

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	Agnes Valencak	Jane Kennett
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am	Georges Yindom	Noah Odili
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Caroline Griffiths, Monica Agyapong	Geoff O'Donoghue, Linda Uzoma
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

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

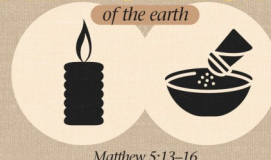
Priest-in-charge: Fr Anthony Bassey, MSP: fr.tony.bassey@rcaob.org.uk
 Assistant Priest: Stephen Ojapah, MSP

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

08th February 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time Year A

SALT & LIGHT



The three images in the Gospel are powerful and wonderful this weekend. We are to be salt, light, and a city built on a hilltop. What's interesting about these three images is that they're not self-serving. The purpose of these three things is to serve others. Salt adds flavour to food. Light helps show the way. And a city gathers a community together, shares resources and skills, and supports the good of all. So too, the Kingdom of God.

It's not for what I can get out of it, but rather what I can give to God and others. Salt is really valuable and important, but it's

only really useful when it's mixed with food or water, or when it interacts with food, to flavour, preserve, and purify it. Our faith only makes sense when it is mixed with practical actions, loving care and charity.

In different parts of different Gospels, our Lord uses a similar idea. Our identity in the Kingdom of God involves being well mixed into the rest of life. Whether it's salt mixed into food or leaven kneaded well into the dough, both give the image of really immersing oneself in life, mixing in with and lifting up the whole to new levels, transforming it for the better.

In the first reading, the question is posed: What kind of fasting pleases you most, O God? And the Lord answers, a true and pleasing fast to me is shown by feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, clothing the naked, loosening the unjust bonds that tie up the poor, breaking yokes and freeing from slavery, stopping speaking badly of others, and ending gossiping and slandering of others, avoiding any kind of hateful speech, refraining from pointing fingers. Jesus shows us the vision of the Kingdom that involves practical kindness and care for others, contributing to the raising up of others' dignity and the increase of compassion. Light guides our steps and draws us to safety, and, of course, a huge, attractive, welcoming city on a hill cannot be hidden; it's seen by all and inspires us and draws people to it.

If any of God's servants spent their days performing the actions of the disciple, but like someone who's play-acting or going through the motions, we would be as useless as stale salt and as unhelpful as a light that was never turned on, and as uninspiring and repulsive as a city hidden away and unwelcoming.

The readings this weekend clearly point us to how we are to live as disciples, to be generous, merciful and just, and to share of oneself, a sharing that hurts and can be a cross to carry. But with God's grace, we can be that disciple. Salt, light, a city.

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

Responsorial Psalm: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Next Sunday: Sirach 15:15-20; Ps118; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

NOTICES:

40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration, St John Henry Newman's Chapel at Littlemore. See noticeboard for more information.

- Friday, 13th Feb: Beginning with mass at 9am, exposition until 9pm
- Saturday, 14th Feb: Exposition 7am to 9pm
- Sunday, 15th Feb: Exposition 7am to 9pm

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 04th Feb	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£193.85
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£160.00
Online giving via website	£60.00
Total	£423.85
Votive candles	£86.20

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 07th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Aleykutty Louis RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Miguel de Carvalho RIP
Sunday 08th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	Praying for guidance
		10.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 09th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Sean Finnegan RIP
Tuesday 10th February	Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin	9.00am	Juliao Ximines RIP
Wed 11th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Maria Louisa e Benevides RIP
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 12th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Varghese Chacko RIP
Friday 13th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	NO MASS
Saturday 14th February	Feast of St Cyril, Monk, and St Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe	9.00am	Mel Corrigan RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Maisie Catlow RIP
Sunday 15th February	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	Nora Mayne 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.