

# St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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## First Sunday of Advent 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

### SUNDAY REFLECTION: 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT C

“When you hear all these upheaval happening, raise your head high because your liberation is near at hand.” There is something strange about waiting. There are some uncertainties about it. Some anxieties associated with waiting. Is he going to come or not? Advent too is about waiting. Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ can be energy sapping. While we wait for someone we may get drowsy. We are filled with anxiety when he delays whether we will still be standing when he comes.



One thing Christ presence will bestow is liberation. Liberation from all the forces that hold us captive, both physical and spiritual. He will bring us liberation from all that enslaves us. Of course we may say like the people in time of Jesus ‘we have never been anyone’s slave’.

I move whenever I want to move I eat whatever I like, I do what I please. While all that may be true with respect to physical freedom, which may not be totally true, but that can’t be true of spiritual freedom or liberation. Are we spiritually free? Are we free in our minds? The opinions that we hold and the decisions that we make, are they truly ours? Are they not other people’s opinions impose on us through the media. What about our conscience, are we free there? Or do we have something weigh on them like pride, greed, selfishness, an unforgiving spirit, hatred, drunkenness, or sin in general?

Then advent is for us. Waiting for the coming of the Lord is for us. Jesus came over two millennia ago and promised to return at the end of time to bring us true freedom from all that prevent us from living life to the full.

**POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER:** People who suffer from depression. We pray that people who suffer from depression or burnout will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

In her wisdom, the Church sets apart every year a time to reflect and prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. In Christendom, this is known as the season of Advent. This year, Advent begins on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November. It starts four weeks of preparation for the celebration of Christmas on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Apart from being a preparation for one of Christianity’s greatest feast, Advent is also the beginning of the Church’s liturgical year. Each Sunday of the Advent season is marked by lighting of the advent candle. This weekend, as we light the first advent candle, we pray that the bright light of hope will despair from our hearts the fears of the unknown.

### NOTICES

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:** The second collection is for **The Catholic Youth Service**.

**GOODBYE AND THANK YOU:** Joanna, our organ and piano player, will be leaving us to move to Windsor in the near future. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December will be the last time she will play with us at Mass, and we thank her for her dedication to the music group and for enhancing our liturgy with her playing. We wish her all the best for the future.

**ST JOSEPHS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** are holding a virtual open day for September 2022 Reception pupils. Please join us to discover more about our outstanding provision. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 4.30pm via Teams. To register for this meeting please go to the admissions section of the school website.

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS:** Please bring chocolates, biscuits, toiletries, new underwear, gloves, and hats for our annual collection for the homeless at The Porch. A box will be in church each weekend until Christmas for your gifts.

**MEN'S GROUP:** Wed 8<sup>th</sup> December on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception from 7.30pm. Quiet Prayer in church, followed by dinner in the hall. We'd love your company, especially new faces.  
RSVP Ed Smith [ednsmith@gmail.com](mailto:ednsmith@gmail.com)/ join our mailing list: <http://eepurl.com/hK3FRL>

**THE SOWER:** Advent edition of the News from the Archdiocese of Birmingham is available at the back of church. Please take your free copy.

**WALK WITH ME:** Copies of the Advent edition of the Walk with Me daily reflections and prayers are now available. Please take a copy and make a donation of £1.

**THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL OF NIGERIA UK REGION** invite parishioners to their annual MSP Day celebration on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022, at The most precious Blood and St Edmund Catholic Church, 115 Hertford Road, Edmonton, N9 7EN. RSVP to Rev Fr Eugene Lugh MSP. [Promoukmsp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Promoukmsp@yahoo.co.uk). Mass will be celebrated by his Eminence Vincent Cardinal Nichols at 6.30pm followed by a reception in the parish hall.

**TEA AND COFFEE ROTA:** Can you help serve tea & coffee after the 10:00 am Mass once every few months with a friend? Please sign up at <http://bit.do/soap-tea>, or for more info contact Ed Smith [ednsmith@gmail.com](mailto:ednsmith@gmail.com)/ 07897194483

#### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MARSTON AND NORTHWAY ADVENT STUDY GROUPS.**

During four weekly sessions starting on **THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>** the theme will be “**Long expected**” based on Charles Wesley’s hymn “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”. To join the group meeting at 10.00am contact Ian Simpson on 078 6020 9998 or alternatively to join the group meeting at 7.30pm contact Val Stalton on 01865 246157.

