

**Please pray for those who have recently died:** Robin Devenish and Mary Veronica Francis

**...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, Glenys Jones

**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 January.** There is no need to do so if their names were on the list in 2024/25.

**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                  | Paulie Kumi                   | Nevin Vuddamalay            |
| <u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am | Noah Odili                    | Hilary Lappage              |
| Sunday Readers: 10:00 am       | Geoff O'Donoghue, Linda Uzoma | Tony Coates, May Macpherson |
| Eucharistic ministers (10am)   | Mary, Jane                    | Ewa, Eugene, 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 concerns.*

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

115 Headley Way, Oxford OX3 7SS | Web: [www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk](http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk)  
[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)  
Assistant Priest: Stephen Ojapah, MSP

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)

**18th January 2026**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary time Year A**



The first reading is the second of the "suffering servant" prophecies, found in Isaiah. These were prophecies uttered during the Babylonian exile to encourage the Jewish exiles to persevere in their trust in Yahweh, who would soon liberate them from Babylon, and eventually send them the long-expected Messiah, promised to Abraham.

In the second reading, he opening verses of this letter have been chosen for the reading because they show the prophecy, read in the first lesson, as fulfilled among the pagans, as well as emphasizing the purpose of the Messiah's coming: the sanctification and true enlightenment of all nations.

The Gospel is from *St. John* 1:29-34. The pages of the Gospel present John the Baptist as a symbolic example of a 'bridegroom's friend', as Christ's excellent and exemplary witness. The Baptist's pre-eminent witness was affirmed in two ways: firstly with regard to the content of his testimony and secondly with respect to its style.

With regard to the content of his testimony, the Baptist identified Jesus as '*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*' (Jn 1:29). Anticipating Jesus' messianic and salvific role, each of the four evangelists start their Gospels with the Baptist's words. The Lamb refers to the idea of salvation. The Lamb is the gift of liberation that, following the flight from Egypt, the Israelites sacrificed to the Lord. The Lamb recalls the servant of the Lord, the messianic image described by the Prophet Isaiah. The Lamb recalls the image of the Victorious Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse who at the end of time will definitively destroy evil and sin. John the Baptist is therefore, an authoritative witness who knew Jesus' exact identity and why He came amongst men.

With regard to John the Baptist's style, St John's Gospel (cfr Jn 3:28-29) presents St John the Baptist through the image of the 'bridegroom's friend'. He gives witness, yet is not positioned central to the events that are unfolding. His testimony is totally centralised on Christ. John indicates the presence of the Lord and then steps into the margins.

Today's Gospel offers us an eloquent example to imitate, so that we can also become Christ's authoritative witnesses. A believer can only give an authoritative witness if it coexists in perfect harmony with two of the Baptist's evangelical qualities. Firstly, knowledge of Christ that is cultivated through prayer, the sacramental and ecclesial life, reading good books and edifying friendships. Secondly, the constant attributes of a 'bridegroom's friend' who goes in search of the Groom through the virtue of humility because always, in everyone's life, Christ must increase and we must decrease!

#### **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.

**Today's Reading: Isa 49:3, 5-6; Ps 39; 1 Cor 1:1-3; John 1:29-34**

**Responsorial Psalm: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.**

**Next Sunday: Isaiah 9:1b-4; Ps26; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23**

NOTICES:

**Oxford pro-life coffee Social:** Saturday 24th January at 2pm. Colombia coffee roasters (267 Banbury Rd). Come and relax and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. Visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/> for more information. Newcomers are especially welcome.

**MSP Day Celebration,** Friday 23rd January 2026 at 6.30pm at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in London. Please see noticeboard for more information.

**Church Together in Marston and Northway Ecumenical Service,** Sunday 18th January at 4.00pm. We gather at URC Marston Church for an Ecumenical Service for the World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, led by Cara Heafey. See noticeboard for more information.

**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 16th Jan | Gift Aided | Non Gift Aided |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Last week      | £0         | £0             |
| Total          | £2,440     | £6,096         |

Last week’s offertory collection

| Offertory                      | Total          |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Loose collection               | £303.60        |
| Gift Aid Envelopes             | £0.00          |
| Card Reader Machine Collection | £123.00        |
| Online giving via website      | £0.00          |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>£426.60</b> |
| Votive candles                 | £28.88         |

Monthly standing orders : **£1231**

| Date                  | Day   | Time    | Intention                              |
|-----------------------|---|---------|--|
| Saturday 17th January | St Anthony, Abbot   | 9.00am  | Sean Finnegan RIP                      |
|                       | Vigil Mass  | 6.30pm  | Kevin Reaney RIP                       |
| Sunday 18th January   | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time                                | 8.30am  | People of the Parish                   |
|                       |   | 10.00am | Birthday Thanksgiving Charlie Lee      |
| Monday 19th January   | Feast of St Wulstan, Bishop                                   | 9:00am  | Masie Catlow RIP                       |
| Tuesday 20th January  | Feria in Ordinary Time  | 9.00am  | All Souls                              |
| Wed 21st January      | Memorial of St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr                          | 9.00am  | Sean Finnegan RIP                      |
|                       |   | 1.00pm  | JR Chapel                              |
| Thursday 22nd January | Feria in Ordinary Time  | 9.00am  | Sarah & Pat Daly 50th Anniversary      |
| Friday 23rd January   | Feria in Ordinary Time  | 9.00am  | Madeline Carvell RIP (3rd Anniversary) |
| Saturday 24th January | Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church | 9.00am  | Teresa Gallagher RIP                   |
|                       | Vigil Mass  | 6.30pm  | Frances Bigby RIP                      |
| Sunday 25th January   | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time                                 | 8.30am  | People of the Parish                   |
|                       |   | 10.00am | Mark Broughton-Taylor Intentions       |

**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.