

**ST ANTHONY OF PADUA
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
115 Headley Way, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7SS**

PARISH GUIDE 2018

(Latest update 24 May 2020)



CONTACT US

Parish Telephone: +44 (0)1865 762964

Administrator: 07484271876

E-mail: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Website: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/>

Parish Hall Bookings: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

'The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the church; everyone can be part of the community...'
Pope Francis (Evangelii Gaudium, 47)

Hospital Chaplaincy – emergencies and visits by our Catholic Chaplains

There is a chaplain on call 24 hours for help and advice. To avoid any confusion it is important to specify that it is the **Roman Catholic Chaplain** you wish to speak to (or see) and you can, of course, also request a visit when you are in hospital (please see below for more detail).

For the John Radcliffe Hospital (including the Children's Hospital and the West Wing), the Churchill Hospital, Sobell House Hospice and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Call the **central Switchboard** (01865)741166. Ask the operator to

'Please radio page the Roman Catholic Chaplain for me and ask him to call me on my phone number.'

Our Priests serve as chaplains to the Headington hospitals (John Radcliffe, Churchill and Nuffield Orthopaedic hospitals, as well as Sobell House Hospice, in Headington). The Chaplain can be a useful first point of contact and so, if you are coming into hospital or if you have a loved one who might benefit from a visit from the Catholic Chaplain, do make contact early.

Hospital Chaplaincy website for general, non-urgent, information:

<http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/chaplaincy.aspx>

Essential arrangements for Hospital visits by Catholic Chaplains

It is now difficult for members of the clergy to request information regarding your stay in hospital, including which Ward you are in. This is now regarded as confidential information and will not readily be supplied to any caller without the specific permission of the patient. Also, staff on wards will no longer be allowed to say who is on their Ward if people make a general enquiry.

If you are going in to hospital, or have already been admitted, and would like a Catholic chaplain to visit you this can be arranged by telephone, e-mail, via the parish website (see contact details above), or by asking a member of hospital staff:

DO

- Inform the priests which ward you expect to be on and when you will be there, if you know in advance that you are going into hospital.
- During the admissions process do specifically inform a member of the ward staff if you would like to be visited by a Catholic chaplain. **It is very important to specify that it is the Catholic Chaplain that you wish to see and that you are a Roman Catholic.**
- Every effort will be made to accommodate your wish although please understand that the Chaplain may sometimes visit whilst, by chance, you are asleep or away from the ward having tests or receiving treatment.
- Inform your relatives about your wishes concerning visits from a Catholic chaplain if you are taken into hospital unexpectedly. Your relatives can then notify the priests or Chaplaincy Department should such an event take place.

DON'T

- Just presume that the chaplains will hear about your stay in hospital – unfortunately they probably won't (so, please let the Catholic Chaplain know you are in hospital, even if you have already indicated on the admission form that you are a Catholic).
- Expect ward staff to automatically let the chaplains know you are in hospital – you will need to ask specifically.

Housebound and sick parishioners – prayers and visits

Parishioners are encouraged to have their names put on the list for prayers, visits, or receipt of the sacraments at home by having their details entered in the blue folder kept in the Sacristy, which is reviewed on a weekly basis. Alternatively, please contact our priests directly, or via the parish office, or e-mail: jane.kennett@googlemail.com The Communications box at the back of the Church can also be used for this purpose. For a reminder of these options see the weekly parish bulletin.

Parish Organisation and Lay Participation

Pastoral Council

The St Anthony of Padua Parish Pastoral Council (PC) is a consultative and advisory body, first formed in May 2013. It exists to support and advise the Parish Priest with regard to (a) strategic planning and (b) maintaining a broad over-sight of the activities of groups within the parish.

The Council have the task of investigating the pastoral reality, to reflect on it, and to recommend their conclusions to the Parish Priest. By developing the Pastoral Council, the Priest acknowledges the wisdom of his parishioners and shares with them the task of investigating, considering and reflecting on all matters relating to the life of the parish. In 2016, after consultation with parishioners, the Pastoral Council created a vision and mission statement for the parish to help aid development (see below).

