

**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Kathy Stevens, Martin Moran and Robin Devenish

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

**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 December.** There is no need to do so if their names were on the list in 2023/2024.

**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 this 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:** Elizabeth Johnson, Frank Kennedy, Margaret Wipp, Maureen O'Sullivan, Lorraine McNally, Peter Donnelly, Nuala Lula McNally.

**Dates for your diary...**

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Christmas rota	Christmas rota
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Christmas rota	Christmas rota
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Christmas rota	Christmas rota
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Christmas rota	Christmas rota

#### ***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 concerns.*

## **St Anthony of Padua, Oxford**

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[www.facebook.com/saop.oxford](https://www.facebook.com/saop.oxford)



Presbytery and office: 01865 762964 | Parish priest: 07484 271876 |

Email: [stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

Priest-in-charge: Fr Anthony Bassey, MSP: [fr.tony.bassey@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

**21st December 2025**

**4th Sunday in Advent Year A**



Christ our Lord—and our divine election into holiness.

We are chosen and called by God into relationship. This divine calling demands a life of holiness, as Paul reminds the church in Rome in the second reading. This renewed state of life is because we belong to Christ; we have established a relationship with God, and been gifted with the grace of living as a community of holy people in the world.

This relationship changes and elevates us, from self-interest to consciousness of our communal bond with one another through Christ. The gift of holiness restores us to our common dignity, connects us to our shared nature with God, creates the consciousness of our shared noble state with one another, and motivates our communal interaction and growth in affectionate care for one another.

Similarly, the gospel reading points us to the theme of relationship, to call our attention to our bond of union with God and with one another. Through Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Ann, and Joseph, the son of David, God comes to abide with us, taking our nature and dwelling among us: *Emmanuel*, God with us.

The stories of this Sunday and season invite us to embrace the relationship of communal interest with one another. The visit of the Magi and the shepherds, the hospitality the holy family received in Egypt, the conversation between Simeon and Mary, and the proclamation of the prophet Anne to the inhabitants of Jerusalem reveal the character of the relationship that God brings to the human family.

So this Sunday we are exhorted to build up our relationships with one another, the foundation of which God established by dwelling among us. Let us remove the barriers of isolation, tear down the walls of racial division, so that we can connect with one another on the basis of our shared transcendent nature as God's children. Let us discourage activities that demonize others and diminish our appreciation of our shared humanity. In this season of Christmas, let us build one another up, because God has renewed our humanity by coming among us.

**Today's Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24**

**Responsorial Psalm: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.**

**Next Sunday: Eccl 3:2-6, 12.14; Ps127; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

#### **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:

Christmas and New Year Mass Times

Tuesday, 23rd Dec	9.00am 9.30am - 10.30am	Mass Confession
Wed, 24th Dec	9.00am 9.30 - 10.30am 7.00pm 10.30pm 11.00pm	Mass Confession Evening mass for Children & Elderly Christmas Carols Midnight Mass
Thursday, 25th Dec	8.30am 10.00am	Christmas Mass Christmas Mass
Friday, 26th Dec	9.00am	Feast of St Stephen
Sunday, 28th Dec	8.30am 10am	Feast of the Holy Family Feast of the Holy Family
Wed, 31st Dec	9.00am 10.30pm	Morning Mass New Year's Eve Mass
Thursday, 1st Jan	9.00am	New Year's Day Mass

**Christmas Social:** A huge thank you to all parishioners who worked tirelessly to help make the Christmas fundraiser a huge success. Thank you to all who joined in the festivities. We have raised £1,817.20!

**Welcome:** Father Stephen Ojapah MSP will be joining our parish as assistant priest from Saturday 20th December.

**The Porch:** Please bring donations of gloves, scarves, toiletries, chocolates and biscuits etc to put in the red box for delivery to The Porch before Xmas.

**Food bank:** The Community Food Bank thanks all those who donate non-perishable food for those who are struggling with the cost of living. They have made a special request for small bags of sugar, pasta sauces and tins of soup. Please help if you can.

**Walk with Me booklets for Advent** now available price £1.50. Please put money in CTS box at back of church.

**CAFOD Christmas gift brochures** available at back of church. Great presents at all prices!

**Confirmation:** This year's application form is available at the back of church. If your child is Yr 6 or above and wants to receive this sacrament, please complete the form and return to the parish office with a copy of their baptismal certificate, by the 21st December.

**Car park: QR CODE** now available for car registration validation (as an alternative to the tablet). Please use the QR code if the tablet is not working.

Parish appeal 2024/25

- The **card reader, parish website, or direct bank transfer.**

Bank details: RCAOB St Anthony of Padua. Sort code 60-10-28.  
Account number 66574919. Ref: Building

As of 17th Dec	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£266.61
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£166.00
Online giving via website	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£442.61</b>
Votive candles	£40.52

Monthly standing orders : **£1231**

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 20th December	Advent Feria	9.00am	Tom Healy RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Kevin O'Bryan RIP
Sunday 21st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Salvador Carrazedo Saldanha RIP
Monday 22nd December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Jim O'Connell RIP
Tuesday 23rd December	Advent Feria	9.00am	Desmond Donovan RIP (anniversary)
Wed 24th December	Advent Feria	9.00am	Tom Healy RIP
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
		7.00pm	Donors Intention
		11.00pm	Mary Lavelle RIP
Thursday 25th December	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	8.30am	Kevin O'Bryan RIP
		10.00am	Donors Intention
Friday 26th December	Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr	9.00am	Valerie Hester RIP
Saturday 27th December	Feast of St John, Apostle, Evangelist	9.00am	All Souls
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Tom Healy RIP
Sunday 28th December	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	8.30am	For the Holy Spirit to guide us in the right direction
		10.00am	People of the Parish

**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.