

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

**...and for those whose anniversaries occur in February:** Fr Francis Ighorurhie MSP, Truc Nguyen, Rev Fr Joseph Etim MSP, Pauline Willan, Florrie Murphy, Gladys Glyn, Kathleen Cassidy, Ann Byrne, Julie Denning, John Denning, Gwen Evans

**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 February.** 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	Catherine Joseph	Agnes Valencak
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Rajesh Paul	Georges Yindom
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Ewa Posner, Jane Kennett	Caroline Griffiths, Monica Agyapong
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**

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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)  
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)

**01st February 2026**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A**



This Sunday the Gospel relates, through the words of the Evangelist Saint Matthew, the beginning of the "Sermon on the Mount," as it has come to be known. And more specifically, the conveying by Jesus of what we now call the, "Beatitudes," which outline the path of true happiness. If we listen attentively to Jesus' words, we can grow and deepen in our following of the Lord, who has called us each by name, and who desires that we find fulfilment in our adherence to Christ. What Jesus offers is a summary and a fulfilment of the Law of Moses, but in the case of Jesus, it is not so much a 'law' that is given, as it is a Gospel, that is, "good news," for all the nations, of all times and places, past, present and future.

The notion of law usually implies moral norms to be followed in order to obtain a reward, and these certainly have a place in the teaching of Jesus. More importantly, though, the Gospel message of Jesus is a proclamation that God's desire for our salvation of all, now realised and fulfilled in adhering to Christ the Lord. By our own baptism, we have "put on Christ," like receiving a new garment. We don't "take it," but rather "receive it," as a freely offered gift from our God. Consequently, baptism is a permanent reality, and we cannot be "unbaptized," despite the efforts of some nowadays in various parts of the world to be deemed "unbaptized," as though the sacrament could be "undone."

Jesus is asking us in the Beatitudes to become "poor," best understood as being humble-minded, rather than arrogant and haughty. We are also called to "mourn," not because we consider ourselves useless, but in order to recognize our wrong choices, have regret for them, and most importantly, to resolve to be guided by the teachings of the Gospel and the Church.

We need to be "meek" as well, that is, gentle-minded, which an expression of a peaceful soul. Showing mercy is also included in the Beatitudes, that is, a readiness to forgive, even when we are treated unfairly.

Purity of heart is also extolled in the Beatitudes, meaning being single-minded, with no evil intentions, but desiring the good of others. Being peacemakers is also singled out in the Beatitudes, since God is the Lord of Peace and we are called to be pursuers of peace.

Finally, even a willingness to suffer persecution should not be foreign to the follower of Christ. The persecuted are not to fear, but ever mindful of the reward of heaven for those who persevere in loving until the end.

May we be ready and willing at all time to share in this great journey of walking in the ways of the Lord, with the Beatitudes as guideposts along the way.

**Today's Reading:** Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13; Ps145; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

**Responsorial Psalm:** How happy are the poor in Spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Next Sunday:** Isaiah 58:6-20; Ps 111; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

#### **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:

**NO MASS on Fridays** - there will be no morning mass on Fridays until end-February. Please contact the parish office if you have mass intentions that will be affected by this change. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**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 30th Jan	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£311.18
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£193.00
Online giving via website	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£514.18</b>
Votive candles	£68.10

**Monthly standing orders : £1231**

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 31st January	Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest	9.00am	Sean Finnegan RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Holy mass for Fidelis Byrne
Sunday 01st February	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Holy mass for Pascal Byrne
Monday 02nd February	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord	9:00am	Frances Bigby RIP
Tuesday 03rd February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Sean Finnegan RIP
Wed 04th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Teresa Gallagher RIP
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 05th February	Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr	9.00am	For all Souls
Friday 06th February	Memorial of St Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs	9.00am	NO MASS
Saturday 07th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Aleykutty Louis RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Mark Broughton-Taylor Intentions
Sunday 08th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Mel Corrigan 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.