

## 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)  
Presbytery and office: 01865 762964 | Parish priest: 07484 271876 | Email: [stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Odion, MSP Email: [fr.mark.odion@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.mark.odion@rcaob.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Amana Okeme, MSP Email [fr.john.amana.okeme@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.john.amana.okeme@rcaob.org.uk)

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

#### SUNDAY REFLECTION:



Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, was a prophecy of what would happen to Jesus in the hands of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes, and the Chief Priests. Jesus challenged and reproached them for transgressions and violations of God's Commandments. For this reason, with revilement and torture they put Jesus to tests and trials and condemned him to a shameful death. But God took care of Jesus and raised him from death. In the gospel of today, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of Man is to be handed

over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise" (Mark 9:31).

As the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Chief Priests took offense at Jesus, sometimes, we take offense at those who challenge us, and those who correct our ignorance and wrong-doing. As Jesus was crucified; in the same way, many people have lost their life because they challenged injustice in the system and in society. Many people have lost their jobs, positions, and relationships because they took the path of truth and justice.

Jesus' story did not end with his death; it continued with his resurrection. This means that a messenger of truth and justice can be rejected, silenced, suppressed, punished, expelled, eliminated, or killed; but no matter how long it takes, truth and justice do resurrect; and many times come back to haunt the aggressors. Jesus encourages us, "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna" (Matthew 10:26-28).

In the second reading, St. James names the reasons for the disorders, conflicts, killings, and wars in our world: "Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice... Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy, but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war" (James 4:1-2). Wherever there are injustice, envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition, the evil consequences are disorders, foul practices, conflicts, killings, and wars.

Envy, Jealousy, and selfish ambition block the mind to truth, as it did with the apostles. They were so engrossed in their bickering on who was the greatest among them that they were not touched when Jesus spoke to them about his passion and death. In the same way, envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition block the ears and hearts, and blind the eyes of many civil and religious leaders that they do not see the sufferings of the poor or hear their cry.

In the gospel, Jesus took a child, "placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me'" (Mark 9:36-37). A child needs help, protection, support and cannot be left by him/herself or to fend for him/herself. A child is defencelessly vulnerable. Therefore, the child Jesus speaks of are the sick, the weak, the hungry, the elderly, the frail, the lonely, the refugee, the prisoner, the homeless, and the needy. The greatest people are those who serve and provide for people such as these. Jesus challenged his disciples and challenges us, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

The danger with envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition is not only their evil consequences on the society, the vices are, also, destructive to those whom they possess and who possess them. It is, therefore, a helpful spiritual exercise to constantly examine the true motivations of our decisions and actions. Let us pray to have the courage not to proceed with our decisions and actions if we are motivated either by envy, or jealousy, or selfish ambition.

Let us, also, pray that we follow the paths of justice and selflessness, being considerate of one another, lifting up and building up one another. By so doing, being great and feeling great are not limited to a few privileged people, but to many people who are lifted up and many people who are built up.

**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:**

**Paula Groom and family** would like to thank everyone involved in Ann Ashfield's requiem last week. It was a truly beautiful Mass and the efforts of everyone to make it so were greatly appreciated.

**TTHANKSGIVING:** We welcome the Oxford Igbo Union to our parish. The Community will be having thanksgiving at the 10:00 am Mass next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Eight Wednesday sessions, @7pm. Info & Registration: [www.comeandsee.org](http://www.comeandsee.org)

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT** seminars start on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept at 7.30pm via Zoom for 7 weeks. This is a diocesan initiative which will involve teaching from members of the clergy and lay people, guided scripture based prayer, and small group discussion elements, facilitated locally by John Kirwan. More information and registration details can be found using the following link:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/life-in-the-spirit-course-with-the-archdiocese-of-birmingham/>

**MARSTON COMMUNITY ECO MARKET:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 11.30am-3pm. Marston Vicarage, Elsfield Rd.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS:** This weekend for the Catholic Evangelisation (formerly CASE)/Home Mission.

25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> September. Fr 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.

**COVID REGULATIONS:** Following the lifting of certain regulations on July 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 

Date	Time	Day	Intention
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 am 6:30 pm	Feria in ordinary Time Vigil Mass	People of the Parish

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	8:30 am	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	For the peaceful repose of Francisca Ximenes Goncalves, Antonio Goncalves, Humberto Concalves, Zelia dos santos tobias Quintao and Jose Goncalves and families*
	10:00 am		For the birthday memorial for late Samantha Nkiruka Ndidiamaka Igweh (SNNI)*
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 am	St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang and companions.	For the peaceful repose of the soul of John Szewczyk*
	6:30pm		
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	9:00am	St Matthew	Ann Ashfield RIP*
	6.30pm		
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	9:00 am	Feria in ordinary Time	Mary Chaundy RIP*
	6:30 pm		
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	9:00 am	St Pio of Pietrelcina	
	6:30 pm		
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 am	Our Lady of Walsingham	Repose of the soul of Sebastian Rhys Ciocon (9.3.2010-24.9.2010)*
	6:30 pm		
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00 am	Feria in ordinary time	
	6:30 pm	Vigil Mass	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	08:30 am		
	10:00am	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	

### Coronavirus matters:

Latest guidance from the Catholic Bishop's Conference (as of 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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, Patrick Denning, 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](mailto: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, Eucharistic 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/](http://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 La for the beautiful flower arrangements in church this week for Ann's requiem..