The full terms of reference, membership and roles of different members are posted on the parish notice board at the back of the Church, along with minutes of meetings (these are also available on request from the secretary).

The Council normally meets 4-6 times a year and parishioners are welcome to suggest agenda items, in writing, via the Secretary, currently Jane Kennett: jane.kennett@googlemail.com 01865 762922. The Chairperson is currently John Kirwan: johnkirwan1a@gmail.com 01865-436936.

Finance Council

The Parish Finance Council assists the Parish Priest in the administration of parish temporal matters. An active, well-informed parish finance council is a key element for promoting the financial health of a Parish, assuring accountability and assisting the parish Priest with his temporal responsibilities. Membership of the Parish Finance Council is at the discretion of the parish Priest. The Council normally meets once every quarter and an annual report is made to the Parish. Parishioners are also regularly updated on the state of parish finances.

The Vision and Mission of our Parish (Updated October 2018)

Our Vision (our long term inspiration)

To become an increasingly welcoming and dynamic Catholic community which, with the Eucharist at the centre of parish life, is united through prayer and action in the service of God, reaching out to those in need across our World.

Our Mission (our practical purpose)

Is rooted in the command of Jesus Christ to...

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind;
and love your neighbour as yourself* (Ref: Gospel of Matthew: Chapter 22 v34-40)

We do this by...

- Welcoming others to our parish, irrespective of their background.
- Enabling our parish priest to fulfil his office, which includes: celebrating the Sacraments, ensuring that the Word of God is proclaimed in its entirety, visiting the sick, housebound and families to ensure that he not only shares their joys but also their cares, anxieties and sorrows. i
- Supporting and encouraging each other and anyone interested in finding out about the Word of God, making every effort to share the Gospel message (the 'Good News') and to reconcile those who have fallen away from the practice of the Catholic faith.
- Growing in our faith through prayer and receipt of the Sacraments of the Church
- Nurturing the faith of our young people and their development into mature Christian men and women.
- Supporting those who are sick, either in their homes, in hospital, or in nursing homes; ensuring that they are nourished with the Sacraments
- Seeking out and supporting those in need, whether poor, hungry, homeless, lonely or bereaved, exiled from their homeland, or burdened with special difficulties.
- Being outward looking with a concern for justice and peace, both within and beyond our parish
- Being ecumenical, fostering fellowship and cooperation with our local Christian churches and other faith communities, recognising that it is through praying together that the gift of Christian Unity will be achieved.
- Exercising care for creation, through how we use the resources of our earthly environment.

Whilst some aspects of our mission can only be fulfilled by an ordained Catholic priest, enabling our vision and mission is the shared responsibility of the whole parish, with the parish priest recognising and promoting the specific role which the lay members of Christ's faithful (the 'People of God') haveⁱⁱ.

¹ The full role of the Parish Priest is defined in Catholic Canon Law, see particularly paragraphs Can. 527 – Can. 530 of The Code of Canon Law English Translation (1983): http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/___P1U.HTM

¹ The 'People of God' - the role of the faithful is given in Can. 204 (onwards): 'The Christian faithful are those who, inasmuch as they have been incorporated in Christ through baptism, have been constituted as the People of God. For this reason, made sharers in their own way in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal function, they are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each'.

Vision/Mission updated October 2018, following appointment of Fr Pius as Parish Priest and initially approved by the Pastoral Council on 3 May 2016, following consultation with parishioners.

Other Communities using St Anthony of Padua Church for Liturgy, etc.

