



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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1st Sunday of Advent (Year C) – 28th November 2021

1st Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm – To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

The holy season of Advent is here, once again. Another opportunity, another repeated call as St. Paul puts it, to make more and more progress in the way of life we are meant to be living as disciples of Jesus. There are a number of ways to respond to this each year, and the classic two are these: 1) Great, a fresh start, time to renew, to refocus, time for change and greater openness to the Word of God and to others, or 2) So what's new, we had the same thing last year, and seemingly nothing has changed. The last sentence really speaks volumes about our own lack of progress rather than about other people's change. It is a temptation to give up, lose hope, and stay as we are for ever and ever.

As we start this Advent, let us reflect on what the Church is asking of us. It is asking us to pray for specific intentions: for openness to the Word of God, for migrants and refugees, and for expectant mothers. We need to open up to what God teaches us, to other people in need, and expect something new. All of this has a beginning in our own hearts. It is for each of us to become more open and more hopeful, rather than wait for others to become so. Our happiness cannot rely primarily on how others are, but on my union with God and how I am.

Apart from praying for specific intentions, the Pope is also calling us to focus more on our journey as the Church, to remind ourselves who we actually are and what role each of us has to play in the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. He is encouraging us to learn to listen anew, rather than presume we have mastered the art already. The Pope is guiding us onto a deeper spiritual journey which we are already on, but sometimes fail to reflect on. We are praying to the Holy Spirit at the end of each Mass to guide us in that journey, and there will be other events planned in the new year to help us reflect together in order to create a greater sense of communion between us, encourage greater participation in the life of the Church and help us discern what our mission is about.

Advent update – We realize things are still very uncertain at this time, but a few things are happening worth knowing about. Please read the letter from the Bishops available on our website about the importance of Sunday, and pass it on to those you know. **Sunday Obligation is not coming back for the time being.**

The brothers will be outside the church at the end of Mass to greet you.

The brothers will be in church for their meditation on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm during the time of Adoration and saying the Evening Prayer of the Church at 6pm. Please bring your own prayer book if you wish to join us, or just listen in silence as the prayers are being said.

We will also be singing more parts of the Mass at our Masses. Don't worry if you have forgotten, it will all come back soon enough. Just to encourage you to sing in response when the time comes during Mass.

Our regular confession times will also resume from next week on Saturday 11am-12noon and 5.30pm – 6.15pm. You will also be able to make an appointment to see a priest for confession as always apart from these times.

Accommodation for a family – A young family of four are in urgent need of accommodation in Oxford. They require two bedrooms and a rent of preferably no more than £1000 per month. Please contact the parish office if you can help them.

Coffee morning – This Sunday we will be having a coffee morning after our 9am and 11am Masses. Please come in to the church hall next door for a chance to chat with your fellow parishioners, warm up with a hot drink, and support our Christmas Cards sale

Advent Prayer Group – Beginning on Tuesday 30th November, we will meet every Tuesday of Advent 7pm – 8.30pm in the church to pray and meditate on the message of the Word of God for us this Advent. The first theme will be God's promises to us: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given". The sessions will be led by Cláudia Azevedo, one of our parishioners - do join us if you can during this holy season.

Altar servers – If your child would like to serve at the altar, please get in touch with Br. Martin M or Br. Martin S. This is for children who have made their 1st Holy Communion and older. Training will be provided once we have a list of interested children.

Cleaning the church volunteers – This week we thank Angelika and Olivia for coming in to clean the church. If you would like to volunteer and give a helping hand, please contact the parish office with your details so you could be added to the rota.

House Visits / Blessings – An important part of my service to you as your parish priest is to come to know you, pray with you, and bless you. That is why I would like to invite myself into your homes! – not for a 3-course meal, not even a cup of tea required, but to meet you, chat, and pray. Don't be afraid – I won't turn up uninvited. If you'd like a visit, just get in touch in any way you can – speak to me after Mass in the sacristy, email, phone, fill out the form on the website, or fill in a card that should be available at the back of the church.

Rosary Prayer Group Fridays 7.00p.m. – We meet every week in church to ask Our Lady's protection over our parishioners and the whole world. Join us.

St. Joseph's Open Day - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are holding a virtual open day for September 2022 Reception pupils. Please join us to discover more about our outstanding provision. Monday 6th December 2021 at 4.30pm via Teams. To register for this meeting please go to the admissions section of the school website.

www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

1st Holy Communion / Confirmation 2022 – If you would like your child to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation, please get in touch in order to sign your child for the relevant course. All classes will begin from January, but the sooner you let us know the better. Please fill in the relevant form on the website or speak to me in person. You have until mid-December to ensure your child is signed up.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 28th November 2021 1st Sunday of Advent (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Parishioners
9.00 a.m.	November Dead List
11.00 a.m.	Franciscan Missionaries of Mary & Benefactors
5.30 p.m.	Margaret Anne Colton R.I.P.

Monday 29th

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
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Tuesday 30th

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List	<i>St. Andrew</i>
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Wednesday 1st

7.30 a.m.	The Sisters of St. Cecilia's	<i>St. Edmund Campion</i>
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Thursday 2nd

7.30 a.m.	Mateus Guterres Ricardo R.I.P.
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Friday 3rd

7.30 a.m.	Herlander Pereira R.I.P. 1 st Anniv.	<i>St. Francis Xavier</i>
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Saturday 4th

8.00 a.m.	Lucille Allpress R.I.P.
6.30 p.m.	Parishioners

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick, especially **Therese O'Malley, Linda Parrott, Aline Beaupiere, Margaret Corcoran**. 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.