

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

**...and for those whose anniversaries occur in March:** Fr John McNally, Elland Holland, Alf Hill, Mary Garnham, Peter Cassidy, Hugh O'Hara, Walter Garnham, Samuel Garnham, Mary Garnham, Teodora Balatbat

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

**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...

**National Men's Pro-life Conference**, on April 18th at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual warfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. To book your place go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/> or contact [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk).

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Catherine Joseph	Agnes Velancak
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am		Hilary Lappage
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Jane Kennett Linda Uzoma	Mercy Christopher 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

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[www.facebook.com/saop.oxford](http://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: [fr.stephen.ojapah@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

**15th March 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A**



In the Gospel story today, Jesus says that the blindness of the man has even been ordained by God's Providence, as an occasion to manifest God's power on earth. Paradoxically, then, a blind man, living in what was considered darkness and error, in fact manifests God's glory and light to the world, and even to us today.

A miracle takes place; a man is able to see who previously could not. Those around Jesus see what has occurred and while unable to deny the fact of the miracle, refuse to accept the significance of the event. This is especially so in the case of the Pharisees. Their stand is clear: Jesus cured a man on the Sabbath, therefore the action cannot be from God nor has a prophet performed the cure. Yet the popular verdict is that indeed Jesus is sent from God and is a prophet.

How easy for us to be more like the opponents than advocates of Christ, fearing to put God in our lives, or better expressed, allowing God into our lives. We may prefer not to let faith enlighten our consciences and conduct. We may fear to know our responsibilities and obligations before God as Christ's followers. In reality, though, we cannot afford to walk in darkness through this life, like someone who has a driver's license but has no clue about the laws of the land regarding driving or the operating of a car.

When the man born blind is given sight he experiences a great peace and hope in his heart. When the opponents Jesus refuse to see and believe, they feel vexed and unhappy. Christ is being offered to us as the light of the world and we need to decide about the golden opportunity being given us, not just once, but every day and every minute. Will we accept or reject God's call and gifts?

If it is necessary to open the eyes of the body in order to see colour around us, so also is it necessary for a clearer mind and more informed conscience to have God actively at work in our lives, enlivening our faith. That happens when we leave ourselves open to be formed by God's word and sacraments of grace.

We are people who seek God. Sometimes we may feel overcome by the darkness, our brokenness, our tendency to stray and to put other things above the love of Christ, but we should never lose hope in the light of Christ. May the biblical readings for this Sunday in Lent enlighten our minds and show us the way we need to walk. May the bread and wine that become the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharistic celebration be the means of seeing our God present in our midst. May our common and private prayer help us see the path before us, not with fear but with confidence that Christ is with us at all times and everywhere.

**Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41**

**Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**Next Sunday: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Ps 129; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45**

### **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:

**Pro-Life coffee social-** Starting at 3.30pm on Saturday the 21st of March at 'Love Coffee Co', 231 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7HN. Whether you're new and would like to find out more, or a seasoned pro-lifer, come along to relax with like-minded people and stay connected with the pro-life community in and around Oxford. All welcome! Just turn up, or you can get in touch with us via <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/signup/>. Why not bring a friend along too?

**Churches Together in Marston and Northway** - Third Thursdays Together Ecumenical Fellowship starting 19th March. Each day will start at 11am with a break for lunch. Please see noticeboard for more information.

**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. **To date we have achieved 978.57wkm.**

**CAFOD Family fast day:** Chris Chukwu and the parish CAFOD group want to say a big thank you to all who contributed to the CAFOD collection for family fast day. The parish raised a wonderful £329.05, and this excludes donations made via the QR code or directly to the CAFOD website. Many, many thanks to you all for your continuing generosity to CAFOD.

**Sponsored walk for Parish Funds:** Mary G is arranging a sponsored walk to raise money for parish funds on Saturday May 2nd. She plans to meet at the church at 10:30am and get a number 14 bus to Osney Mead and then walk to the Isis pub at Iffley Lock. If you are interested please sign the list at the back of church.

**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 9.30am and 7pm.

**Farewell tea and coffee with Jo, Ed, Miriam and "Pip" Smith's** last Sunday, before their move to Cardiff is next weekend. Please come and say goodbye over coffee in the hall after 10am Mass on Sunday 15th March.

**Readers over Easter:** Please let Jane Kennett know your availability for reading over the Easter period (from Palm Sunday), either by signing the list at the back of church or by emailing [jane.kennett@googlemail.com](mailto:jane.kennett@googlemail.com).

We are very short of readers for the Sunday 08:00 Mass so please contact Jane or either of the priests if you can help out.

**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: RCOB St Anthony of Padua. Sort code 60-10-28. Account number 66574919. Ref: Building

As of .11th Mar	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

## Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£239.23
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£175.00
Online giving via website	£10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£434.23</b>
Votive candles	£48.72

**Monthly standing orders : £1231**

**Second collection** (Cathedral Maintenance): £124.00

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 14th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Mary Untier of knots
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 15th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	8.30am	Anne Rhodes RIP
		10.00am	Mary Therese Sanchez RIP
Monday 16th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	All Souls
Tuesday 17th March	Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	9.00am	Louis Varkey RIP
Wed 18th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Con Ailin Intentions
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 19th March	Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am	All Souls
Friday 20th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Christina Timmins
Saturday 21st March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Murray Sims RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Joan Manuell birthday (RIP)
Sunday 22nd March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	8.30am	Father Jim Blount Intentions
		10.00am	People of the Parish

**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.