

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

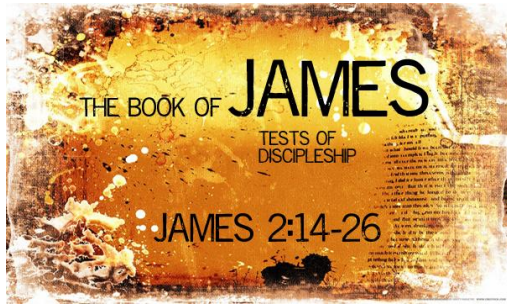
12th September 2021

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Odion, MSP Email: fr.mark.odion@rcaob.org.uk

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

SUNDAY REFLECTION:



The reflection today will be based on the second reading from the Epistle of James 2:14-18. For the past two Sundays, the second reading has been from the Epistle of James, and it continues until the next two Sundays. James persists with his characteristic emphasis on the need for Christianity to be expressed in deeds or actions. Although St. Paul says, “a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law (see Romans 3:28 and Galatians 2:16); James complements his teachings in line with the New Testament traditions. John the Baptist, in Matthew 3:8, called his listeners to “produce good fruit as evidence of their repentance”.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:21, “not everyone who calls me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father”. And Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, “for all of us, before the judgment seat of Christ, will receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil”. James, therefore, builds on this essential Christian ethical demonstration of faith through works.

In the passage (James 2:14-18), James begins his argument with a real-life situation. Then, he asks a rhetorical question to set his opinion in motion. “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?” In chapter 1:27, he explained that true faith moves one to pure and undefiled religion, which is to care for orphans and widows in trouble. He, therefore, contrasts a merely verbal claim of faith with that expressed in action. James presents the example of a person in dire need of food and clothing, a person in need of concrete actions. What would you do as a Christian? Give words of blessings, prayers or encouragement alone like “Go in peace, keep warm and eat well, the Lord is with you” or help the person with a physical action that would save the life? This is why he says, “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

The point James make is simple, that “words without actions are futile.” Christian spirituality is not meant to be a theoretical and abstract religion; instead, it is a practical, pragmatic, and common-sensical expression of faith. Jesus said in Matthew 25:34-36, “come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, for when I was hungry, you gave me food, thirsty, you gave me drink, naked, you clothed me, and in prison, you visited me.” Therefore, we should ask ourselves, what is the nature of our faith with regards to works? Have we made use of our opportunities to express faith in actions, especially to those in need around us? Or do we only deceive them with verbal expressions of faith without corresponding Christian measures? We need to be cognizant of people in need around us, for “deeds rather than speech carry conviction.”

ἀλλ’ ἐν τούτοις πᾶσιν ὑπερνικῶμεν διὰ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντος ἡμᾶς. (But in all these we completely prevail through the one who loved us.) - Rom 8:37.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: An environmentally sustainable lifestyle..

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

NOTICES.

ANN ASHFIELD RIP: Ann's body will be received into church at 4pm on Tuesday 14th September. Her requiem will be at 1:00pm on Wednesday 15th September followed by a family only burial. Paula and Simon invite all mourners to refreshments in the hall after Mass. The requiem will be live streamed via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgFZ7ajuytjzfadCCgObOrA/>

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR NEXT THREE WEEKS:

This weekend (11th/12th September). Catholic Education service.

Next weekend (19th/20th September). Catholic Evangelisation (formerly CASE)/Home Mission.

Following weekend (25th/26th September) Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity. Please Call 01675 434000 if you would like to donate outside of Mass this year. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

REMINDER FOR THOSE WHO ATTEND THE SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL MASS : Please remember that there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5:45-6:15pm. If you arrive for Mass during this period please show due reverence and enter the church IN SILENCE. Thank you.

CHANGES TO LITURGY PROJECTION: The projected Liturgy at the weekend Masses are now a simplified version, and will not contain the readings or prayers that are specific for that Sunday.

COVID REGULATIONS: Following the lifting of certain regulations on July 19th the Bishop's Conference has issued guidelines for Catholic churches. Although some regulations will be lifted, care must be taken to ensure that churches continue to be places where people feel safe to gather to worship.

The full guidance can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/> SEE LATER IN BULLETIN FOR SUMMARY.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass **remains suspended** until the First Sunday in Advent, and we will continue to stream the Mass on YouTube

TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD.

