

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](#)

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	Jane Kennett	Paul Moore
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Noah Odili	Hiliary Lappage
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Geoff O'Donoghue, Linda Uzoma	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. 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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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

15th February 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



We last had a reading from Sirach (or Ecclesiasticus) on the Feast of the Holy Family, where the title and nature of the book is introduced. In this first reading we hear a section stressing the free choice that we have, to do what is right or what is wrong; the poetry makes it appear very black and white. We shall get our just desserts; but we are encouraged to keep the commandments and trust in God. The responsorial Psalm seems very appropriate to this reading.

In the second reading we have the sequel to what we heard last week. Paul had a good secular education and was a Pharisee who knew the Scriptures well. Now, as a Christian and a leading light at that, he feels it is his vocation to spread the good news beyond the Jewish community to all people; and the church in Corinth exemplifies his achievements. But before going to Corinth, according to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles he tried using his excellent knowledge of contemporary philosophy and thinking, to persuade an audience to turn to his God, but without any great success. Now, writing to the Corinthians, he has realised that the wisdom that Christians experience is overwhelmingly mysterious, but revealed to us in Christ through the Spirit. We have access to this great wonder to enlighten the path we should take in our lives.

The gospel reading continues from where we read to last Sunday in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. In the light of what we know of the variations of attitudes in early Christianity to the Jewish Law and the acceptance of Gentiles, this section is interesting. Matthew here seems to propose that what Jesus taught was that the Jewish Law and teachings should not be done away with, but should be fulfilled. He expounds this in two ways; firstly, expressing the principles and clarifying what he means by 'fulfil' in this matter, and secondly, by giving examples of the challenging implications of these principles. For belonging to the kingdom of heaven, the teaching of Jesus is explained by Matthew as fulfilling the Law not just by keeping the letter of it as the Scribes and Pharisees do, but by understanding and acting upon the deeper and intensified significance of it. Six examples are used to clarify what is meant, of which we hear the first four. About murder, adultery, divorce and taking oaths. It is interesting that he writes that even the liturgical rule about bringing an offering to the altar must be set aside for the purpose of reconciliation with another person. What he writes about divorce is probably less severe than what we might read in Mark's gospel. But overall, we might express this reading's message as, 'fulfil the heart of the Christian rules for living rather than the letter of them!'

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

Responsorial Psalm: They are happy who follow God's law!

Next Sunday: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

NOTICES:

Ash Wednesday, 18th February. There will be an additional 6:30pm mass for Ash Wednesday.

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.

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.

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

Next 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.

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 11th Feb	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£249.31
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£210.00
Online giving via website	£0.00
Total	£469.31
Votive candles	£63.86

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Date	Day	Time	Intention
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
Monday 16th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Louis Varkey RIP
Tuesday 17th February	Feria in Ordinary Time	9.00am	Mark Broughton-Taylor Intentions
Wed 18th February	Ash Wednesday	9.00am	All Souls
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
		6.30pm	Dennis O'Callaghan RIP
Thursday 19th February	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	9.00am	P J Egan RIP
Friday 20th February	Friday after Ash Wednesday	9.00am	NO MASS
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 Dunleavey 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.