

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.

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/.

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](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyofpadua)

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: 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	Paul Moore	Diya Tomas
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Hiliary Lappage	Georges Yindom
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	May Macpherson	Ewa Posner, Caroline Griffiths
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Ewa, Eugene, Jane	Mary, 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 concerns.

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

115 Headley Way, Oxford OX3 7SS | Web: www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk
www.facebook.com/saop.oxford

Presbytery and office: 01865 762964 | Parish priest: 07484 271876 |
Email: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Priest-in-charge: Fr Anthony Bassey, MSP: fr.tony.bassey@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Stephen Ojapah, MSP: fr.stephen.ojapah@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

22nd February 2026

First Sunday of Lent Year A



Lent is a period of preparation for the central Christian events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Christ, the Son of God in human nature, died the excruciating death of crucifixion on Good Friday, because of the sins of the human race. By this supreme act of obedience to his heavenly Father he made atonement for all our disobediences, and set us free from the slavery of Satan and of sin. In his resurrection his human nature was glorified by God the Father, and in that glorification we are all offered a share and given the right to an eternal life of glory, if we follow Christ faithfully in this life.

The Church no longer imposes on us any obligatory daily fasting from food, but it urges us to find other means of mortifying ourselves, so as to show that we realize what Christ has done for us and what he has earned for us through his passion, death and resurrection. The example of Christ fasting from food for forty days, should move even the coldest Christian heart to try to do something to make reparation for past negligence and sins. Christ had no sin to atone for; it was for our sins that he mortified himself. We all have much to atone for. If, because of the demands of our present way of life, we cannot fast rigorously as our grandparents did, we can find many other less noticeable, but maybe nonetheless difficult, ways of subduing our human worldly inclinations. Where there is a will there is a way; the willing Christian will find ready substitutes for fasting.

The temptations, to which our Lord allowed himself to be submitted, are for us a source of encouragement and consolation. If our Lord and master under went temptation, we cannot and must not expect to live a Christian life without experiencing similar tests and trials. The three temptations Satan put to our Lord were suggestions to forget his purpose in life—his messianic mission of redemption. He was urged to get all the bodily comforts of life, all the self-glory which men could give him, and all the possessions and power this world has to offer.

Our basic temptations in life are the same: bodily comforts and pleasure, the empty esteem of our fellowman, wealth and power. There are millions of men and women on earth today—many of them nominal Christians—who have given in to these temptations and, are wasting their lives chasing after these unattainable shadows.

Today, let each one of us look into his heart and honestly examine his reaction to these temptations. Do we imitate our Savior and leader, and say "begone Satan"? We are here for a few short years, to merit the unending life which Christ has won for us. Would we be so foolish as to swap our inheritance for a mere mess of pottage?

Today's Reading: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Next Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4a; Ps32; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

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:

Bishop's visit: Bishop Richard will be visiting the parish next weekend (Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March).. He will preach at all Masses, will be visiting some of the sick and housebound , and will be having meetings with various parish groups. After the Sunday 10am Mass there will be a sandwich lunch prepared by the East Timor community, followed by a parish meeting to which all parishioners are encouraged to attend,.

Big Lent Walk - This year, we aim to walk or cycle 1,000km as a parish for £1/km. Please sign up on the noticeboard when you walk or cycle each week.

Lenten walk on Saturday 7th March - join Mary G and Lydia and walk to Blessed Dominic Barbari Church in Littlemore. Leaving the carpark at 10:15am. All welcome!

Walk with me booklets and children's calendars available at the back of church. £1.50. Please put money in the CTS box.

Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent at 930am and 7pm.

This weekend there will be a second collection for Family Fast Day . The appeal for CAFOD will be this weekend and the fast day is Friday 20th.

Café style discussions on aspects of prayer in Lent - Thursday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join in these engaging sessions exploring aspects of prayer, using resources from the acclaimed Sycamore programme. The discussions are a great way to explore and deepen your faith, share views and meet others. No need to sign up, just drop in - as and when you can. **When & where:** Four Thursday's in Lent: 26th Feb, 5th, 12th & 26th Mar, starting at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall (Corpus Christi RC Church, Margaret Road, Headington, OX3 8AJ) for just over an hour. Refreshments beforehand from 7.15. More info from johnkirwan1a@gmail.com

Divine Mercy Conference 2026, Friday 27th February to Sunday 1st March 2026. The conference can be viewed for free on www.shalomworld.org. See www.divinemercyconference.com 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 18th Feb	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£210.84
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£170.00
Online giving via website	£0.00
Total	£390.84
Votive candles	£100.11

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 21st February	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	9.00am	Katherine Rotherham RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Fatima Jong RIP
Sunday 22nd February	First Sunday of Lent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Daniella Dunleavy RIP
Monday 23rd February	Lent Feria	9:00am	All Souls
Tuesday 24th February	Lent Feria	9.00am	Katherine Rotherham RIP
Wed 25th February	Lent Feria	9.00am	Jim Cunningham RIP
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 26th February	Lent Feria	9.00am	John and Mary Audrey Robinson RIP
Friday 27th February	Lent Feria	9.00am	Mary Catlow RIP
Saturday 28th February	Lent Feria	9.00am	Annamma Chacko RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Gail Bradley Intentions
Sunday 01st March	Second Sunday of Lent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Jose & Monserrat Nuique Memoriam Mass

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.