

Please pray for those who have recently died: John Billington

...and for those whose anniversaries occur in January: Julie Bevan, Mary McNally, Mary Lillis, Bernie Gavin, Dennis Chiles, Sally Roberts, Madeline Carvell, Fr Anthony de Vere, Thomse 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 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 January. There is no need to do so if their names were on the list in 2022/23.

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](#)

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...

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Agnes Valencak	Paul Moore
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am	Hilary Lappage	Rajesh Paul
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	John Barker	Michael Onobhayedo
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Ewa, John, Eugene	Mary, Derek, Jane

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/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

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

21st January 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



The focus of the Scripture readings this Sunday is on God's call, and the choice we humans have to heed that call or ignore it. It's always clear in Scripture that we are never forced by God, but lovingly invited, to take up the invitation to be a follower of the Lord and to give ourselves to a life of love and service of God and neighbour.

In the Book of Jonah, the minor prophet Jonah initially rejects God's call, but eventually gives himself tirelessly to the task of convincing the people of Nineveh of the need for rejecting sin and turning to God. For them, the time designated for doing so was forty days. Ultimately, the people heed the call of Jonah by turning from bad behaviour and back to God with sincere hearts. In the Gospel, we see Andrew and Peter, as well as the sons of Zebedee, James and John, being called by Jesus to "change their ways," which were not necessarily bad, but taking up a decidedly new way and different way of life as followers of Jesus, who, we are told, "summoned them on the spot," and they immediately "went off in Jesus' company."

However short or long our life might be, we have the opportunity to grow in our commitment to adhere to the Lord, to set bad actions aside, and to live good and honourable lives. The Book of Deuteronomy expresses the idea this way: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deut 6:5). None of us does this perfectly, but we're called to make it a priority in our daily existence nonetheless.

Reflecting on God's call in our life, we make see great deficiencies or disappointments in our ways of responding to that call, but we can always turn these into opportunities to do differently, better and more joyfully. Rather than be sad or disillusioned, we can become stronger in our approach to life and all that it entails. Jonah's initial reluctance and frustration in the face of God's call ultimately became an announcement of God's desire for the salvation of the world, centuries before the birth of Christ.

We depend on God to act in us and give us grace to make this all possible. Sometimes this is called the "way of the mystics," which doesn't mean have visions, hear voices or possessing the ability to levitate. Rather, it means being on fire for God's way, forgetting self and being wholly a person who knows, loves and serves God. Every day there are golden opportunities to extend God-like love to those who are in our lives or who cross our path unexpectedly. May the Lord grant us humble surrender to achieve our goals. "With God we shall do bravely," as Psalm 60(59):12, expresses it.

Today's Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 24; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.

Next Sunday: Deu 18:15-20; Ps94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Morning Prayers
Mon-Fri 8.40am
Mass Times:
Mon—Fri 9.00am.
Sat: 9am; **Vigil** 6.30pm
Sunday: 8.30am; 10am
Adoration & Confession
Saturday 5.30—6.15p.m.

NOTICES:
MSP Celebration Day, Friday 26th January 2024, 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY. Everyone is cordially invited to the Missionary Society of St Paul annual MSP celebration day. Or, for a celebration that is easily accessible for everyone in this parish, on Thursday 25th January - the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle - there will be tea and coffee after the 9am mass.

Week of Prayer 2024 - Churches together in Marston and Northway. An opportunity to share in the daily prayer of churches in Marston with a special shared service on Sunday 28th January led by Rivers of Life at Northway.

- Thu 18 Jan, 11am: Marston URC: Third Thursday Fellowship
- Mon 22 Jan, 9am: St Nicholas: Morning Prayer
- Tue 23 Jan, 7:15pm: Rivers of Life at Northway: Shared meal, prayer & worship
- Wed 24 Jan, 6pm: St Nicholas the Wonder Worker: Vespers
- Sun 28 Jan, 6pm: Rivers of Life at Northway: Joint Service

Annual Mission Appeal for the Missionary Society of St Paul - Rev. Fr. Peter Akor MSP of the Missionary Society of St. Paul (MSP) will make a Mission Appeal at all the Masses on the weekend of the 27th and 28th of January. The MSP is a religious congregation working in different parts of the world, committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvific work of God the Father in the Holy Spirit. The MSP invites you to support their mission appeal. There will be a retiring collection at all the Masses, or you can use your smartphone to donate using the QR code which can be found on the noticeboard. Thank you for supporting the work of the MSP and the training of their Seminarians.

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose Collection	£220.73
Gift Aid Envelopes	£30.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£30.00
Online giving via website	£00.00
Total	£280.73
Votive candles	£43.27

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 20th January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Judith Gama RIP
	Vigil mass	6:30pm	Mary Joseph RIP
Sunday 21st January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	Pat Fitzpatrick RIP
		10.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 22nd January	Feria in Ordinary Time	No mass	
Tuesday 23rd January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Madeline Carvell RIP (1st Anniv)
Wed 24th January	Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9:00am	Bernie Gavin & Mary Lillis RIP (3rd Anniv)
Thursday 25th January	Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle	9:00am	Prayers for the soul of M.L. Pap-pachen
Friday 26th January	Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops	9:00am	Evelyn Reidy Ints
Saturday 27th January	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Pat Fitzpatrick RIP
	Vigil mass	6:30pm	John Dougherty RIP
Sunday 28th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Filomeno Da Cruz Martins

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.