While everyone is welcome to pray with us, we also have several other Catholic communities who make use of our church and facilities for liturgy and social events:

Syro–Malabar Community: we welcome the Syro-Malabar community for Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite on the first Sunday of every month, normally at 3.30pm. The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is an East Syrian Rite, in India, which is in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Syrian–Orthodox Community: we welcome the Syrian-Orthodox community for Mass in the Syro-Malankara Rite on the third Saturday of every Month from 8.30am to 1.00pm. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church is a West Syrian Rite Eastern Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See. It has a total membership of around 500,000 and is one of the Saint Thomas Christian churches centred in Kerala, India, which trace their origin to the evangelism of Saint Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century.

Polish Community – we welcome the Polish community, from the Oxford area and surrounds, who celebrate a 12.00 mass in Polish on Sundays, along with Children's Liturgy. They also use the Church for other services during the week.

Parish Activities, Groups and Information

Alphabetical listing...

Altar Servers

Young people who have made their first Holy Communion and adults are very welcome to train to become altar servers. If you wish to begin serving you should speak to the Priest after Mass. The Priest will introduce you to the Master of Ceremonies (lead altar server) who will be able to help or give you details of an altar server-training day.

Baptismal Preparation

Pope Francis has described baptism as "the door" to the Catholic Faith. For details of baptism preparation and arrangements please contact one of the priests. Baptisms are conducted either during the Sunday morning 10.00am Mass or on Saturdays at 12 noon (other than on the third Saturday of the month). Preparation for infant baptism includes a meeting with one of the priests and a follow up meeting with one of the lay baptismal team.

Bidding Prayers - weekly Intercessions at Mass

The parish operates a rota to write the weekly intercessions (bidding prayers) for the Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning Masses. If you would like to contribute to this rota please contact Jane Kennett jane.kennett@googlemail.com

Bulletin – the Parish Weekly Newsletter

If you have items for the parish bulleting/weekly newsletter, please e-mail them, or drop them in to the Parish Office by 7pm each Wednesday. Contact e-mail: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

CAFOD - Overseas Aid

The parish actively supports the work of CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. CAFOD works with partners across the world, wherever the need is greatest, to bring hope, compassion and solidarity to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. <http://www.cafod.org.uk/>

Children's Liturgy & Family Mass

We run an active liturgy for children on Sunday mornings. All Children (and parents/carers) up to First Communion age are very welcome to join in the Children's Liturgy at the 10.00am Sunday Mass. Helping our children to grow in faith is an important aspect of parish life and we support parents by running a Children's Liturgy for those who have yet to receive their First Communion. The children leave the Church, shortly after the Collect (before the First Reading), for their own Liturgy of the Word in the church hall, during the 10.00 am Sunday Mass. We split into two age groups: toddlers (aimed at 0-4 years), and children (aimed at 4-7 years), although parents are welcome to choose which group to attend.

If you would like to help provide the Children's Liturgy you would be most welcome.

Contact: Lydia Vella: lydia.r.vella@gmail.com Tel: 07984 463367

We normally hold a Family Mass on one Sunday a month, in term time, where the children remain in church and the sermon is directed specifically towards their level of understanding.

Christmas – Journey of the Magi

As part of keeping Christmas as a season of prayer, as well as the more formal liturgical celebrations, we have developed our own tradition of the 'Journey of the Magi'. On each of the nights between Christmas and the feast of the Epiphany the carved figures of the three kings are 'hosted' at a different home in the parish. Some simple prayers and reflections are shared informally, followed by some basic refreshment. Prior to Christmas we ask people to sign up to host an evening.

Church Cleaning Rota

Keeping our church clean is an act of service and community participation. We encourage all parishioners to help support this task. A rota is in place, and we also ask for extra volunteers prior to important feasts.

Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Church Wardens – welcoming others

We try to extend a warm welcome to everyone coming to our parish. If you are new to the parish we are very happy to chat with you about what's going on, as well as introducing you to other parishioners. We normally have tea and coffee in the parish hall after the Saturday evening (6.30pm Vigil) and Sunday morning (10.00am) masses. Our church wardens help to welcome people to Mass and take up collections at weekends and at major celebrations. They are supported on Sunday mornings by younger members of the parish community.

