



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church  
Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB  
Parish Priest: Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM Cap  
Tel. No. 01865 256 750  
Email: [ofmcaparish@gmail.com](mailto:ofmcaparish@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.greyfriarsoxford.uk](http://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year B) – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm – Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel – Mark 1:12-15

What do you imagine your life will be like when you are led by the Spirit? Many of us might recall the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit given to us at Confirmation and point towards those to see what life would be like: full of patience, love, kindness, generosity, modesty to name but a few. An image of harmony in the garden of Eden before the serpent got in the way. A beautiful ideal that so often seems out of our reach when we look at the reality within us and around us. Does it mean our picture is wrong? Perhaps it would be true to say that our picture is simply incomplete and the Gospel is what completes it for us.

The Spirit in the Gospel of today is driving Jesus out into a solitary and wild place. The only companions are wild beasts, angels and Satan. Jesus is being tempted in that place, and we know from experience what hard battle that is. All those fruits of the Spirit we know about are a result of a hard battle taking place within us between sin and the grace of God, death and life. The angels look after us as much as they looked after Jesus: when was the last time we said thank you to them in our prayer life? All this happens immediately after Jesus' baptism, reminding us that our baptism is just the beginning of our journey.

Throughout this journey the Lord tells us: 'The time has come... repent, and believe the Good News'. This holy season is a reminder of what is most essential to our life: God, charity, and responsibility. We are asked to pray, to put God in first place, to entrust ourselves to the Lord, to listen to Him, to follow Him. Prayer is indispensable if we are to do any of that. We are asked to be charitable, to give alms, to show our love and support to those who need it at this time. Our hearts need to grow in our ability to welcome the stranger and to provide for their needs. We are also called to fast, not simply eating or drinking less, but fast from our sins, repair our relationships, ensure we treat each other with respect and dignity. This is the fasting mentioned by the prophets as acceptable to the Lord. This means we need to take responsibility for our actions. We have tremendous power given to us by God, let us do our best to discover it and use it in the service of others this Lent.

**Lenten Online Events** – Please look at our website for details of various events taking place during this Lent. We are planning to have Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 7.30pm, a series of Lenten reflections on St. Francis of Assisi and Conversion on Saturdays 2pm-3pm via Zoom beginning on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, an evening for our YouChat members (including a quiz) on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm, and a Parish Social on Zoom on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7.30pm. Please put these dates in your diaries and SEE YOU THERE!!!

**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.

### CAFOD Lent Appeal



To help people like Abdella

**Text LENT to**

**70460**

to donate £10 to  
CAFOD's Lent Appeal

**Or visit**

**[cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give)**

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](https://cafod.org.uk/lent). You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10\*.

*\*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](https://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)*

### CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY-

We understand that many have been affected financially during this pandemic, but the work of CAFOD is reminding us of others who are in a far worse situation than what we encounter. Next Sunday we will be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection to support their work. Please be as generous as you can be, or donate on-line.

## 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.asylum-welcome.org/docs/Asylum%20Welcome%20Eschema%20Settlement%20iha%20EU%20no%20Coronavirus\\_4%20Aug%202020.pdf](https://www.asylum-welcome.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 21<sup>st</sup> February**

##### **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am

Br. Antonio's Intentions

11.00am

Parishioners

5.30pm

Louise & John Collins

#### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

##### **Chair of St. Peter, Feast**

7.30am

Ana Maria Ribeiro R.I.P.

#### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

##### **St. Polycarp, Memorial**

7.30am

Mrs Rodrigues (Birthday)

#### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

7.30am

Br. Antony's Intentions

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**St. Ethelbert, Memorial**

7.30am

In Thanksgiving

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

7.30am

Winnie Joyce & Family

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

8.00am

Filomena Madeire R.I.P.

6.30pm

Lucia Gomes 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.