



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
Parish Priest: Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM Cap
Tel. No. 01865 256 750 (Parish), 01865 243694 (Friary)
Email: ofmcaparish@gmail.com
Website: www.greyfriarsoxford.uk

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) – 5th September 2021

1st Reading – Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm – My soul, give praise to the Lord.

2nd Reading – James 2:1-5

Gospel – Mark 7:31-37

For those of you who managed to take some time away for a holiday, welcome back. The words of the Lord remind us not to be afraid, but to face life with courage, for the Lord is coming to save us. The Good News is that He has indeed come to save us, and that God continues to come to us. The Lord continues to teach us, to open our ears and restore our sight. The gentle way in which all this takes place often means we fail to notice it happening at all. That is why we keep praying, that is why we return to Him day after day so as not to miss the times the Lord visits us throughout each day.

It may be worthwhile to reflect on how God comes to us. It is always easier to imagine that when all goes well then this means we are close to God and He listens to us. It is harder to be convinced of His presence when we receive suffering at the hands of others, misfortunes, humiliations, pain, when somebody tells us a few home truths we would rather not face, when no one seems to be listening. It is a real fight at times to hold on to His words over and above our experience or the words of others. Our longing will triumph and the Lord will change all our hardship into glory. Prophet Isaiah reminds us of this today. Our souls that feel crushed, that feel like deserts, wastelands, scorched earth, parched land – all will be transformed into places teeming with life full of water. For as long as we truly long for Him to save us, we often don't notice that we are filled with life already.

This Sunday, just like any other, we present our wounds to the Lord. We renew our trust in Him, that He can really heal us, that He only needs to say one word, and we will be healed. The saints teach us that true blindness is not seeing how really blind we are. Let us not be afraid to admit or see ourselves as the man in the Gospel today. We don't have to be brought along by others to meet the Lord, we can make that journey ourselves. We can all learn to pray for our spiritual senses to be restored in order to hear God speak to us and to see Him.

Sick friars – Thank you for all your prayers for our sick brothers in the friary, especially Br. Charles and Br. Ambrose. Br. Charles is being looked after at St. Luke's since beginning of August. Br. Ambrose has been admitted to hospital during the week and is will be staying there this weekend. Please continue to pray for both of them at this time.

Parish Renovations – Those of you who look around our parish church building and the parish hall might have noticed that they require a lot of work to maintain them and renovate them. The first thing we are addressing is the number of leaks that cause damage to both buildings. The work has begun this week and we hope it will proceed successfully so that we maintain the sacred space in good order and make a good start towards renovating our parish hall. To do this essential work of preventing further water damage to our buildings will cost us in the region of £10,000. I will update you with details as we go along. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your generosity towards the upkeep of the parish, and invite your prayer that Our Lord would open the hearts of further benefactors to support us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – From Monday we will resume our regular times for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. That means we can spend some time in silent prayer with the Lord after morning Mass Mon-Fri until 8.30am, and on Saturday until 9.00am, as well as Saturday evening from 5.30pm till 6.15pm.

Parish Council – The Parish Council meets on a regular basis throughout the year to ensure we work together as a community of our Lord's disciples and address any aspects of our life together to support everyone in our life of faith. If you would like to contribute to our parish life in anyway, or feel we could be doing something more and you'd like to get involved, or have some constructive suggestions, feel free to get in touch with them, please send your e-mail to pct.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

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 will be available at the back of the church from next week.

Baptism Preparation Talk – If you would like to have your child baptized then please attend our next baptism preparation talk on Sunday 26th September at 3.00pm in the church. If you could, please sign up for the talk via our website appointments page. All relevant information will be provided to you on that day.

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.

R.C.I.A. 2022 – If you are a Catholic who has never received the Sacrament of Confirmation, or you are interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, then this course is for you. Please fill in the relevant form as soon as possible on our website or speak to one of the friars. Classes will commence in mid-October.

CAFOD Emergencies – We are faced with three emergencies at once. The most immediate is the crisis in Afghanistan, not just for refugees but for the communities who are suffering from the crisis. There is also the crisis following the earthquake in Haiti as well as a crisis of food shortages in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Northeast Nigeria.

CAFOD have launched a webpage on what they are doing to help in each of these emergencies and are appealing for donations to support the work. You can learn about this if you go to www.cafod.org.uk or click on the [Emergency News Page](#).

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 5th September 2021 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

6.30 p.m. (Sat) Filippo Carrescia R.I.P.
9.00 a.m. Vivian Brewer R.I.P.
11.00 a.m. Parishioners
5.30 p.m. O.F.S.

Monday 6th *Feria*

7.30 a.m. Johnny & Heidi & Family

Tuesday 7th *Feria*

7.30 a.m. Carlos Godinho R.I.P. &
Carlos Soares Godinho

Wednesday 8th *The Birthday of Our Lady*

7.30 a.m. Fernanda Da Costa Maria R.I.P.

Thursday 9th *Feria*

7.30 a.m. John Barnes R.I.P. Anniv.

Friday 10th *Bl. Agnellus of Pisa*

7.30 a.m. João Francis Vas & Carmina
Jaques R.I.P.

Saturday 11th *Memorial of Blessed Virgin Mary*

8.00 a.m. Terry McDonna R.I.P.
6.30 p.m. Sabrina Collins R.I.P.

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