Contact: Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Coffee/Tea Rota for Sunday Mass

Help us to serve the parish community by joining the tea/coffee rota after Sunday morning Mass (the tea and coffee is provided). You can expect to be called upon probably once every 2-3 months and it's a very good way to get to know other parishioners.

Contact: Margaret Roberts 01865-766688 margaretaroberts@aol.com
Shauna Masters 01865-736891 s.masters30@btinternet.com

Tea and coffee are also normally available in the church hall after the Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings.

Communion – First Communion Preparation

We run a programme of preparation for children each year. Registration normally takes place in September, and First Holy Communion is celebrated around the Feast of St Anthony each June.

Contact: Catriona Fleming 01865-741498 eloisefleming@btinternet.com

Note: If you are an adult seeking to make your First Holy Communion, please contact one of the Priests.

Communication

Please let us know your views and suggestions. You can do this by talking to the priests, or members of the Pastoral Council, contacting the parish office, or dropping a note in the white Communications Box at the back of the church (inside, by the entrance door).

Confirmation – Preparation

We run a programme of preparation for Confirmation each year for young people. Registration normally takes place in September each year. Young people and adults wishing to prepare for Confirmation should contact one of the Priests for further information, or Fran Walsh f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Catholic Faith – Enquiring about (Journey in Faith/RCIA Programme)

We welcome enquiries and expressions of interest in finding out more about the Catholic Faith, from people of any (or no) faith perspective, as well as from Catholics who have been away from regular practice for a while. Journey in Faith/RCIA is a programme of informal and supportive discussions for adults who are searching and inquiring about the Catholic way of life, which may lead (in due course) to reception into the Catholic Church. The talks may also be of interest for existing parishioners who wish to deepen their understanding of the Faith. We organise RCIA programmes from time to time, where there is demand. If you are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith please contact one of our Priests.

For more about Catholicism and RCIA <http://www.beginningcatholic.com/catholic-rcia-stages>
See also Evangelisation – below.

Disability Matters - we welcome all those with a disability to play a full and active part in the life of the parish. We have a policy of ensuring safe and reasonable access to, and use of, the facilities at the church and the hall. The Pastoral Council is committed to ensuring that we meet our obligations, including considering making 'reasonable adjustments', when informed that an individual has a disability under the Equality Act 2010 (which incorporated the Disability Discrimination Act 1995).

i. Access to church and hall, including parking and toilets.

There are 2 disabled parking bays to the left of the car park (near the left-hand side entrance to the church). There is one shallow step at the main entrance of the church, but the left-hand side entrance is fitted with a ramp, which is adjacent to the disabled parking bays. Inside the

church, the layout of the benches allows wheelchairs to be positioned in the side chapels and alongside the main aisle of the front two benches. There is a single step from the nave to the chancel and a second step to the main altar. The main entrance to the hall is accessible via the broad paved pathway to the right-hand side of the church. Accessible toilet facilities are available off the corridor between the church and hall (accessible from the church, through the doors to the right of the altar, or from the front of the hall). These are normally available during weekend mass times and other services, as well as when the hall is in use.

ii. Holy Communion.

The Eucharist is distributed from the altar steps. If a wheelchair user or someone with limited mobility would like Holy Communion brought to them in their seat please inform one of the welcomers before mass. Gluten free hosts are available on request. If this is required please inform a welcomer before mass starts.

iii. Reading at mass.

If a parishioner on the reading rota has limited mobility such that access to the lectern is not feasible or safe, alternative arrangements will be considered in accordance with liturgical norms and the need to ensure safety.

iv. Hearing impediment.

The church is equipped with a hearing loop system for people with an appropriate hearing aid.

v. Visual impairment.

