



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church  
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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Year B) – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Psalm – My soul glorifies the Lord.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prophet Isaiah describes for us the role of the Spirit in our lives, the same Spirit we have received in the sacrament of baptism and confirmation. We have been anointed for a reason, essentially to bring the Lord to those who are most in need of Him. The Spirit is not just for me, the Spirit is given to me to be shared and passed on to others. We are called to be the good news, to soothe, to free, to release, and to comfort. It is the Lord who achieves all these things, and we are called to bear witness to what the Lord is doing.

To bear witness presumes we know what we are testifying about. If it is God, then we need to have spent time with God and listened to His voice speaking to us through the Scriptures, the Church, the Magisterium, other people, my own conscience, and my own experiences. Once I have listened to all these, then I can begin to bear witness. For St. Francis of Assisi, the primary way of bearing witness is to be a true follower of the poor and crucified Lord – words come later if necessary. St. Francis has very practical advice on what this all means in practice: do not engage in arguments or disputes, do not quarrel, grumble, or detract from others, nor judge or condemn. Instead, keep silence whenever God gives you the grace (Earlier Rule).

This list is not exhaustive, but illustrates the point that our life as a witness of the Lord is very radical and it affects our whole way of life. It goes to the very heart of who we are, people created in the image and likeness of God who are actually showing that likeness off or hiding it from others depending on the choices we make. We need to pray for the gift of the Spirit to lead us in the right direction, to appreciate and discover the truth of who we are, and to be able to bear witness to God by a life of faithfulness.

As part of our on-going journey of conversion this Advent, let us take up the example of St. Francis and pray for the grace of silence in order to show the image of a patient God to others. Be patient with yourself if you fail too many times.

**Dr Herlander Pereira R.I.P.** – We are praying for the repose of the soul of Dr Pereira whose funeral will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> December at 11:30am. Let us also remember his wife and the family at this difficult time. May he rest in peace. Amen

**Carol Service:** Helping us to prepare for Christmas we will be having our carol service on **Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm** in the church. We cannot join in the singing, but we can come to listen, pray and reflect together. Please book via our website.

**Holy Communion 2021** - If your child is in Yr.3 – Yr.6 of primary school and you would like them to be prepared for their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion in 2021, then please go to our Sacraments page on the website and fill out the relevant form - alternatively please contact the parish priest. You have until the end of this year to apply.

**Confirmation 2021** - If you would like to sign your child up for our Confirmation programme, please go to our Sacraments page and fill out the relevant form – alternatively please contact the parish priest. You have until the end of this year to apply.

#### **Mass Times and Intentions**

##### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

9.00am	Odete Pinto
11.00am	Fiona McPhail
5.30pm	Maria Auxiliadora Domingues Paiva

##### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

###### **St. John of the Cross**

7.30am	Una McWeeny
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##### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30am	St. Anthony's Guild
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##### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30am	Kieran Hughes
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##### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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##### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30am	Pious Union
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##### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

###### **Dedication of the Church**

8.00am	Br. Anthony's Intentions
6.30pm	Elizabeth McPhail

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick. If you are aware of somebody in our community who is sick and in need of our prayers, please ask them to contact the parish or let us have their contact details.