



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church  
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### **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Amos 7:12-15

Psalm – Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel – Mark 6:7-13

Each of us has a unique mission to fulfil in our life. The scale of it is not important, how many people it will affect doesn't matter – the key is that each of us responds to the invitation and fulfils the mission. The mission itself is not of our choosing as prophet Amos reminds us in the first reading. He was minding his own business being a shepherd, and yet the Lord chooses him to speak to His people Israel. The Gospel tells us very clearly that whilst we respond to the call of Jesus to bear witness to Him in our daily life, we might encounter a lack of welcome and people might not be interested in what we have to say. All this doesn't matter – what matters is our willingness to continue bearing witness.

The hard lesson of being a prophet is not simply about learning to listen to God who still speaks in so many different ways. It is about realizing that the success of this mission is not dependent upon us and that it cannot be counted by the numbers of people who show interest in what we have to say. In other words, we have no control over other people, and irrespective of what we do, it is the Lord who has to touch the hearts of people whom we meet to make a difference in their lives.

St. Paul tells us that we have been blessed and that the mystery of God's will and purpose has been revealed to us. The struggle each of us experiences is to translate it into action day after day. St. Francis of Assisi teaches us not to appropriate anything to ourselves since all good comes only from God. This is what a life of poverty demands from us. The call to be a prophet is essentially a call to freedom, to be free in the face of opposition or lack of interest or support in order to keep on bearing witness to the Good News that we carry within our hearts. Remember that bearing witness may be as simple as not being ashamed to make a sign of the cross when the occasion demands it, bowing to the Lord as you pass by a church, your faithful attendance at Mass, your hidden prayers at home, your acceptance of illness or suffering that you face, your act of kindness to your neighbour, your care for your family, your diligent work. Everything you do, when done in faith, has the power to bear witness to God's loving presence all around us.

### **Meeting on COP26 with Anneliese Dodds MP**

Nine representatives of the parishes of Greyfriars, Iffley Road, and St Mary and St John, Cowley Rd. met with our Member of Parliament, Anneliese Dodds, on 9<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the impact of climate change and COP26.

Anneliese Dodds said that she was optimistic about Parliament's engagement with the question of climate change and COP26. The issues go beyond party politics; political leaders must work together. Practical action was needed now and should be taken before COP26. But public support was important and local initiatives like Low Traffic Neighbourhoods were often controversial. There should be no conflict between jobs and action to green the environment; there was room for both.

In the course of the meeting Claire Brewes, curate of St Mary and St John, read out passages from letters which pupils from year 6 at St Frideswide Primary School had written to our political leaders expressing their anxieties about climate change and she asked what message she could take back to the children. Anneliese replied that responsibility for tackling climate change must not be shuffled off onto young people. The message to take back to the children was that they had done well but should not feel it was their responsibility but that of their parents' generation to face up to the challenge of climate change and to resolve the problems. They should keep pressing adults on climate change and hold them to account.

She said that she did not support reduction of the Aid budget which she believed would be counterproductive. But it should not be used to support heavily carbon producing industries but rather less carbon intensive infrastructure. On the question of debt relief there was international agreement on public debt, but the problem was relief on private debt i.e. debt to non-governmental institutions. Holders of private debt needed to be bound into an agreement.

Finally, when asked what she would like us to do she replied that it was good to see faith communities coming together on these matters. Local action was needed, and we could give our support to such action, for example, by writing to councillors, newspapers, etc and supporting local initiatives like Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and pushing back against the views of who don't like change.

**Sr. Margaret Begley R.I.P.**– Sr. Margaret has been a great presence over the years in our parish, especially serving our Irish Travellers' community. She was a member of the Sisters of Providence. Her funeral will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> July in the church of St. Peter-in-Chains, Stroud Green. Please check their parish website for details of the live-streaming of the funeral.

**Friary Update** – We welcome br. Martin Sanderson into our fraternity as our new guardian. Many of you will remember him from his student days here. He will be assisting in the parish too.

**Franciscan Spirituality Sessions** – Our next session will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. I will be sharing the Franciscan spiritual journey according to St.

Bonaventure's 'Itinerarium Mentis in Deum'. It is a short piece of writing commonly translated as the soul's journey into God. A reflection of a saint on the spiritual life of another saint – aimed at helping all of us to deepen our love and experience of God in everyday life.

Held on Zoom. Meeting ID **845 9492 0169** Passcode **934692**

Open to everyone, invite your friends.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news) to sign up.

### **Mass Times and Intentions**

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

9.00am	James Martin R.I.P.
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	Tarcisio Reis Amaral R.I.P.

#### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

7.30am	Felicia Van Cuylenburg R.I.P.
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#### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

7.30am	Elenor Moody
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#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

7.30am	Stacy Coelho
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#### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **St. Bonaventure**

7.30am	John Corcoran R.I.P.
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#### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

#### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

7.30am	Vocations
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**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

8.00am

Friars & Benefactors

6.30pm

Sebastiana Fernandes R.I.P.

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.