



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C) – 5th December 2021

1st Reading – Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm – What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

2nd Reading – Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

As we continue to wait for the Lord's coming, the Gospel makes it clear that this waiting has a purpose and direction. During this time, we are called to repent and to receive God's gift of forgiveness for all our sins. But I don't go out much, I don't do anything evil really... I'm not aware of anything to confess... I haven't committed any mortal sins, just the usual things in life, a bit of impatience or maybe said a few words out of turn. Very quickly such thinking leads to a logical conclusion – don't have to worry about too much, no need to go to confession, and in a very subtle way there is no need for the Lord anymore, all is good. We need to rephrase the questions for ourselves if we are to rediscover the urgency of the Gospel call to repentance. Maybe a more useful approach before confession is to ask ourselves: Have I lived a life of faith? How did hope feature in my conversations about others? Have I left anything undone that I could've engaged in? How did I use the time given to me in a day? In what ways have I contributed to the growth of fruits of the Holy Spirit in my heart and the hearts of others? Faith needs to be practical and the saints teach us that the closer we are to the Lord the more we are able to notice within us all that needs cleansing. One practical way we can grow in our love is by sharing with those in greater need. Please consider if you can make a difference to those who live next to us in Oxford. **The Gatehouse** "This year we are asking for donations of boxes of chocolates to be able to give each guest a box of chocolates at Christmas. (Please ensure all chocolates are alcohol free). We need around 150 boxes to offer each guest a box this year. We are also appealing for donations of new pants (Men's and Women's in all range of sizes) and socks. The donations we receive will ensure we are able to keep our clothes store well stocked into 2022." You can drop off your donations in bags at the Sacred Heart chapel or do so directly on Sundays 2pm-4pm at The Gatehouse, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT.

Church & Hall Update – I'm happy to say that the planned repairs on our church and hall are due to begin within the next 2 weeks. It's been a long wait to begin the process of ensuring that our buildings are protected from damage caused by leaks, but at least if you keep praying long enough, things might be sorted soon. That means we can start looking ahead towards the details of what will be done with the parish hall. As soon as we have an update on those, we will let you know. We are planning on refreshing our space in the porch as you enter the church

Advent update – The brothers will be in church for their meditation on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm during the time of Adoration and saying the Evening Prayer of the Church at 6pm. Please bring your own prayer book if you wish to join us, or just listen in silence as the prayers are being said.

Our regular confession times have resumed: Saturdays 11am-12noon and 5.30pm – 6.15pm. You will also be able to make an appointment to see a priest for confession as always apart from these times.

Accommodation for a family – A young family of four are in urgent need of accommodation in Oxford. They require two bedrooms and a rent of preferably no more than £1000 per month. Please contact the parish office if you can help them.

Coffee morning – We continue having our coffee morning after our 9am and 11am Masses. Please come in to the church hall next door for a chance to chat with your fellow parishioners and warm up with a hot drink.

Advent Prayer Group – Next meeting is on Tuesday 7th December. We meet every Tuesday of Advent 7pm – 8.30pm in the church to pray and meditate on the message of the Word of God for us this Advent. The theme this week is God hears my prayer: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard" (Lk. 1:5-23). The sessions will be led by Cláudia Azevedo, one of our parishioners - do join us if you can during this holy season.

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 should be available at the back of the church.

Parish Penitential Service – In case you missed the date, please put Friday 17th December at 7pm in your diary. It is a chance for us to reflect on our spiritual journey this Advent and be reconciled with God and with one another through the Sacrament of Penance.

Altar servers – If your child would like to serve at the altar, please get in touch with Br. Martin M or Br. Martin S. This is for children who have made their 1st Holy Communion and older. Training will be provided once we have a list of interested children.

Cleaning the church volunteers – This week we thank the Travelling Community for coming in to clean the church. If you would like to volunteer and give a helping hand, please contact the parish office with your details so you could be added to the rota.

Rosary Prayer Group Fridays 7.00p.m. – We meet every week in church to ask Our Lady's protection over our parishioners and the whole world. Join us.

St. Joseph's Open Day - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are holding a virtual open day for September 2022 Reception pupils. Please join us to discover more about our outstanding provision. Monday 6th December 2021 at 4.30pm via Teams. To register for this meeting please go to the admissions section of the school website.

www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 5th December 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat) Parishioners
9.00 a.m. O.F.S.
11.00 a.m. Mary Joyce & Family
5.30 p.m. Holy Souls

Monday 6th

St. Nicholas

7.30 a.m. Patricia King R.I.P.

Tuesday 7th

7.30 a.m. Br. Antonio's Intentions

St. Ambrose

Wednesday 8th

***The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary***

7.30 a.m. Darlene Letey's Intentions

Thursday 9th

7.30 a.m. Br. Anthony's Intentions

Friday 10th

7.30 a.m. Br. Pradeep's Intentions

Saturday 11th

8.00 a.m. Terry McDonna R.I.P.
6.30 p.m. Sylvia & Davy Collins & Family

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.