**WALKING TOGETHER – CONTRIBUTING YOUR VIEWS TO THE SYNOD:** Pope Francis has invited us all to embark on an exciting spiritual journey of discussion and discernment about the Church, over the coming months. The Synod’s overall theme is ‘*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission*’. The process is one of ‘journeying together’ and every member of the Church is invited to speak. The consultation aims to... “*to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.*” Every parish, deanery and diocese are being asked to contribute in a spirit of prayerful reflection. We are currently working out how best to approach this in our parish, so that everyone's voice can be heard, and will be updating everyone in the coming weeks.

**NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE MASS:** The 10:00 am Mass this Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, will be offered for all those who have died, those we presented their names in the parish book of remembrance. Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

**CHURCH VENTILATION:** The side door of the church will continue to be opened during Mass in order to achieve adequate ventilation. With the weather getting colder, please dress warmly, especially if you sit near the side exit, because heating the church is not only a big expense for the parish but using gas unnecessarily is contrary to the green ethos of the Catholic Church.

**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.

#### **Last Sunday Offering Collection:**

Loose Collection	£213.79
Gift Aid Envelopes	£15.00
Card Reader Machine collection	£25.00
Online giving via website	£10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£263.79</b>
Votive candles	£80.16

**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](#)

**SANCTUARY LIGHT OFFERINGS:** A reminder that an offering can be made for the sanctuary light to be dedicated to your intention for a week, which would be noted in the bulletin. Forms are available at the back of church.

**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 27 <sup>th</sup> November	9:00 am	Feria in Ordinary time	Canon David Oakley's intention*
	6:30 pm	Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	8:30 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	Thanksgiving to God for Ify and Chibuike's one year anniversary and praying for God's blessing*
	10:00 am		For all those who have died and whose names are in the parish book of Remembrance
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	9:00 am	Advent Feria	Donor's intention*
	6:30pm		Kitty Heaney Intention *
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	9:00 am	St Andrew	Margaret Denning Anniversary*
	6.30pm		Donor's intention*
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	9:00 am	St Edmund Campion	Donor's intention*
	6:30 pm		Alice Abraham RIP*
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9:00 am	Advent Feria	Bridgettine Sisters at Maryvale's intention*
	6:30 pm		Donor's intention*
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	9:00 am	St Francis Xavier	Donor's intention*
	6:30 pm		Little Sisters of the Poor, Harborne's intention*
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9:00 am	Advent Feria.	Bridgettine Sisters at Holywell's intention*
	6:30 pm	Vigil Mass	Donor's intention*
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	08:30 am		People of the Parish
	10:00am	Second Sunday in Advent	Thanksgiving for the quick recovery of Mrs. Denya Rodrigues and prayed intentions*

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass **remains suspended**, however, as people of God we are encouraged to make wise and prudent judgement to satisfy our longing for the Lord, bearing in mind that the Eucharist is the source and centre of our celebration.

**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, and Gordon Robson.

**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Breda Dwyer, Moira Redfern, and Michael Bishop

**Also pray for those whose anniversaries occur in November:** Patricia Kirwan, Brendan McNally, Mary Murphy, and Margaret Denning.

**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 Parish Office with the names of those to be included whose deaths occurred in the month of December.**

**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/>

**Coronavirus matters:**

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

**In summary:**

- 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.
- 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.**

**"Thank you"**

.... To Joanna for her commitment to playing the organ and piano for us, especially over the last year. We will miss her so much.

	<b>This weekend</b>	<b>Next weekend</b>
Vigil readers	Jane Kennett	Nevin Vuddamalay
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Jimmy Antony	Hilary Lappage
10:00 am	Philip Mountford	John Kirwan
Vigil collectors	Jane and Mary	Jane and Mary
<u>Sunday collectors:</u> 8:30 am	Hilary and Mary	Hilary and Mary
10:00 am	Mary and Eugene	Mary and Eugene
Intercessions	Grey book	Grey book
Altar flowers	No flowers in Advent	No flowers in Advent
Tea and coffee after Sunday mass	Mary Griffin	