my leadership. Please, do pray for me as I take my leave. God bless you all!



**Coronavirus matters:** A new lockdown is in force to curb the transmission of the virus. Catholic churches in England can remain open for communal worship providing necessary steps are taken to keep people safe. See the following link from the Bishops' Conference: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/guidance-collective-worship/>.

Fr Pius and the Pastoral Team wish to especially:

- reiterate that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended;
- remind you that those at high risk or shielding should seriously consider staying at home and, if possible, attending Mass online (see the Mass times table & [stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/](http://stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/));
- remind you of our social distancing, mask wearing and ventilation policies at church (see page 4);
- reassure all volunteers (readers, cleaners and stewards) that if they feel uncomfortable attending Mass that they should not feel pressure to do so (but please notify the relevant organiser).

**From the Pastoral Team: Fr Pius leaving gift.** Fr Pius will be leaving the Parish in mid January. Although we will not be able to say goodbye to him as we would want because of Covid, we will be holding a special

collection this weekend. If you would like to give but will not be attending Mass, please place your donation in an envelope marked “Fr Pius’ leaving present” and put it through the letter box by the parish office.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January.** This is to be celebrated by the seven churches within the Fellowship of Churches Together in Marston and Northway with an Ecumenical Service to be held on Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There will also be short daily prayer services as follows: Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am and on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm. You are especially invited to join in these services which will be held by Zoom, using the following details. Telephone dial-in: 0203 481 5240; meeting ID: 4276663979; password: 2520. Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4276663979?pwd=cTRETsNxNUZ1T0RXVDVod0R3Sxc3UT09>.

**Timetable for the week ahead.** Masses are public and live-streamed at the times given in the table below (see [stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/](http://stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/livestream/)). Weekday and Saturday morning Masses at 9 am. Private prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is from 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday. *Confessions* can be arranged by appointment or can be heard between 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday (during *exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*). *The Rosary* is recited after the 9 am Friday Mass. 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 10 am Sunday one full week in advance for guaranteed inclusion.

Date	Time	Day	Intention
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am 6:30 pm	Christmas Feria Vigil Mass	For all the souls in Purgatory Maureen and Tina special intention
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	10:00 am	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	For the people of the parish
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Joan and David Manuel - thank you
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Mortimer family
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For those suffering from COVID-19
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For all the souls in Purgatory
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	For all who have recently lost loved ones
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00 am 6:30 pm	Weekday in Ordinary Time Vigil Mass	For the sick and the housebound For the people of the parish
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	10:00 am	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	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.

**Live streaming of public masses.** Because St Anthony’s is now streaming all masses, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers and readers are required to sign a consent form allowing their images to be broadcast. The

congregation will not be visible when seated in their pews but, having received Holy Communion, those who turn to the right will be briefly on camera. *If any member of the congregation who wishes to receive communion but who does not want their image to be broadcast please can they sit on the left hand side of church, or return to their seats via the left side aisle.*

**The Pastoral Council** will be meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January. If there are any issues that you would like to raise for discussion please email [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com).

**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. If you would like someone to pick up your donation from your home, please email [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com).

**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).

**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.

**Parish meetings on Zoom.** To access a meeting visit [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and type in the ID number given below.

	<b>When</b>	<b>Zoom ID (password if needed)</b>
Women's group	Monday evenings from 8:00 pm	881-8255-8302 (287901)
Men's group	Contact Dominic Vella ( <a href="mailto:dominic.vella@cantab.net">dominic.vella@cantab.net</a> ) for details	

### **Rotas**

	<b>This weekend</b>	<b>Next weekend</b>
Vigil reader	Agnes Valencak	Bill Mansell
Sunday Reader	John Kirwan	Jane Hollely
Vigil Stewards	Mary and Bruno	Mary and Bruno
Sunday Stewards	Francis and Eugene	Nelia and Hilary
Intercessions	Eamonn McNamara	Dominic Vella

### **Bidding prayers**

*Although the bidding prayers are not being read out at Mass, we publish them here for you to say at home if you wish*

**Leader:** As we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, we affirm our trust in the generosity of our Loving Father and confidently make our prayers to Him

Today, as we are reminded that through our own baptism we became children of God. We pray for the grace, wisdom and commitment to live the message of Christ and become living apostles, proclaiming his love and goodness through word and example. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for the parents and sponsors of the baptised, that they be ever mindful of their promises to keep their children close to their loving God and reminded of His love and care for them. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for the baptised throughout the world who suffer persecution for their beliefs, that God's power and love may sustain them. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for an end to the Covid pandemic; may the vaccines be provided rapidly and equitably across the world. We especially ask you to bless the health care workers and fill them with the physical and mental resources to deliver the care in these challenging times. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for peace and reconciliation in the United States at this time of change and uncertainty, that differences can be resolved peacefully and that good government be restored for the good of all its peoples. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We pray for all during lockdown particularly those who are suffering from financial hardship, loneliness and our young people as who face uncertainty about exam grades. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

We remember those in our community have died or whose anniversaries occur at this time, please welcome them into your heavenly kingdom and comfort those who mourn their passing. *Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer*

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

**Leader:** God, our Father, we thank you for calling us to be your children and graciously ask that you hear these prayers which we offer today. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