Large print Mass Books and Hymnals are available at the back of the church.

vi. Website access

The parish website is intended for a wide range of users, regardless of disability. The design incorporates clear font, good colour contrast and simple layout, and the font size can be adjusted for the visually impaired.

v.ii Queries about support for people with a disability

If you have particular needs not covered by these notes please contact the parish office and leave a message for one of the priests: Tel: 01865-762964, e-mail:

stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Ecumenical Outreach - Churches Together in Marston & Northway (CTMN)

The seven local churches in the fellowship of CTMN have a programme of shared services and activities throughout the year. Study Groups meet in Advent and Lent, and on the third Thursday of the months of October to June there are Ecumenical Quiet Days. A New Year Praise service is held in January and during this month we also mark The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. At the beginning of March we celebrate, with Christians worldwide, the Women's World Day of Prayer. These and other services within the regular programme are hosted, in turn, by the various member churches, but sometimes there are special occasions in specific churches. For example a youth led Stations of the Cross at St Anthony's has become a regular Lenten event. As part of our Outreach Programme, open air witness services are held on Good Friday and during the summer, and regular services are organised at Marston Court Care Home.

St Anthony's is currently represented on the Executive Group of CTMN, which is composed of religious and lay members, by Kathryn Hopkins. The Executive Group meets approximately four times a year and there is an AGM, open to all, each June. Details of CTMN activities will be given via the parish bulletin and the church notice board.

CTMN website: <http://www.stnicholasmarston.org.uk/churches-together-in-marston-northway/>

Contact: Kathryn Hopkins 01865 247864 khopkins256@btinternet.com

Evangelisation - Proclaim '15 initiative – ‘Building Missionary Parishes’

Launched in 2015 Proclaim'15 is a nationwide evangelisation initiative aiming to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation. Evangelisation, put quite simply is bringing the 'Good News' of the Gospel to others. <https://sycamore.fm/evangelisation/what-is-evangelisation/> and is central to the Church's ongoing mission. Since 2015 the parish has run several informal 'café' style faith development programmes arising from the initial Proclaim 15 discussion groups to help build community and encourage growth in the faith.

These have included:

The Sycamore Programme- <https://sycamore.fm/films/> offering a gentle introduction to questions about the Catholic Faith, via video clips and small group discussions.

'The Gift' - <http://www.thegiftofthespirit.org/> a course exploring the gifts of the Holy Spirit, through film and discussion in a Catholic context

Eucharistic Ministers Rota

We have a rota for lay Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic to support the Priests at Mass in distributing Holy Communion and in bringing Communion to those who are sick, or in hospital. If you have been confirmed and are interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister please speak to one of the Priests.

Flower Rota

If you are interested in joining the Church flower rota, or perhaps in contributing to providing the flowers which help to make our church beautiful, please contact Kit Adlington.

Contact: Kit Adlington 01865-769121

Hall - booking our Parish Hall

We are always keen to maximise use of our modern hall for parish activities and other functions. Parish liturgical celebrations and functions take priority and there are certain times when the hall is unavailable due to celebrations in Church. To book the hall, and for all enquiries, contact The Parish Administrator

Contact: The Parish Administrator: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Health & Safety

The Parish Priest retains overall responsibility for health and safety matters, in accordance with Diocesan policy. A health and safety representative is also normally appointed from among the parishioners to assist the Parish Priest. Concerns about health and safety should be reported to one of the priests.

Liturgy Group

Our priests convene a Liturgy Group several times a year to plan the practicalities of forthcoming liturgies and to reflect on past liturgical events. For example, Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Lunch Club (for older parishioners)

The lunch club provides an opportunity for older parishioners (those over 50, or retired) to meet together to share lunch in the Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. So we can plan for numbers, attendance is for members only. For further information and to join the club, please contact Margaret Batey Margaretbatey37@hotmail.co.uk

Maintenance matters

Matters relating to parish maintenance may be notified via a note/e-mail to the parish office, or the communications box at the back of the Church.

