

Please pray for those who have recently died: Gwen Evans

...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, 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.

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 2023/2024.

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, Nuala Lula McNally

Dates for your diary...

Catholic Men: Looking for Faith, Friendship, and Fun? The Catenians could be your perfect match! They're an international network of Catholic men who meet regularly to support each other, strengthen faith, and most importantly - have a great time together. Visit their website: <https://www.thamesvalleycatenians.org.uk/>

	This weekend	Next weekend
Vigil readers	Catherine Joseph	Agnes Valencak
<u>Sunday Readers:</u> 8:30 am	Georges Yindom	Noah Odili
Sunday Readers: 10:00 am	Ewa Posner, John Barker	Geoff O'Donoghue, Linda Uzoma
Eucharistic ministers (10am)	Ewa, John, Eugene	Mary, 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 concern.

St Anthony of Padua, Oxford

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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

23rd March 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent Year C



The third Sunday of Lent is not so much centred on an event in Christ's life, but is concerned with Jesus' teaching on the patience, mercy and love of our God. The three readings assigned for this Sunday all touch on the importance of place hope in God, the All-Merciful and Giver-of-life, who is always ready to forgive transgressors.

In this Sunday's Gospel passage Jesus is teaching his disciples never to let their lives be so out of control or far from God that the turning to God becomes more and more difficult, though never impossible. Our free will is just that: not being forced to choose for God and the ways of the Gospel, but truly free, leaving us with the ability to choose for God and life or seek the way of error and separation from God. That we want to avoid at all costs. It is never too late to turn to God.

Someone has said that we Christians speak much about God but in fact very little to God. In Lent we are being called to speak to God, to be people of prayer, striving for union with our Maker, at all times and everywhere. Our annual observance of Lent, forty days of special prayer, fasting and almsgiving or doing good, is a golden opportunity to meet our God and belong more fully to the One who ultimately satisfies the longings of the human heart. Today is the acceptable time to return to God and to produce fruit in our life, the time to experience God's loving mercy and to offer our forgiveness to those who have offended us in the past or are offending us now. This is the acceptable time to be kind-hearted and give others another chance. Christ can more freely enter our lives under such conditions, when we leave ourselves open to true life and love.

When we unite to celebrate the Eucharist, in our Church we experience the presence of God in our midst and we thank God for such goodness and patience with us. Salvation history is the story of God's redeeming mercy, expressed in faithful patience with all people past, present and to come. And "another year" is being offered to us to bear fruit.

The good fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. And the greatest fruit produced is love and forgiveness toward all. We are only able to do this by the grace of God. May God's grace come abundantly into our lives today and throughout these forty days of Lent. The Lord has promised to be at our side in good times and bad, in joy and in sorrow, and in this we can take great delight, for our God will never abandon us.

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: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Ps102; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love.

Next Sunday: Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 33; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

NOTICES:

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent after the 9.am Mass and at 7pm.

Walk With Me booklets and Children’s Jubilee Calendars for Lent available at the back of church. Please put the money in the CTS box.

BIG LENT WALK. A group from the parish CAFOD supporter group are planning to walk 250km during Lent and are hoping to raise £1000. Please support them with your prayers and, if possible, with your sponsorship! Details of ways in which you can do so are on the CAFOD noticeboard in the porch but the simplest way is via Just Giving (on the Just Giving website search: SAOP Oxford The CAFOD 3).

Lenten discussion groups:

1 Churches Together in Marston and Northway, Ecumenical discussion groups for Lent based on the hymn “There is a green hill far away”. 2 venues in Marston on Thursdays at 10am and 7.30pm, starting on 6th March. To book your place, please contact Ian 078 6020 9998 (morning session) or Val 246 157 (evening sessions).

2. 'Let it Be' - Lent 2025 - Informal Café style discussions on how Mary helps us to be filled with God's love. The discussions are a great way to explore and deepen your faith, share views and meet others. No need to sign up, just drop in - as and when you can. **When & where:** Thursday’s: 6th, 13th & 27th Mar, 3rd & 10th April) starting at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at Corpus Christi Church. More info from johnkiwan1a@gmail.com

Volunteers needed: Fr E would like volunteers to form a new Parish Social Committee (which hasn't functioned since lockdown), to plan social events for 2025. Please contact Fr directly or via the parish office.

Car park changes: PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY FINES ISSUED UNLESS THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE TABLETS, IN WHICH CASE PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE IMMEDIATELY (by phone or email).

St Joseph’s School fundraising raffle. £1 per ticket or £5 for a book. 1ST PRIZE £100 AMAZON VOUCHER! Plus Vouchers for haircuts, meals out, Ridgeway Adventures, Ghost tour, Crocodiles of the World, Cotswold Wildlife park. Easter Eggs, bottles of wine, chocolates, perfume, toiletries plus many more great prizes! Email Natasha Yeates on yf625stjosephsoxford@yahoo.com your name and how many tickets. Mark payments “friends and family” Natasha will leave tickets at the back of Church. Draw 4th April

Grants available (deadline 27/3) The Trustees of the St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust are delighted to invite applications for grants towards Catholic and pro-life causes. We have a total of around £1000 to distribute. For more information, visit sfd.org.uk or contact Ed Smith via info@sfd.org.uk. The deadline for grant applications is Thursday 27th March.

24 Hours for the Lord – “You are My Hope”. A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation introduced by Pope Francis, for churches to observe an extended time of Eucharistic Adoration within the parish alongside an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We are appealing for volunteers to come forward to stay with the Blessed Sacrament in the Church Hall at every hour, starting from 6pm Friday 28th March to 6pm Saturday 29th March. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church – more than one person can sign up for a particular hour. It is important that the Blessed Sacrament is not left alone without anyone keeping watch. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church; alternatively please click on the google form link to submit your name and timeslot: <https://forms.gle/xzrcYA2GHYBP5ah29>

Please check the church website at 2pm on Friday 28th March to ensure that the event is going forward.

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 19th Mar	Gift Aided	Non Gift Aided
Last week	£0	£0
Total	£2,290	£6,046

Last week’s offertory collection

Offertory	Total
Loose Collection	£323.64
Gift Aid Envelopes	£10.00
Card Reader Machine Collection	£170.00
Online giving via website	£235.00
Total	£738.64
Votive candles	£92.33

Monthly standing orders : £1231

Second collection (National Shrine of Our Lady) £139.71

Date	Day	Time	Intention
Saturday 22nd March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Terry Kennedy
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 23rd March	Third Sunday of Lent	8.30am	James Reidy
		10.00am	Joao de sa Benevides RIP
Monday 24th March	Solemnity of the Annunciation of	9:00am	For a successful operation
Tuesday 25th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	May Devereux RIP
Wed 26th March	Lent Feria	9.00am	Private Intentions
		1.00pm	John Radcliffe Chapel
Thursday 27th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Ben O’Reilly RIP
Friday 28th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Gerry Smith
Saturday 29th March	Lent Feria	9:00am	Annamma Chacko RIP
	Vigil Mass	6.30pm	Jerry Devine RIP
Sunday 30th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.00am	John O’Connor Intentions

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.