

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

...and for those whose anniversaries occur in April: Jean Collard, Gerry Buck, Ted Busbey, Edward Murphy, Ann McNally, Leonardo De Guzman, Patricia Wilson, Joseph Igwe Ovia, Jim Robertson, Sr Bernadette, Erlinda Tianio

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 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/.

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	Jane Kennett	Paulie Kumi
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Rajesh Paul	Georges Yindom
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Ewa Posner, Caroline Griffith	Geoff O'Donoghue, Linda Uzoma
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: 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

12th April 2026

Second Sunday of Easter Year A



Doubt sometimes gets a bad reputation, but I want to defend its value in the journey of faith. In today's gospel, the apostle Thomas is absent for Jesus's post-resurrection appearance to those early followers who were in hiding out of fear. When he returns to the others, he handles the news of Jesus's appearance with incredulity and scepticism, raising doubts about what happened, in the absence of empirical evidence or physical proof.

Doubt is the very condition of the possibility of knowledge, and scepticism that leads to deep questions can be constructive. Think of methods used in scientific research that propose hypotheses and continually ask further questions to help gain greater clarity about our complex world through experimentation. Or think about the healthy scepticism maintained by professional and ethical journalists who do not take simple, rote answers at face value, but inquire further and follow the facts to bring truth to light.

Or consider the role of doubt in the life of Christian faith. Absolute certainty is not what we are asked to embrace as people of faith, but we are invited to *believe*. And sincere belief must grapple with questions, uncertainties, and the challenges of paradoxes and mysteries whose answers lie far beyond our limited horizon of knowledge.

While perpetual doubt can be paralyzing and disheartening, having doubt can show that we are open to the Holy Spirit's guidance and disclosure instead of insisting that we already have all the answers. It's a necessary ingredient in imagining other possible worlds and considering how things could be more in line with God's will. This is what we see reflected in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, where we hear a description of church and society that looks extraordinarily different from the ones we know today.

The vision is one where members of the community live in this world in such a manner as to embody the reign of God on earth. What we see is a community of devotion, mutuality, care, and equality. The value and dignity of each individual is not determined by their wealth or some specialized skill but is instead intrinsic to their being and reflected in their shared participation in the life of the community.

One precondition of this sort of life in community is *doubt* about the prevailing norms and social standards that prioritize individual rights, financial gain at any costs, private comfort over collective interdependence, violence and might over peace and equity, and selfishness over selflessness. The passage from 1 Peter reminds us that Christ himself is the foundation for this kind of constructive doubt about the *status quo* that leads to adopting the approach Jesus outlined about the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God. Jesus' own life, death, and resurrection bears witness to the possibility of another way of being in the world, one that is "foolish" according to the so-called wisdom of our times, but one that is the true way of God.

Today's Reading: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 117; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Responsorial Psalm: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

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:

Big Lent Walk - Congratulations to all who took part in the Parish Big Lent walk and Cycle event. You totalled 2002km, raising a massive £2002 for CAFOD. Many, many thanks and congratulations from Chris Chukwu and the parish CAFOD team.

Financial report 2025: The financial report for 2025 is now on the website and a summary is available at the back of church, with further details on the noticeboard.

Sponsored walk for Parish Funds: Mary G is arranging a sponsored walk to raise money for parish funds on **Saturday May 9th**. 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 and if you can't take part yourself then PLEASE SPONSOR MARY!

Day of Healing, Saturday 18th April from 10.30am to 4pm. Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 59 Hollow Way OX4 2ND. Contact info@littlewayhealingministries.com or see noticeboard for more information.

Oxford Pro-Life Drinks. Saturday 18th April | 7.00pm | The Victoria, (90 Walton St, Oxford OX2 6EB). Come along to relax with like-minded people and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. New comers are especially welcome! Just turn up, and why not bring a friend? [Visit our website](#) for more info and to RSVP oxfordprolife.org.uk.

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.

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 08th Apr	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,440	£6,096

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose collection	£622.17
Gift Aid Envelopes	£0.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£374.00
Online giving via website	£10.00
Total	£1,006.17
Votive candles	£46.47

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Second collection (Holy Places): £201.98

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 11th April	Easter Saturday, Solemnity	9.00am	Linda Hanley
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 12th April	Second Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Sean Freeman RIP
		10.00am	Milou Verloot RIP
Monday 13th April	Easter Feria	9:00am	Robert Fogarty RIP
Tuesday 14th April	Easter Feria	9.00am	Aleykutty Louis RIP
Wed 15th April	Easter Feria	9.00am	Peggy Green
		1.00pm	JR Chapel
Thursday 16th April	Easter Feria	9.00am	Varghese Chacko RIP
Friday 17th April	Easter Feria	9.00am	Betty Duggan RIP
Saturday 18th April	Easter Feria	9.00am	Dympna Corey RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 19th April	Third Sunday of Easter	8.30am	Edward and Mary Murphy RIP
		10.00am	Birthday Thanksgiving Mary Griffin

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.