



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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4th Sunday of Lent (Year B) – 14th March 2021

1st Reading – 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm – O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

2nd Reading – Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel – John 3:14-21

The readings tell us today of the faithful love of God, its greatness and endurance. The first reading reminds us of the solicitude that God shows towards His temple, namely us. He allows us at times to be totally emptied, ransacked, burnt down, only to display His power by rebuilding us anew. We belong to Him, and no matter what sin we have chosen to commit, the Lord is planning our renewal. Just like in the first reading, that work may come about through means we would not expect.

St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians describes this work of God even more explicitly: it is God's initiative, it is God's gift, it is the Lord's doing. This is proof of how much God loves us. When we sin, God's temple is far from our minds, and yet when we were lying dead in our sins, the Lord came to us with compassion and love to bring us back to life. He wishes us to experience His resurrection. He wants us to share in this gift that He brings with Him.

The Gospel tells us what needs to happen first if we are to receive that gift. We all need to take part in the Passion of our Lord. Under the guidance of the Spirit, we need to endure a great struggle in our choices. Each choice we make means we let go of the other possibility and all this has a cost attached. It is painful at times. With each choice we are placed again and again in the Garden of Gethsemane together with Jesus, and we know how much that cost him. The Lord knows the effort and strength needed to persevere, and the suffering we endure as a result. He is asking us during those times to look at Him, to remember that Resurrection will take place soon, on the third day. Freedom, peace, joy, love, things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard await us if we only persevere to the end and hold out for those few hours.

By ourselves, it always seems like mission impossible. With God by our side, all things are possible. We are capable of great things, otherwise the Lord would not place such burdens for us to carry. Let us pray for ourselves and others that our faith will endure, and we will be encouraged by the presence of God in the midst of our sufferings and troubles. We pray for all mothers that they will continue to mirror such love of God for others.

HOLY WEEK / EASTER

Our Programme for Holy Week will be as follows in accordance with the guidance issued by the Conference of Bishops:

Monday – Wednesday Mass at 7.30am

Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30pm (Please note that we won't have the Washing of the Feet, procession to the Altar of Repose, nor Watching afterwards)

Good Friday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at **12noon** and **3pm** to accommodate as many people as we can.

Easter Vigil – Mass will take place at **9pm**. We will begin in the church without any candles.

Easter Sunday – Masses will be at the usual time of **9am, 11am, 5.30pm**.

Please remember to bring your own mask to church and your contact details on a piece of paper and place those in the box provided as you enter the church. Please use the website like at Christmas to show us an estimated number of people who would like to come. Please note we can only accommodate a limited safe number of people. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Our faithful departed

We pray for those who have died recently: Sabrena Collins, Annetta Badcock, Margaret Kenny. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Lenten Online Events – Stations of the Cross continue every Friday evening at 7.30pm through YouTube and Lenten reflections on St. Francis of Assisi and Conversion on Saturdays 2pm-3pm via Zoom.

GIFT AID

Gift Aid donors who give by way of weekly envelopes will find their new sets for the financial year 2021-2022 in the Server's Sacristy. Please collect them from the top of the piano after Mass. If they are not collected by mid - March, or if you are not attending Mass in person, they will be delivered. If you were expecting a set of envelopes but have not received one, please contact Thelma Martin on 01865 790065 or edward854@edward854.plus.com . To save expense, envelopes have only been supplied to those who have used them in the past year, but if you wish at the easing of lockdown to go back to using them, let Thelma know.

Parish donations – Our website provides you with details of how you can support our parish financially during this time, whether you are a member of our GIFT AID scheme or not. If you are a tax payer, please take a moment to fill in the relevant form you will find on our website – all at no cost to yourself, but helping us immensely. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Intercessory Prayer Group

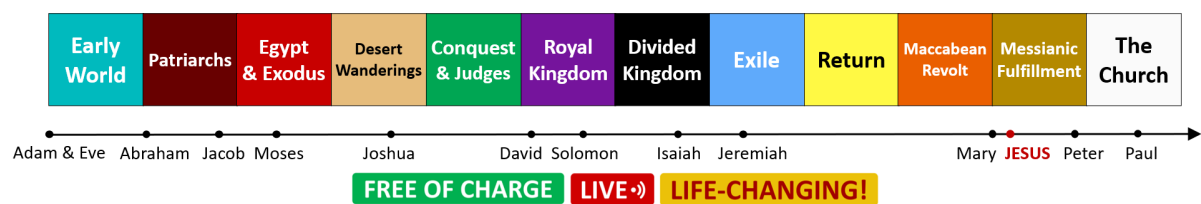
If you would like us to pray for somebody or for anything else, please email GreyfriarsIntercessoryPrayer@gmail.com or phone 07384 116920. All requests will be treated in strictest confidence.

Diocesan Newsletter

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

The Bible Timeline Course



Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this **FREE OF CHARGE**, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli.

Starts on **7th April 2021** at 7pm (Eight Wednesday evening sessions).

Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

Important information for EU Citizens

If you are an EU passport holder and have not yet obtained Settled status please be aware that the deadline for this is the end of June this year. It applies regardless of how long you have been resident in the UK. Spread the word! You can ask for help with your application at **Europa Welcome**, based in East Oxford. They can help with language problems and have information on their website in **Tetum**, the language of East Timor, many of whose citizens hold Portuguese passports.

You can find more information generally about who needs to apply for Settled Status here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk>

And here is the website for Asylum Welcome:

<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/europa-welcome>

To read it in **Tetum**, go here:

https://www.asylumwelcome.org/docs/Asylum%20Welcome%20Eschema%20Settlement%20iha%20EU%20no%20Coronavirus_4%20Aug%202020.pdf

NB The information above does **NOT** apply to Irish citizens as they are covered by the Common Travel Area legislation and do not need to apply for Settled Status.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 14th March

4th Sunday of Lent (Year B)

9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Barbara Folan R.I.P. (Birthday)
5.30pm	Pious Union of the Holy Spirit (Novena)

Monday 15th March

7.30am	Pious Union of the Holy Spirit (Novena)
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Tuesday 16th March

7.30am	Pious Union of the Holy Spirit (Novena)
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Wednesday 17th March

St. Patrick (Feast)

7.30am	Pious Union of the Holy Spirit (Novena)
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Thursday 18th March

7.30am	Pious Union of the Holy Spirit (Novena)
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11am	Requiem Mass for Sabrena Collins R.I.P.
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Friday 19th March

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

7.30am	Ariston Fernandes (Birthday Good Health)
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Saturday 20th March

8.00am	Br. Antonio's Intentions
6.30pm	Holy Souls

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick, especially **Therese O'Malley**. 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.