

**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 April.** 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	Agnes Velancak	Easter rota
<u>Sunday Readers</u> : 8:30 am	Hilary Lappage	Easter rota
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Mercy Christopher May Macpherson	Easter rota
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Ewa, Eugene, Jane	Easter rota

### ***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)

**22nd March 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A**



At times, Christ acts weird! What If God Comes Late? Today, "When he heard that Lazarus, his friend, was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was." So, was Mary not justified to be angry? Was Marth not right to blame Christ? "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Indeed, this is a normal human reaction to disappointment, misfortune, and distress. It comes from a truly broken heart. It is a genuine search for answers to the "whys" of life. It is a search in the right place and from the right person, the All-powerful God and Creator of all things.

In today's quick, fast, and time-conscious world, Christ will have no job. He will be tagged as lazy and accused of negligence, irresponsibility, insensitivity, and uncharitable. Even though he had no connection with the cause of the patient's death, the blame for the death of many will be heaped on him. Of course, a duly constituted state or federal panel of inquiry will quiz him for many hours to indict him for negligence.

Sometimes, our loss could be so devastating and traumatic that we lose the capacity to see the other side of reality. It can be strong that someone other than us must be held responsible. Sometimes, it makes us lash out even at those who help us.

However, the same grief and trauma made it difficult for them to see the other perspective and reality of Christ as the Savior, the Resurrection, and Life. However, Christ helped them to see this by calming their nerves and pain. He attended to them, healed their broken hearts, restored their faith, and prepared them for the miracle of their life.

Dear brethren, has God come late to your rescue? Do not lose hope. He sees you. Dead or alive, Jesus loves you as he loved Lazarus and will surely be there when we least expect him. Is your heart broken for what and whom you have lost? God knows what that means to you. Do you seek answers to your whys? Take a break from your grief, pause as my friend did, and let God speak because he has a message for your broken heart and traumatized body.

Yes, God knows, sees, and will surely come. God is never late. Even if God comes late by our human reckoning, He will make all things new. If we believe like Martha, He will heal our brokenness and raise us by the power of the Holy Spirit as he raised Lazarus today.

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

**Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

**Next Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**NOTICES:**

**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 978.57km.**

**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.

**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.

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

As of 18th Mar	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

**Last week's offertory collection**

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£223.65
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£150.00
Online giving via website	£120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£503.65</b>
Votive candles	£129.74

**Monthly standing orders : £1231**

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 21st March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Sara Maria Roji 1st Birthday
	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
Monday 23rd March	Lent Feria	9:00am	For All Souls
Tuesday 24th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Sheila Jennings RIP
Wed 25th March	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	9.00am	Aleykutty RIP (Anniversary)
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 26th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Murray Sims RIP
Friday 27th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Thanksgiving mass
Saturday 28th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Annamma Chacko RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Spread of the faith
Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	8.30am	Vincent Barron RIP
		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.