



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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5th Sunday of Lent (Year B) – 21st March 2021

1st Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm – A pure heart create for me, O God.

2nd Reading – Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel – John 12:20-30

The Lord speaks through the prophet Jeremiah today and tells us that we will all come to know Him, since He will forgive our iniquity and never call our sin to mind. Imagine hearing those words spoken by the Lord to you today. Your reaction can be of total disbelief, surely this would never happen to me, just empty talk. Or you could go back to those words again and try to imagine if they were maybe true. What if the Lord is really saying this to me, a sinner, with a long list of things that I can be ashamed of or would wish to hide or simply forget? Is there a chance that something might change within me as a result of believing these words to be true?

The Letter to the Hebrews shows our Lord crying in prayer, a man of suffering. Suffering that was possibly caused by our response to His words spoken through Jeremiah, pain that intensifies due to our disbelief. In humility Jesus accepts all our responses and suffers, wishing us to enjoy His eternal life and yet seeing how often we choose another route in life. The Gospel today presents the same Jesus going further in order to give us life. Jesus is lifted up on the Cross for all to see in order to draw all to Himself.

God's love shouts out to us from the Cross, but it does so through silent suffering and pain. God thirsts for us on the Cross and invites us to look at Him. He no longer remembers any of our sins, His arms are opened wide to embrace. Words are not needed that much, He only speaks a few times. He wishes us to simply look – not to think of fancy words, or long prayers, nor explanations, nor excuses. The value of such prayer is not counted by its length. As a way of prayer for these last days of Lent, let us learn to simply look at the Crucified Lord. Take a crucifix in your hand, or a holy image, and look at the Lord. Don't worry about what to say, just give Him the time to look at you too. In that silent gaze He will write His Law deep within you once again, He will renew His covenant with you, He will forgive you all your sins, and will assure you that He will never call those sins to mind. Listen to Him and look.

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: John Corcoran, Annetta Badcock, Margaret Kenny. Margaret Kenny's funeral will take place on Wednesday 24th at Botley Cemetery, and Annetta Badcock's funeral on Friday 26th at the Crematorium.

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.

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

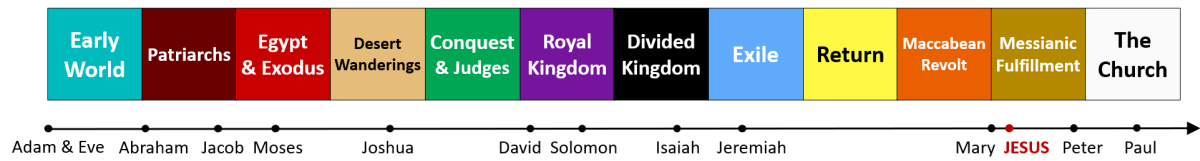
If you would like us to pray for somebody or for anything else, please email GreyfriarsIntercessoryPrayer@gmail.com or phone 07384 116920. All requests will be treated in strictest confidence.

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 21st March

5th Sunday of Lent (Year B)

9.00am

Br. Pradeep's Intentions

11.00am

Parishioners

5.30pm

Horcio Dacosta

Monday 22nd March

7.30am

Antonia Fatima Carvalho R.I.P.

Tuesday 23rd March

7.30am	Pierre Barry R.I.P.
Wednesday 24th March	
7.30am	Kharka Limbu R.I.P.
Thursday 25th March	
The Annunciation of the Lord	
7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
Friday 26th March	
7.30am	Johnny & Heidi Joyce
Saturday 27th March	
8.00am	Ruth & Joel Da Cunha R.I.P.
6.30pm	Martin Patten 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.