



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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1st Sunday of Advent (Year B) – 29th November 2020

1st Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:3-8

Psalm – God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel – Mark 13:33-37

The new year begins for the Church today. A season of hope and expectation, of longing and of desiring. We are praying that the Lord would come into our hearts, to heal us, to set us free, to redeem us. As we do that, the Gospel reminds us to be watchful and stay awake for the Lord can come in a way and at the time we least expect.

The first challenge of this message is to pray for the renewal of the gift of hope – that virtue infused into us by God at the moment of our baptism. In practice this means going against what our past experience may wish to tell us, or others keep saying, or we hold on to ourselves: “not much will change, I’ve tried this before and it didn’t work, I’m still the same, it’s just wishful thinking...” Our hope is placed in the person of the living God, the King of the Universe as we celebrated Him last week. That same Lord has the power to transform us, can move the mountains within our hearts that prevent us from going further. The time of Advent is a time of renewal of our hope in a God who loves us and is coming to bring His newness of life into our lives.

To keep awake and be watchful and ready for His arrival we need to make decisions. We do this for our family or friends visiting. We clean, we go shopping, we plan the menu, we try to remember what they enjoy, we put things in order. The good news is that we don’t do our spiritual preparation alone. The Lord will help us to welcome Him, all we need is a desire to be ready. No matter at what stage of the journey we find ourselves in, let us pray during this holy season of Advent for the gift of hope and a desire to keep waiting for the Lord’s visit.

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.

Pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including:

Hilda Brennan, Stephen McInerney, Frances Linstead-Eales, Mary Rolls, John Healey, Peter McDonagh, Catherine Tombs, Denis O’Shea, & Michael Hamblin, Carlos Rodrigues Antunes Barreira.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Church re-opening: Our church will remain open for private prayer Mon-Wed 5-7pm. Public celebration of Mass will take place from Thursday 3rd December. The full list of guidelines can be obtained through our website at www.greyfriarsoxford.uk . I ask your co-operation in the new Track and Trace system that will be in place in our parish for the good of the wider community, and to follow the guidance of the stewards.

YouChat Online: 'Prepare the Future' - Our youth group currently meets online via Zoom. The topic this week is 'Called to Relationship'. Email the parish to join.

Confirmation 2021: If you would like to enrol your child for our Confirmation programme, please email the parish office. Your child needs to be in Year 6 or above.

Church opening times: Our church will be open for private prayer only Monday – Wed 5pm-7pm, Saturday – Sunday 10am-12noon.

Tuesday 1st December: School of Prayer—Your Word is Light and Hope:

For all seeking a personal relationship with God or to deepen their prayer life, this School of Prayer is a space to listen to, absorb, and meditate on God's Word in our hearts, and incarnate that Word in our lives. This term (**7pm–8.30pm** every Tuesday till 1 December) we focus on examples of Old Testament people: from Abraham to Mary. We meet online. To register please contact greyfriarszoom@gmail.com.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 29th November

9.00am Helen Kelly R.I.P.

11.00am Parishioners

Monday 30th November

St. Andrew

7.30am Departed Legionaries of Mary

Tuesday 1st December

St. Edmund Campion

7.30am Maria Auxiliadora Domingues Paiva

Wednesday 2nd December

7.30am Kathleen Hill R.I.P.

Thursday 3rd December

St. Francis Xavier

7.30am Kieran Hughes

Friday 4th December

St. John Damascene

7.30am Br. Ambrose

Saturday 5th December

St. Birinus

8.00am Br. Lucjan