

Please pray for those who have recently died: John Billington

...and for those whose anniversaries occur in March: Fr John McNally, Elland Holland, Alf Hill, Peter Cassidy, Hugh O'Hara, Walter Garnham, Samuel Garnham, Mary Garnham

**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](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 March.** 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/](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](#)

**Hall bookings** - Please email [stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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...**


**8-Day Pilgrimage to Poland & The Divine Mercy 2024**, 7th - 14th May at £1,197 (twin sharing), led by Father Claro Conde. Bookings can be made via their website at <http://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk>

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Agnes Valencak	Jane Kennett
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am	Hilary Lappage	Rajesh Paul
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	May Macpherson	Caroline Griffiths
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](mailto:sg.stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk). The Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**St Anthony of Padua, Oxford**

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

**17th March 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B**



This is the final Sunday before Holy Week, which begins next Sunday with Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The readings for this week focus on God's covenant with us, even though we are often unfaithful. The first reading speaks of a new covenant. The second reading speaks of the obedience of Jesus Christ brought about our salvation. And in the gospel Jesus foretells his death and explains that those who follow him will find eternal life.

The three lessons from Scripture speak of time and have a fitting connection with Jesus coming to his "hour." Jeremiah the Prophet says, "The days are coming." The Letter to the Hebrews speaks about "In the days when Christ came in the flesh." And the Gospel text this Sunday announces, "The hour had come."

Jesus had already told his followers that he would lay down his life for them, like a good shepherd willing to die for his flock. Other sheep too, Jesus had said, not belonging to the original fold, would eventually join his flock (see the Gospel of John, chapter 10, verses 15 and 16). Mention in the Gospel today of the appearance of Greek Gentiles, that is, non-Jewish people, wishing to see Jesus, was an indication that it was time for Jesus to lay down his life, the hour of his glorification. Events surrounding the person of Jesus had been building up to a crisis or turning point in Jesus' ministry, and the time had now come.

The Gospel teaching is clear: if Jesus had to die to bring others to life, the disciple of Jesus must pass through death to self in order to reach eternal life. This includes physically dying, of course, but even before that, coming to prefer the things of God to one's own wants. This is the heart of Jesus' words: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me," (Mark 8:43), a parallel to words of Jesus in today's Gospel passage: "If anyone serves me, let that one follow me" (John 12:26).

What can one expect in doing so? The follower will be with Jesus, in the love of the Trinity for eternal life. Jesus speaks of his imminent departure to God but assures them of his return to bring them to the eternal habitation of God. This is so that the disciples may be where Jesus is.

What is being called for is selfless service, service of God and neighbour. Does this mean going to a far off place and opening a home for the dying? For most of us, probably not, but certainly the daily giving to those with whom we live, work, study, meet on the street or in stores, giving way and truly loving even the unruly. Only then will we be true followers of Christ and have true life in Christ, bearing good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

**Today's Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps50; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33**

**Responsorial Psalm: A pure heart create for me, O God.**

**Next Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps21; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47**

**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:

**Stations of the Cross - Fridays during Lent:** there will be stations of the cross after the 9am mass, and at 6.30pm on Fridays.

**Parish Pastoral Council** - thank you to all who have put their names forward. If you're looking for an opportunity to use your skills and talents to drive the parish forward, to service and to lead, to nurture and to support the community. Please speak to Father Emmanuel or email at [fr.emmanuel.ogunnaike@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.emmanuel.ogunnaike@rcaob.org.uk)

**Big Lenten Walk: CONGRATULATIONS!** We have achieved our 1000km target by week 5 of Lent (in fact we actually walked 1,111 km!). A huge **THANK YOU** to all who participated.

A total of £2,000 will be donated to CAFOD on behalf of the parish.

**Readers over Easter:** Please sign up your availability for reading over the Easter period on the list at the back of the church, or email Jane at [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com)

**Churches Together in Marston and Northway. Third Thursday Ecumenical Fellowship starting at 11am on Thursday March 21st**, to be held at Marston United Reformed Church, 352 Marston Road, Oxford OX3 0JB. This day will be led by Rev. Pauline Main. There will be a break for lunch - please bring a packed lunch, Cup-a-Soups will be provided, and the day will end at 2pm with tea and biscuits. The church has a hearing loop and parking is available on site. **All are welcome.**

**Café sessions in Lent:** four café-style sessions to be held on Thurs evenings in Lent, 7.15pm for 7.30pm, in Corpus Christi parish hall, on the theme of 'Prayer and living the Catholic Life' commencing Thursday 22nd Feb. Resources from the Catholic Sycamore Programme. Please see the noticeboard for more information.

**Night Prayer via Zoom** - Tuesdays in Lent at 9.30pm for 20 minutes. All are welcome to join in the peace of Compline (the Night Prayer of the Church), via Zoom, on Tuesdays in Lent (20th, 27th Feb, 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Mar) at 9.30pm. No need to book, just join here via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77238078564?pwd=oPnorMNMT08Kioa4TvKbmK4XkKfKzI.1>

**Spring Fun Day** at St Nicholas Parish Hall, 23rd March from 10am to 1pm. Egg hunt, crafts, cakes, and more. All welcome. See noticeboard for more information.

**General cleaning, 18th to 22nd March** after 9am mass. We are appealing for volunteers to help clean the church in preparation for Easter. Please lend a helping hand if you are able, thank you.

**Walk with me booklets** are available at the back of the church. Please donate £1 to the CTS box.

## Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose Collection	£261.51
Gift Aid Envelopes	£40.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£80.00
Online giving via website	£00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£381.51</b>
Votive candles (for 03.03 & 10.03)	£142.80

**Monthly standing orders : £1231**

**Second collection (Cathedral Maintenance):** £144.10

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 16th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Felismino Sarmento RIP
	Vigil mass	6:30pm	Louis Varkey
Sunday 17th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Birthday Thanksgiving Michael Onobhayedo
Monday 18th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Patsy Gibbons Ints
Tuesday 19th March	Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the blessed virgin Mary	9:00am	Katy Anthony Ints
Wed 20th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Repose of the soul of Pablo Tiano
Thursday 21st March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Pauline David and Staff Ints
Friday 22nd March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Ann Patterson RIP
Saturday 23rd March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Maria Luisa e Benevides de Carvalho RIP (4 months anniversary)
	Vigil mass	6:30pm	Jerry Devine RIP (anniversary)
Sunday 24th March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Joao da Sa Benevides RIP

**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.