Men's Group

We are an informal and welcoming group which principally promotes prayer, fellowship, friendship and faith among men who regularly attend Mass at St Anthony's (whether Catholic or not) and their invited guests. The group normally meets on a monthly basis at someone's home, or at a suitable alternative venue. Activities include:

- A friendship and support network
- Discussion group for parish initiatives
- Prayer (often informal)
- Social gatherings e.g. pub, restaurant, walks and trips away
- Attending local lectures on religious matters
- Practical help with parish events and longer term projects

To join the e-mail list, contact: dominic.vella@cantab.net

Music

Our choir sings on major feast days and on the first Sunday of each month. It also leads the congregational singing for many of the other Sunday Masses. The music group provides music for the Sunday Mass about once every three weeks. The Choir is more traditional, while the music group uses modern liturgical music based on guitar, flutes, strings and part singing. Singers and instrumentalists are always welcome. For more information please contact:

Musical Director: Manus Henry 01865-750397 manus.henry@eng.ox.ac.uk

Prayer requests

Requests for prayers for parishioners and their families may be given to the priests, sent via e-mail or note to the parish office, or put in the communications box at the back of the church. Names will be added to the parish weekly newsletter and appear for a period of four weeks in the first instance, after which a new request will need to be made.

Prayer & Catholic Faith development – some practical resources

Pope Francis daily meditations-

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/it/cotidie/2016.index.html>

Pray as you go - <http://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

Prayers to St Anthony - common prayers through the ages

<http://www.santantonio.org/en/sa-category-archive/prayers-saint-anthony-0>

Sacred Space – short daily reflections - <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Birmingham Archdiocese website - <http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

Maryvale Institute – is the Diocesan centre for Catechetics (teaching) and Adult Education – helping lay people to a deeper knowledge of their faith <http://www.maryvale.ac.uk/>

Catholic Church in England & Wales - <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/>

CAFÉ - Catholic Faith Education – resources for faith development <http://faithcafe.org/>

Catholic Answers (US site, covering a range of topics) <https://www.catholic.com/topic>

Radiant Light - inspiring Christian art and images. <http://radiantlight.org.uk/>

Readers at Mass

A regular rota is maintained of those who have volunteered to read at Mass. Parishioners who have been confirmed are welcome to ask to join the rota. You are likely to read approximately once a month. The rota covers the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses; extra readers are needed during Christmas and Holy Week, when we draw up separate rotas of volunteers to cover the main services.

Contact: John Kirwan 01865-436936 johnkirwan1a@gmail.com

Sacristan

Our sacristan helps to maintain the Priests' robes, altar linen and supplies, etc.

Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Safeguarding

The parish takes its responsibility to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults seriously and operates in accordance with guidance from the Archdiocese of Birmingham's Safeguarding Team.

Contact: May Macpherson maymacpherson@hotmail.com

Social Committee

Our Social Committee helps to organise social events in the parish. These have included Christmas Bazaars, parish barbecues, international evening and New Year's Eve party. The aim is to work as a team and share responsibilities around so that no-one gets overloaded (we also draw on the Men's and Women's groups and other parishioners for support). You are very welcome to join us. For more information:

Contact: Lydia Vella lydia.r.vella@gmail.com

Schools – Catholic schools in the Oxford City area

St Joseph's Catholic Primary school, Headington, Primary school for 4-11 year olds, located on Headley Way almost opposite the church. OX3 7SX

School office: 01865-763357

Web site: www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Email: office.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk for general enquiries

admin.3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk for admissions and recruitment enquiries

St Gregory the Great, Cowley, Primary/Secondary school 4-19yrs.
Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DR
School office: 01865-749933
Web site: www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk
E-mail: stgregory@dbmac.org.uk

St Gregory the Great is an Academy within the Dominic Barberi Multi Academy - a developing system of 7 Catholic schools in Oxfordshire, formed in 2013.
Web site: www.dbmac.org.uk

Rye St Antony, Headington, Independent day and boarding school
(girls 3-18, boys 3-11yrs)
Rye St Antony, Pullen's Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BY
School office: 01865-762802
Web site: www.ryestantony.co.uk
E-mail: enquiries@ryestantony.co.uk