- **Masses** are public and live-streamed at the times below.
- Private prayer with **exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday
- **Confessions** can be arranged by appointment or between 5:45 – 6:15 pm on Saturday.
- **The rosary** will be recited after the 9:00am Mass if numbers allow and will be live streamed.
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| Date | Time | Day | Intention |
|----------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 11 th September | 9:00 am | Feria in ordinary Time | People of the Parish |
| | 6:30pm | Vigil Mass | Manjay Rappai RIP (11 th anniversary of death)* |
| Sunday 12 th September | 8:30 am | 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | People of the Parish |
| | 10:00 am | | Prisca Magno Rodrigues RIP* |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 13 th September | 9:00 am | St John Chrysostom | People of the Parish |
| | 6:30pm | | Peggy Greaney (nee Denning). Get well* |
| Tuesday 14 th September | 9:00am | Exaltation of the Holy Cross | Paul Feaver* |
| | 6.30pm | | Ann Ashfield RIP* |
| Wednesday 15 th September | 9:00 am | Our Lady of Sorrows | Ann Ashfield RIP* |
| | 1:00pm | | Requiem Mass for Ann Ashfield |
| | 6:30 pm | | People of the parish |
| Thursday 16 th September | 9:00 am | Ss Cornelius and Cyprian | Lily Feaver RIP* |
| | 6:30 pm | | For the priests of the MSP |
| Friday 17 th September | 9:00 am | Feria in ordinary time | Kathleen Marshall RIP (1 st anniversary)* |
| | 6:30 pm | | The people of Afghanistan |
| Saturday 18 th September | 9:00 am | Feria in ordinary time | For the workers of CAFOD |
| | 6:30pm | Vigil Mass | People of the parish |
| Sunday 19 th September | 08:30 am | 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | People of the parish |
| | 10:00am | | For the birthday memorial for the late Samantha Nkiruka Ndidiamaka Igweh (SNNI)* |

Coronavirus matters:

Latest guidance from the Catholic Bishop's Conference (as of 19th July 2021).

In summary:

NOT CHANGED:

- Hand sanitising and face coverings are still **strongly recommended** in church.
- The individual desire for social distancing still needs to be respected (see below).
- Holy water fonts are to remain unfilled.
- The sign of peace remains suspended and Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and it is recommended that it is received in the hand.

CHANGED:

- The church will be open for private prayer from Monday 26th July.
- Votive candles will be available to light (30p per candle).
- The offertory collection is to be resumed (with the bags on poles to minimize handling), but online and contactless giving is encouraged.
- Congregational singing is to be reintroduced. **Those who want to join in with the singing should wear a mask at this time.**
- Stewards should no longer be necessary, but we would hope that people would continue to exercise good responsible behaviour especially when moving to receive Holy Communion and should avoid getting too close to each other.
- The one way system will no longer be enforced

Those who wish to socially distance will be allowed to do so.

St Anthony's will accommodate this by designating the Lady Chapel as an area where 1m+ social distancing will be maintained. We suggest that parishioners who want to use this facility enter and leave the church by the side door.

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.

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the parish: Fr John Baggley, Pat Hodgson, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank and Helen Kennedy, Margaret Wipp, Maureen O’Sullivan, Gordon Robson and John Barker.

Please pray for those who have recently died ... Ann Ashfield.

... and for those whose anniversaries occur in September: Kathleen Marshall, John Szewczyk and Heriberto Carreon.

Memorial list: If you would like a deceased family member or friend to be remembered in the bulletin during the month of the anniversary of their death please email their name and date of death (day and month) to stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Please contact the office with the names of those to be included whose deaths occurred in the month of September.

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

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

The food bank officials thank all parishioners for their ongoing generosity to the foodbank.

On-line prayer and faith resources. A range of resources is given on our parish website stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/resources/.

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, and follow us on [Facebook](#)

“Thank you”

To all who contributed to the recent second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris). The charity has written to Fr Mark expressing their thanks.

Rotas

| | This weekend | Next weekend |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Vigil readers | Ashna Sebastian | Jane Kennett |
| <u>Sunday Readers:</u> | | |
| 8:30 am | Hilary Lappage | Philip Mountford |
| 10:00 am | Alex Thankachan | Antos Thomas |
| Vigil collectors | Jane and Mary | Mary and Jane |
| <u>Sunday collectors:</u> | | |
| 8:30 am | Hilary and Mary | Hilary and Mary |
| 10:00 am | Mary | tbc |
| Intercessions | Grey book | Grey book |
| Altar flowers | Shalini Lalvani | Lidia Molinska |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: With the ongoing recommendation to wear masks whilst in church it seems inappropriate to arrange a parish social event in the hall at the moment, and the weather forecast for September seems gloomy and so an outdoor picnic also does not seem a good idea. Perhaps things will be more settled for Christmas!

THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this FREE OF CHARGE, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Starts Wed 29th September 2021. Eight Wednesday sessions, @7pm. Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

SUNDAY PLUS

Who am I?

In season and out of season

by Fr Maurice O'Mahony C.Ss.R.

St Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, writes: "Preach the Gospel in season or not, welcome or unwelcome". It seems there is no optimum time to proclaim Jesus and the Gospel. Yes, for many people in every generation the proclamation of God's love and the promise of salvation is "Good News". Equally, there is often opposition.

Jesus experienced similar responses during his public ministry. His time was dominated by two powerful groups: the Romans who ruthlessly occupied the land, and the religious leaders who exercised great power over the people. Yet, Jesus was not discouraged; he proclaimed the coming reign of God with a clear, challenging message: repent and change your lives!

Jesus maintained a low profile during those early days, protecting the message and giving it time to root in his first followers. However,

everything about him led many to believe he might be the Messiah. That is why he asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" and followed it with a personal challenge, "But you... who do you say I am?" Then and now, that answer made the difference.

The people among whom he ministered made the link between Jesus and the prophecy of Isaiah. The religious authorities also heard about him, his activities and, alarmingly, what the people were saying. Jesus knew these two worlds would eventually collide

and he told his disciples that he would be handed over, suffer and be put to death.

We are Jesus' disciples in 2021. Many are indifferent, even hostile, to faith. Yet, Jesus calls us to share the message. It is our privilege to act in his name, in season or not, welcome or unwelcome. So, be courageous!

Fr Maurice P. O'Mahony is a Redemptorist priest of the London Province. Over forty years of priesthood he has worked in a variety of apostolates and is currently developing Redemptorist Lay Ministry.



"The love of God is not something vague or generic; the love of God has a name and a face: Jesus Christ."

Pope Francis

Calvary is a beginning

by Phil Ferguson

Wildfires raged throughout many tree-covered areas of the world during the hot summer months and severe drought of 2020. Hosepipe bans and standpipes became a daily event for thousands of householders as fire brigades heroically tried to extinguish flames and, paradoxically, to keep their use of water to a minimum. Farmers watched helplessly as huge cracks appeared in their dry fields and thirsty crops withered and died.

Many television documentaries covered not only the drought and wildfire experiences but also flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes, all possibly effects of climate change.

Time and again, seemingly "ordinary" people showed themselves capable of extraordinary courage, generosity and self-sacrifice. Their Calvary was a beginning, not an end.

Feast of the week
Tuesday 14 September

Triumph of the cross

The young Emperor Constantine was heading out to fight the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (AD 312) when he looked up towards the sun and saw a cross of light above it and the words, "In this sign, you will conquer." That night, according to tradition, he had a vision in which Jesus explained the meaning of the sign, which Constantine ordered his army to make its military standard. He subsequently always claimed that his victory in battle the following day

was the result of his vision of the cross.

Soon afterwards, Constantine became the first Christian Roman Emperor. In 313, he issued the Edict of Milan which allowed Christianity to be freely practised.

With the conversion of her son, Constantine's mother, Helena, soon also became a Christian. On his instructions – and with his money – she travelled to the Holy Land in search of Calvary, the Holy Sepulchre and the remains of "the True Cross". She believed she found all three, but Helena's enormous contribution to early Christianity is another story...

All was not lost. Within days of the first rainfall following devastating wildfires, blackened woodland started to turn green. Tiny blades of grass emerged through the parched soil. Bit by bit, the world started to change. In seeing endings, we discovered new life.

Phil Ferguson is a former teacher.

Lord, when times are hard, it can be difficult to see that you offer a choice. If I can see who you really are and follow you in everything that I say, think and do, even my Calvary can be a new beginning and the start of a journey of discovery. Amen.

Today:
Isaiah 50:5-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

Monday:
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday:
Numbers 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Wednesday:
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

Thursday:
1 Timothy 4:12-16
Luke 7:36-50

Friday:
1 Timothy 6:2-12
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday:
1 Timothy 6:13-16
Luke 8:4-15

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
James 3:16-4:3
Mark 9:30-37

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