



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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First Sunday of Lent Year C – 6th March 2022

1st Reading – Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Psalm – Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

2nd Reading – Romans 10:8-13

Gospel – Luke 4:1-13

The war we observe on our television screens, internet, or the newspapers brings to our attention the immeasurable suffering and pain that human beings can choose to inflict on their brothers and sisters. So many lives lost and affected by destruction and violence, families torn apart and no longer certain of anything that the next day can bring. Peace and life suddenly become very obviously fragile. Our responsorial psalm becomes so much more relevant under these circumstances, and when praying it we do so in solidarity with those who need the Lord so much more in their distress in Ukraine.

The image of the desert in the Gospel, a place that is unwelcoming and harsh, is also brought alive through war. It is also a place where in the midst of suffering something else is taking place, a time of testing, of cleansing, of renewal. This is the meaning of the desert in the Gospel and its purpose, and only God has the power to bring forth good out of evil. War in Ukraine or anywhere else can never be somebody else's problem – it affects us all. During time of Lent the Church reminds us of how we can react to evil in order to eradicate it.

Pray, believe the Lord has the power to touch and renew our hearts. Prayer will also be a means through which God can reveal to each of us what needs healing and transforming. Give alms, do not allow anger or anything else to close the door of the heart towards any brother or sister. Almsgiving ensures that our hearts are open to the needs of those around us. Fast, let go of attitudes, possessions, relationships – all that can keep us enslaved to sin. The aim of these three practices is to renew our relationship with God, with others, and all creation. The most lasting gift that we can offer to those who suffer is our true repentance and a renewed commitment to turn our hearts back to the Lord. May the Lord bless our efforts and renew us in His mercy.

Belong & Believe - Join us for the second in our series of five informal and engaging café style discussions, using high quality video resources. Each session draws upon the wisdom and inspiration of our Celtic spiritual heritage, as we move beyond the separation of pandemic and rekindle community. We will meet on **Monday 7th March at 7.30pm**, in the parish hall, for about an hour. This week's theme explores 'Growing in Faith Together'. All are very welcome, with refreshments from 7.15pm.

Growing in Communion - Are you seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus? Would you like to learn about Mental Prayer? Do you find it hard to plough through the extensive material on the subject? Then 'Growing in Communion' might help you focus. 'Growing in Communion' is the parish of Greyfriars' initiative to grow in faith. Sessions are open to all, but specifically designed to help the parishioners, their families and friends – (Catholic and non-Catholic) grow in faith through prayer through scripture to facilitate ways to implement our faith in Jesus Christ in our daily lives. Programme will start with sessions on mental prayer. Meetings are held on Wednesdays, twice monthly **starting 9 March 2022, at 7pm**. Please come to the friary door. If you have any questions, or would like to register your interest, please email Yvette on IffleyCross@gmail.com

Bible Study Group - The next meeting of the Bible study group will take place on **Thursday 17th March from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.**, in the Friary library. You can find the preparation sheet for session 3 on the parish website:

<https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/biblestudygroup>, or e-mail the parish office for a copy. It would be a great help if participants could read the set passage in advance, think about at least some of the questions, and be ready to share their insights and difficulties at the meeting. But don't worry if you can't manage much preparation - no one will be checking up on you. If you can't get to the meetings, you are very welcome to use the sheets as a starting point for your personal Bible study.

CAFOD Family Fast Day 11th March – Family Fast Day is on next Friday 11th March. During Lent we are invited to pray for peace in the world and to implore justice, to stand in solidarity with the poor and hungry and to reach out through our giving. We are invited to eat a little less on 11th March and contribute at least what we save to the work of CAFOD. Although it would not be practical to organise a shared frugal meal at parish level this year, we can still act together as a parish by planning frugal meals in our homes. You can find some recipe

suggestions on the parish website, <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/cafod>. Parishioners have been very generous in previous years in supporting the work of CAFOD. There will be a collection at masses next weekend. Envelopes will be distributed after Masses this weekend so that you can return your offerings at Masses on 7th and 8th March. If you would prefer to make an offering online, you can do so on <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>.

Stations of the Cross – Every Friday evening during Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross in our church at 7pm. Please join us during this Lent to pray and reflect on what this suffering journey means to us today.

Rosary Prayer Group – During Lent the Rosary will be said on Thursday evenings in the church at 7pm. Our special intention will be for peace in Ukraine.

Volunteers needed – As we are gradually returning back to normal arrangements during our Masses, we will require you to volunteer fulfilling certain roles to ensure our liturgies run smoothly. In order for that to happen, we would need a couple of people to help take the collection during Mass, and others to take turns bringing the gifts to the altar during the offertory. Please make yourself known to the parish priest, or one of the stewards, or email or phone.

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.

Parish Hall – If you would like to make a specific donation towards the renovation of the parish hall, please specify that you wish that donation to go for that purpose. You can write a cheque made out to Capuchin Oxford Parish, or donate via bank transfer to the Capuchin Oxford Parish Account (Acc. No. 50154109 Sort Code 60-70-03). Thank you for your support and generosity.

Church cleaning – This week we thank the Travelling Community for coming to clean the church. If you would like to lend a helping hand and join the rota to clean the church please get in touch.

Collection Last Week: £329.01 Gift Aid: £ 88

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parish, and to those of you who also contribute on-line.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 6th March 2022 First Sunday of Lent (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat) Joaquim Da Cruz R.I.P.
9.00 a.m. St. Anthony's Guild
11.00 a.m. Julia & Tonia Barbusa R.I.P.
5.30 p.m. Parishioners

Monday 7th

7.30 a.m. Kieran Hughes

Tuesday 8th

7.30 a.m. Patricia May McDonald R.I.P.

Wednesday 9th

7.30 a.m. Dessy Moore R.I.P.

Thursday 10th

7.30 a.m. Br. Antonio's Int.

Friday 11th

7.30 a.m. Terry McDonna R.I.P.

Saturday 12th

8.00 a.m. Vocations
6.30 p.m. Darlene, George, Mary, John &
Veronica Letey

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