Shop/ Repository

The repository is our small shop at the back of the church, where you can buy cards, books and religious artefacts. It is normally open before and after weekend Masses.
Contact: Veronica Hanlon 01865-764233

Sick and housebound parishioners

Please notify the priests of sick, seriously ill or housebound parishioners. We regularly pray for the sick of our Parish and our Priests are happy to visit sick parishioners unable to attend Mass, or to confer the Sacraments, on request. If you want to be prayed for, or to have a home visit, it is important to let the priests know. **See Hospital, Housebound and sick parishioners (above).**

Stepping Stone Project - support to people with housing problems

Each Advent our children and young people bring toiletries and chocolates to the church on the Sundays leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Day these are delivered to the Stepping Stone project. The chocolates are shared with all those gathered for their Christmas Day Lunch at the project and the toiletries are used to support the shower and bath facilities at the project. The idea is that our children are encouraged to share things with others who have less than we do.

Website

Our parish website is maintained by Hilary Lappage 01865- 766393 larybean@tiscali.co.uk

Women's Group

The St Anthony of Padua Women's Group welcomes all women of the parish. We meet on Monday evenings in school term time; the time and venue is published in the weekly bulletin. We meet in each other's homes to pray together and to discuss and reflect on faith related topics. During Lent and Advent we will often reflect on a theme over a few weeks.
Contact: Catherine Mountford staofpwomensgroup@gmail.com

Young People

We actively encourage our younger people to be involved in every aspect of parish life as we believe that every young person has something important and unique to offer. We take seriously the gifts and talents of all our young people and what they can offer the community. We welcome all those between 11 and 18 years old to come and join us in youth events, and in serving the community, throughout the year. For more information please talk to the Priest after Mass, or contact Fran Walsh. f.walsh@dbmac.org.uk

Birmingham Catholic Youth Service website:

<http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/education-and-formation/youth-services/bcys/>

A Brief history of our Parish

(adapted from notes kindly provided by Mrs Joan Manuel)

1940. The Catholic population in Marston first had Mass celebrated in 1940 in the Community Hall, at the bottom of William Street, by Fr. Edward Swarbrick, OFM Cap, of the Franciscan Order, from the Greyfriars parish in Cowley – hence the subsequent name of the parish.

In 1949, Fr. Wilfred Jeffreys, OFM Cap, celebrated the first Mass in a new hut in Jack Straws Lane, on Whit Sunday. Like Fr. Swarbrick, he cycled from Greyfriars. The Parish was not formally constituted at that time, so depending on their home address children received the Sacraments either at Greyfriars or Corpus Christi parish in Headington. Fr. Albert Adams (later Canon), became the first Parish Priest, and was charged with the building of St. Anthony's. Much of this was funded by an "Envelope scheme", initiated by him. Eventually land was acquired and the foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Grimshaw, on 4th July, 1959.

1960. The completed Church was duly blessed by the Archbishop of Brimingham and the first Mass offered on 11th June, 1960.

1962. Fr. Thomas Browne succeeded Fr. Adams in 1962, and took up residence in 136 Headley Way, which had belonged to St. Anthony's since 1957. Prior to this, Fr. Adams had accommodation at Greyfriars, again, commuting to St. Anthony's by bicycle. Eventually a presbytery was built behind the Church. Fr. Browne retired in 1967.

1967. Mgr. Wilfred Doran then became parish priest and stayed with us for 21 years. At his request, he had a simple unmarked grave at Dunstan Road Cemetery, which is now marked with a small engraved wooden cross. In many ways Mgr. Doran was far ahead of his time. For example, in his Ecumenical understanding, which led to his long friendship with Rev. Paul Rimmer, Vicar of St. Nicholas Church, in Old Marston. Mgr Doran was also close friend of the writer J.R.R. Tolkien, a great benefactor of our Parish.

