

Please pray for those who have recently died: Chris Byrne, Shaun McCarthy and Josephine Doran.

...and for those whose anniversaries occur in December: Desmond Donovan, Michael Ong, Michael Bishop, Hugh Roberts, Jim Roberts, Ann Holden, Eileen Robertson, Josefino Salazar, Lolito Santiago

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 December. There is no need to do so if their names were on the list in 2022/23.

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: Fr John Baggley, Elizabeth Johnson, Frank and Helen Kennedy, Margaret Wipp, Maureen O'Sullivan, Lorraine McNally, Peter Donnelly, Lilian Flores, Doreen Busby, Glenys Jones, Nuala Lula McNally

Dates for your diary...

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Catherine Joseph	Agnes Valencak
Sunday Readers: 8:30 am	Noah Odili	Hilary Lappage
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Aodora Chukwu, Tony Coates	May Macpherson, Patricia Iyiegbu
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Mary, Derek, Jane	Ewa, John, Eugene

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 concern.

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

115 Headley Way, Oxford OX3 7SS | Web: www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk
www.facebook.com/saop.oxford

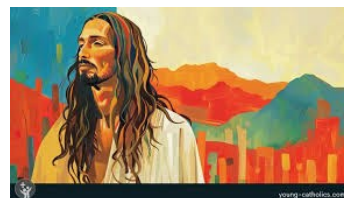


Presbytery and office: 01865 762964 | Parish priest: 07484 271876 |
Email: stanthonyop.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Emmanuel Ogunnaike, MSP: fr.emmanuel.ogunnaike@rcaob.org.uk
Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony Bassey, MSP: fr.tony.bassey@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

8th December 2024
Second Sunday in Advent, Year C



To help us prepare for the commemoration of Christ's coming on earth at Christmas the Church has chosen these words of the Old Testament which spoke of the new Jerusalem, the new kingdom which the Messiah would set up when he came. As the Jews of old looked forward with hope to that day, we now should look back to it with joy and especially with thanksgiving. God created us, he gave us great gifts, we abused these gifts to insult him, yet he not only was willing to forgive us but he went to the length of sending his divine son to become like one of us, to live with us and die for us. Only God could have such love, such mercy, such a forgiving spirit.

The "day of Christ," the day of the Parousia or of his coming in glory to judge the whole world, was anxiously looked for in the early Church. Many of the first-generation Christians thought it would come in their life-time. Christ did not reveal when his Second Coming would be, but he did tell us to be always ready. This much we know, each one of us will appear before him to be judged at the moment of our death and that moment will decide for us how his Second Coming will affect us. And the decision, granted God's grace, is up to each one of us.

The **Gospel** is from *Luke 3:1-6*. The preaching of John the Baptist, quoting Isaiah, which echoed and re-echoed around the Jordan valley nearly two thousands years ago, should ring in our ears today too. We are preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and the prophet tells us how we should prepare ourselves if the welcome we give our Saviour's is to be sincere and true. Even the best and the holiest amongst us will have to admit that our paths—our dealings with God—over the past twelve months have been far from straight and smooth. Alas, looking back over the past year, most, if not all of us, will have to feel ashamed of our meanness, our ingratitude towards the good God, to whom we owe everything we have.

However, Christmas is the commemoration of that greatest gift of his mercy which God bestowed on this world, and if we but humbly beat our breasts and admit our meanness—if we lower the mountains of selfish pride and fill up the valleys of laziness and forgetfulness by turning to him with hearts full of gratitude and repentance, there will be mercy in abundance even for the greatest sinner amongst us. Christ will come to us with the "salvation of God" and we can confidently hope to live the coming year as we should, as grateful children of our Loving Father in heaven.

Today's Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; Ps 125; Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Next Sunday: Zephaniah 3:14-18; Is 12; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

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:

Second Collection: There is a second collection this weekend for the Poor Parishes Fund.

Car park changes: The ANPR camera, signage and in-church tablet have been installed. The implications for car park users is summarised on a handout available at the back of church, on the notice board and on the website.

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas

This Christmas, buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a catalogue in church.

The Porch: as always we will be collecting for the homeless during Advent and donating to the Porch at Xmas. Please bring toiletries, sanitary products, chocolates, biscuits, socks, hats and gloves to put in the red box.

Roof replacement notice - Whilst scaffolding is in place the garden is out of bounds to children.

Walk with Me: Booklets and Children's calendar at back of church. Please put £1 in the CTS box in the wall.

The Jubilee year starts at the beginning of Advent.. A companion booklet explaining the Jubilee from the point of view of scripture. £1.50. Money in CTS box please.

Pastoral Council meeting Monday December 9th. 7pm in parish office.

Christmas and New Year Mass Schedule 2024

Monday, 23rd Dec	9.00am 9.30am - 10.30am	Mass Confession
Tuesday, 24th Dec	9.00am 9.30 - 10.30am 7.00pm 10.30pm 11.00pm	Mass Confession Evening mass for Children & Elderly Christmas Carols Midnight Mass
Wed, 25th Dec	9.00am	Christmas Mass
Thursday, 26th Dec	9.00am	Morning Mass
Tuesday, 31st Dec	9.00am 10.30pm	Holy Family Mass New Year's Eve Mass
Wednesday, 1st Jan	9.00am	New Year's Day Mass

Parish appeal 2024

Please can all parishioners consider how they can help reduce this debt to the parish:

- 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 Dec	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£50	£0
Total	£2,220	£5,696

Last week's offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose Collection	£404.04
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£205.00
Online giving via website	£100.00
Total	£719.04
Votive candles	£91.73

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 07th December	Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	9:00am	Friends and family of the Da Costa family
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Donors Intentions
Sunday 08th December	Second Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Aley Kutty Louis RIP
		10.00am	People of the Parish
Monday 09th December	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00am	Donors Intentions
Tuesday 10th December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Donors Intentions
Wed 11th December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Birthday thanksgiving mass Eugene Onobhayedo
		1.00pm	John Radcliffe Chapel
Thursday 12th December	Advent Feria	9:00am	Varghese Chacko RIP
Friday 13th December	Memorial St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	9:00am	Donors Intentions
Saturday 14th December	Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	9:00am	Donors Intentions
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Donors Intentions
Sunday 15th December	Third Sunday of Advent	8.30am	Donors 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.