

Please pray for those who have recently died: John Billington

...and for those whose anniversaries occur in December: Desmond Donovan, Michael Ong, Michael Bishop, Hugh Roberts, Jim Roberts, Ann Holden, Eileen Robertson

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 to: 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 November. There is no need to do so if their names were on the list in 2021/22.

Online prayer & 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](https://www.facebook.com/saop.oxford)

Hall bookings - Please email stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk for hall availability.

Mass Intentions: or the names of those for whom you would like us to pray should be sent to the Parish Office. The envelopes are available at the back. If you want your intention to be published in the bulletin, drop the intention and donation in the letter box by Thursday.

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the parish: Fr John Baggley, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank and Helen Kennedy, Margaret Wipp, Maureen O'Sullivan, Lorraine McNally, Peter Donnelly, Lilian Flores, Doreen Busby and Glenys Jones.

Dates for your diary...

Thank you

A big thank you to Craig and Philip for clearing the car park of leaves. It was a huge undertaking and much appreciated!

Thanks as well to Katherine, Roji, Boban, Jocelyn and Jessie for their help in changing over the mass books now that a new Liturgical year has started.

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Jane Kennett	Paul Moore
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am	Noah Odili	Hilary Lappage
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	May Macpherson	Ewa Posner
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Mary, Derek, Jane	Ewa, John, Eugene

The Archdiocese Commitment to Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is May Macpherson. She can be contacted at sg.stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk. The Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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Parish Priest: Fr. Emmanuel Ogunnaike, MSP: fr.emmanuel.ogunnaike@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony Bassey, MSP: fr.tony.bassey@rcaob.org.uk

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216
Parish secretary (Wed & Fri): stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

03rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent Year B



This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent season and a new liturgical year. We are, now, in Year B on Sunday. Prior to Vatican II, the same selected texts for the Sundays of the year are repeated the following year. The Sunday readings were also read on weekdays. Following the reforms of Vatican II (1962 to 1965), the liturgical year and lectionary for Sundays and weekdays were divided into a three-year cycle (A, B, and C) and a two-year cycle respectively, in order to provide a comprehensive reading from almost all the books of the Bible for better understanding of the word of God.

Advent season is observed as a time of special preparation to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a penitential, soul-searching, and spiritual reawakening journey to renew us to welcome the "Word Made Flesh." The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means coming.

Many churches are decorated with Advent wreath from this first Sunday of Advent. It is important to note that wreaths were used by many ancient cultures but the use of Advent wreath in churches is said to have begun among the Lutherans in the 16th century, and from there spread to other churches. Advent wreath further explains the meaning of Advent season:

The green wreath in circle form symbolizes God's eternity and everlasting life (Ps 90:2). Candle light symbolizes Jesus, the light of the world (Jn 8:12). The four candles symbolize the four weeks of Advent. The first purple candle is called Candle of Hope. "In his name, the nations will put their hope" (Mt 12:21). The hope that does not disappoint (Rom 5:5). The second purple candle is called Candle of Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6). The third candle, pink in colour, is called Candle of Joy. "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy" (Lk 2:10). The third purple candle, which is the fourth candle, is called Candle of Love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him may not perish, but have life eternal" (Jn 3:16). A good spiritual preparation makes every Christmas become the first Christmas. Let us pay attention to the readings of Advent season Masses. They will help us in the spiritual preparation.

Mass Times:

Mon—Fri 9.00am.

Saturday: 9am; Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday: 8.30am; 10am

Adoration & Confession

Saturday 5.30—6.15p.m.

Today's Reading: Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3.8; Ps 79; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Responsorial Psalm: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

NOTICES:

Year of Prayer, starting Advent 2023- In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year - entitled "Pilgrims of Hope" - 2024 has been designated as a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray and why they pray. Please see poster on the church noticeboard for more information, or go to www.vocations.org.uk/year-of-prayer-2024

Rye St Antony - Nine Lessons and Carols Service, Sunday 10th Dec from 6.30pm in church. All parishioners welcome. Service is followed by refreshments in the hall.

The Porch - as always, we plan to take gifts to the homeless at the Porch on Christmas Day. Please bring your donations of chocolates, biscuits, toiletries, gloves, scarves and hats and put them in the box at the back of the church.

Readers over Christmas period: Please can readers let Jane know their availability over Christmas. A list will be at the back of the church or you can contact her via jane.kennett@googlemail.com

Christmas bring and share, Sunday 17th Dec after 10am mass. In view of the fact that we are not having a Christmas bazaar this year, please bring Christmas biscuits, mince pies or cake to share over tea and coffee.

Banners on church fencing - Father Emmanuel has given the NHS permission to fix two vinyl banners on our fence to advertise for job vacancies, which will be up until the end of January.

Archdiocese of Birmingham directory for 2024 is now available: PUR (Perfect) Binding is: £5 and Wiro or Spiral Binding is: £6.

Walk with me Advent books and children's calendars are now available at the back of the church. Please put £1 donation in the CTS box.

Second collection

There will be a second collection for CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. Together, we pray for peace in the Holy Land this Advent.

There will be a second collection next week for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose Collection	£139.16
Gift Aid Envelopes	£35.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£176.00
Online giving via website	£00.00
Total	£350.16
Votive candles (with next week)	£70.87

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Second collection (Catholic Youth Services): £97.08

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 02nd December	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Repose of the Soul of Bea Santiago
	Vigil Mass	6:30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 03rd December	First Sunday of Advent Year B	8.30am	Joan O'Neill Birthday
		10.00am	Mary Mulholland RIP
Monday 04th December	Advent Feria	9.00am	Those gone away from the church
Tuesday 05th December	Feast of St Birinus, Bishop	9:00am	Souls of Josepha and Justiniano Antao
Wed 06th December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Repose of the soul of Jon Salazar
Thursday 07th December	Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9:00am	Desmond Donovan RIP
Friday 08th December	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00am	Aley Kutty RIP
Saturday 09th December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Rose Looney Ints
	Vigil Mass	6:30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th December	Second Sunday of Advent Year B	8.30am	Kate Mohan Ints
		10.00am	Mrs Ann Denise Holden RIP (1st Anniv)

Offertory Contribution: In addition to the weekly envelope offerings and the card reader there are other ways to contribute to the parish. If you do online banking, consider a monthly gift by Standing Order. You can set it up yourself or request for a Bank Standing Order form for you to complete and return to us or send directly to your bank.

Gift-Aid: If you pay Income Tax in the UK, please consider Gift-Aiding your donation to the parish. In this scheme the government give the church extra 25p on every pound you give. Example: if any tax-payer gives the church £100 donation for the year, the church will claim from the government extra £25 without any extra cost to the person. It's like giving £125 by that person. Help the Church to get the extra cash from the government. Please ask for the gift-aid form or bank standing order form. Forms are available at the back of the Church.