1988 Fr. Eamon Clarke brought great joy to our ever-growing Irish parishioners when appointed in 1988, remaining with us until 1993. He was jointly responsible for introducing the APF/MHM mission boxes to St. Anthony's.

1993. Fr. Eamon was succeeded by Fr. David Tams. Fr David very much encouraged the involvement of young people and families in the life of the parish. Under his direction the Sanctuary was reordered and refurbished, a permanent altar and font commissioned, the former incorporating a relic of St. Anthony, presented to us in 1956, by the Bishop of Assisi, Dom Joseph Nicolini, OSB. The woodwormed seating was replaced with the present benches and an organ was purchased with the help of various donations.

2001. When Fr. David moved to Acocks Green, Birmingham, in 2001, St. Anthony's was temporarily cared for by Fr. Martin Flatman and Fr. David Hartley, Hospital Chaplain, who were assisted by Deacon Bill Parker (who, prior to his ordination, had been Master of Ceremonies for many years).

2001. Fr. The-Quang Nguyen was appointed Parish Priest in August, 2001, and was assisted by Deacon Chris Blackman. Fr. The had the additional responsibility of overseeing the building of the Community Hall, attached to the Church, which was officially opened by Archbishop Vincent Nichols on 8 May 2005. Fr. The exercised his ministry with great humility and simplicity, remaining until 2006. Deacon Chris went on to serve at St. Peter's, Eynsham, and was a joint Chaplain to the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

2006. Fr. Aldo Tapparo was appointed and concelebrated the parish Golden Jubilee Mass in 2010. Fr Aldo brought a great richness to the Liturgy, celebrating Mass regularly in the Latin Rite and was an accomplished musician, with a love of singing, exercising his ministry, as hospital chaplain, with devotion, prayerfulness and compassion.

2012. Fr. Augustus Umanah, of the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP), assisted by Fr. Pius Duniya, (MSP), were appointed to serve the Parish in late 2012 and both also serve as hospital chaplains to the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

2013. Fr. Augustus formed a Pastoral Council and a Finance Council to assist with the development of the parish, in a spirit of 'co-responsibility' between priests and parishioners.

June 2016. The Sisters of the Assumption, closed their convent at 2 Harberton Mead, after some 50 years of dedicated service to the Parish, as well as to the local Catholic and wider Christian community. A special celebration was held at St Anthony's to thank all the Sisters and to wish them well. The Sisters are very much missed. They continue their work, in education, from other convents in England and across the World.

July 2018. Fr Augustus returned to Nigeria to take up another appointment, saying his last mass in the Parish on Sunday 29th July.

September 2018: Fr Pius was formally inducted as Parish Priest, by the Dean of the North Oxford Deanery, on Thursday 27th September.

November 2018: Fr Vincent Omokpakpo (MSP) joined the Parish from Nigeria, as Assistant Priest and Assistant Hospital Chaplain.

Some highlights in our Parish History

1996. In September 1996 Cardinal Basil Hume celebrated Mass in St. Anthony's as the Parish Church of the former Plater College, Oxford (located in Pullen's Lane), which was celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and of which he was Patron.

1997 Benemerenti medals (for service to the Church) were presented to several parishioners: Molly Hughes, Harry Dodson and Jack Cavanagh by the Episcopal Vicar, Canon John Moran. Trudy Coomber, another St. Anthony's parishioner was awarded a Benemerenti medal at Our Lady Help of Christians parish.

1998. Bill Parker, former Master of Ceremonies, was ordained a Deacon at St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham in 1998 by Archbishop Couve de Murville.

2000. St. Anthony's was finally consecrated on our Patron's Feast Day (13 June) by Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

2005 The parish hall was officially opened by Archbishop Vincent Nichols on 8 May 2005

2010. The Golden Jubilee Mass was celebrated on our Patron's Feast Day, by Bishop Mark Jabale and Fr Aldo Tapparo.