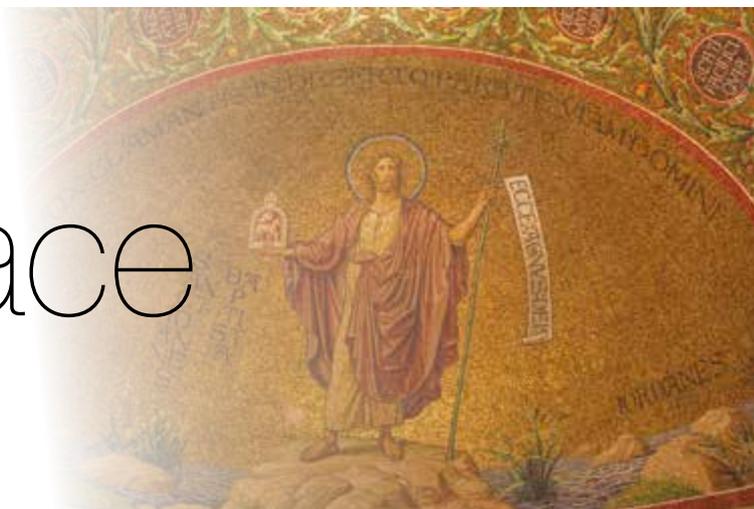
### **GUIDANCE FOR VISITORS ATTENDING PUBLIC MASS AT ST ANTHONY'S**

- ❖ Places of worship remain open but parishioners must not socialise with people from outside their household or support bubble while in the church. See [oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19) for local details. Please remember to follow the safety guidelines if you are attending Mass, and that a mask or face covering is necessary.
- ❖ Church heating. In order to follow COVID guidelines the church has to be fully ventilated, meaning that the entrance and exit doors and windows are open during every public Mass. This means the church will be colder than usual. Please dress accordingly!
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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).
- ❖ Arrive in plenty of time for Mass - 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. Please limit your personal belongings as much as possible and be sure to take them with you when you leave.
- ❖ 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 the Pastoral Team by email to [stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org) or by phoning 07484 271876.

# SUNDAY PLUS

Beloved of God

## Happy in second place



Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

John the Baptist is the independent prophet who stands between the hidden life of Jesus and his public ministry. Jesus does not begin alone: none of us does. Jesus is a northerner from the hills of Galilee and one day he makes the long journey south, which would have taken around four days. Like many other people, he is attracted by the person and preaching of John the Baptist; like many of his contemporaries, he submits to John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. After his association with John, Jesus' life takes a dramatic turn.

John the Baptist has a clear sense of himself that he does not occupy the number one slot.

Although John has his own group of disciples, he does not make himself the focus of his prophetic witness; he does not claim that he is the way, the truth and the life. "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am..." John understands his own powerful place within the larger context of God's plan and this frees him to defer to the greater one. Jesus' greatness does not diminish John's importance: John is important precisely because of who Jesus is.

John's way is a challenge to all of us: to foster the

greatness in others without feeling threatened about the value of our own contribution; to be free to celebrate the importance of others because we have a sense of our own worth and value. As John Ruskin said: "Really great people have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them, but through them. And they see something divine in every person."

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

## Child of my love

by Katie Knight

There was no performance when a well-known actor saw his new daughter for the first time: tears of joy poured unashamedly down his cheeks.

One of my greatest joys as a midwife was letting a couple see their new baby for the first time. For a few minutes, the world became Mummy, Daddy and Baby. "That was when we became a family", smiled one new mother. "Little Alex changed us for ever."

So imagine what it was like for God to see Jesus standing in the river Jordan. There were no cameras but the Father had his own way of letting the world know about Jesus. "This is my beloved Son", he declared without showing off a bundle of photographs. "Listen to him" – and God wasn't referring

to Jesus' first words or party piece song.

We perhaps overlook the fact that the Father had his own "Wow!" moments. Remember what it was like when you saw your child for the first time and you will know how God felt!

Katie Knight is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

**Father God, you identified Jesus as your "beloved Son". Be with all parents who work to provide a happy, secure home for their children. Comfort those children who have never known a parent's love. Amen.** 

## Beloved and not forgotten

by Max Mathews

It's easy to work on our relationship with God without ever considering God's relationship with us – and after all, relationships are a two-way street.

When God said: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased", he chose an important theme for his first-ever message from heaven to earth.

Jesus was and is the Son of God and, through Jesus, God calls us also to be his children even if – especially if – we don't return that willingness to bring him closely and intimately to us.

It is hugely liberating for, and comforting to, all God's people to know that God loves us – despite all our flaws and imperfections

– divinely, infinitely and unconditionally, more than we can even love ourselves. The love between a parent and child is the closest comparison that we have in our human experience.

We can all draw on that liberating and comforting knowledge which can shield us in darker times and can provide the unshakeable bedrock to our faith.

Max Mathews is a young Catholic student of journalism.

**"Upon each one of us too, born anew through the water and through the Holy Spirit, the heavenly Father makes his voice resonate with infinite love, saying 'You are my beloved son'."**

Pope Francis

<b>Today:</b> Isaiah 55:1-11 1 John 5:1-9 Mark 1:7-11	<b>Monday:</b> Hebrews 1:1-6 Mark 1:14-20	<b>Tuesday:</b> Hebrews 2:5-12 Mark 1:21-28	<b>Wednesday:</b> Hebrews 2:14-18 Mark 1:29-39	<b>Thursday:</b> Hebrews 3:7-14 Mark 1:40-45	<b>Friday:</b> Hebrews 4:1-5, 11 Mark 2:1-12	<b>Saturday:</b> Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 2:13-17	<b>Next Sunday:</b> 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 John 1:35-42
--	---	---	--	--	--	---	--