To all who made Ann's requiem so special. Huge thanks from Ann's daughter Paula.

## Rotas

	<b>This weekend</b>	<b>Next weekend</b>
Vigil readers	Agnes Valencak	Nevin Vuddamalay
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Hilary Lappage	Georges Yindom
10:00 am	Antos Thomas	Jane Hollely
Vigil collectors	Jane	Mary and Jane
<u>Sunday collectors:</u> 8:30 am	Hilary and Mary	Hilary and Mary
10:00 am	Jane and Mary	tbc
Intercessions	Grey book	Grey book
Altar flowers	La (For Ann Ashfield's requiem)	Lidia

## 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!

**AUTUMN COMMUNITY FUN MORNING:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. 10am-1pm. Bread making, pumpkin carving, face painting and lots more.

**GOD'S GOOD CREATION: Worship during COP26 Climate Change Conference.** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 4pm.  
St Michael's Church, Marston



# SUNDAY PLUS

Look around you

## The child as our teacher

by Fr Denis McBride  
C.Ss.R.

In today's Gospel Jesus takes a little child, sets him in front of his disciples and challenges his disciples to accept the little one. When they can welcome that little child, they can welcome the real Jesus. Jesus compares himself to the little child, the one who cannot resort to power tactics when threatened or maltreated. Jesus' protection is his Father; his trust is placed in the God who will ensure

his protection. When suffering comes, Jesus refuses to abandon trust in the Father. That trust makes him vulnerable, like a little child, but unless the disciples can come to welcome that vulnerability, they will never understand the way of Jesus.


Jesus offers a permanent challenge to his followers to welcome the powerless, to take to heart the weakest members of the community. He places himself in their company. Special hospitality should be offered to those from whom we can benefit the least. Their vulnerability is something that Jesus not only shares but values.



As he takes the road to Jerusalem, his own vulnerability will expose him to those who lie in wait. There will be people keen to explore his gentleness and put his endurance to the test. In drawing his own followers away from looking to power and prestige for models of discipleship, Jesus invites them to a new openness to the Father. No

earthly power will save Jesus from death in Jerusalem; only his Father can save him from being left for dead. That is what the Father does. That is how the Father welcomes the trust of the little one.

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

Lord, watch over, protect and bless my family in good times and in bad, in their joys and sorrows, ups and downs, successes and failures, laughter and tears. Let us love each other more with every second that passes.  Amen.

### Mission in the home

by Lucy Russell

"Get off me!" James (14) and Edgar (12) have never come to blows, but it was getting close. "What are you arguing about? Go!" I shouted at one, "and sit in the kitchen. And you, go and sit in the front room. Now!" They did. And sobbed. I stood in the hallway and took a deep breath. "What is this about?" I asked. "I haven't got any socks, he's taken all of them, he always takes my socks, and don't tell me off for hurting him, I didn't hurt him. Why would I hurt him? I love him!"

There can be arguments and rivalries about the smallest of things, although often it is the smallest things

Feast of the week  
Thursday 23 September

St Pio of Pietrelcina  
(1887-1968)

"I consider what writers say about the kingfishers, little birds who build their nests on the beach near the sea. They build it in a circular form and so tightly compressed that the sea water cannot penetrate it . . . Here these graceful little birds place their young ones, so that when

the sea comes upon them by surprise, they can swim with confidence and float on the waves . . . I want your heart to be like this – well-compact and closed on all sides, so that if the worries and storms of the world, the evil spirit and the flesh come upon it, it will not be penetrated. Leave but one opening to your heart that is toward heaven . . . How I love and am enraptured by those little birds!"

From the writings of St Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

that mean the most. But in the end there is love. And that is what truly matters. Once all was calm, I went to the shops and bought ten pairs of black socks.

Dr Lucy Russell is the author of *Who Do You Say You Are?*, available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

"May we always care for our children, not counting the cost, so that they may never believe themselves to be mistakes, but always know their infinite worth. Let us ask the Lord for this grace: that our hearts become free and filled with light, so that we can rejoice as children of God."

Pope Francis

Today:  
Wisdom 2:12. 17-20  
James 3:16 – 4:3  
Mark 9:30-37

Monday:  
Ezra 1:1-6  
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday:  
Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13  
Matthew 9:9-13

Wednesday:  
Ezra 9:5-9  
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday:  
Haggai 1:1-8  
Luke 9:7-9

Friday:  
Haggai 1:15 – 2:9  
Luke 9:18-22

Saturday:  
Zechariah 2:5-9. 14-15  
Luke 9:43-45

Next Sunday:  
Numbers 11:25-29  
James 5:1-6  
Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

redemptorist publications Sunday Plus. Edited by Denis McBride C.Ss.R. and Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications, Chawton, Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk). Printed on FSC approved paper.



[www.facebook.com/sundayplus](http://www.facebook.com/sundayplus)