



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) – 24th October 2021

1st Reading – Jeremiah 31:7-9

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

2nd Reading – Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel – Mark 10:46-52

The Word of God brings us hope. The great promises of God in the first reading, that God will bring us back, gather us together, comfort us, guide us, and be a father to us – all of these promises are meant to instil in us at least a glimmer of hope. That little hope we may perceive at first is meant to grow and develop until we end up shouting and rejoicing in what God has done for us. It is the same hope that made Bartimaeus call out to Jesus. He didn't stop when he wasn't heard, he kept calling despite others telling him to be quiet. He never gave up. Hope enabled him to continue.

It would be good for each of us to reflect on whether we continue praying with the same focus and perseverance, and to think about what we actually pray for. What do I really want the Lord to do for me? It may seem a simple question to answer but we know life is never that simple. It takes courage to admit that sometimes things we pray for we don't really want to happen, or at least not too quickly. St. Augustine famously prayed: Lord, make me chaste, but not yet! Presumably we all want to go to heaven and would put our hands up quite quickly if asked about it, but how many hands would go up if asked if you'd be happy to die today. Simple questions reveal a real struggle that we all need to face within ourselves.

Bartimaeus asked for his sight to return. We could join him today and pray for the same gift to be able to see and follow the Lord along the way. The great blessing that comes with the gift of sight is to recognize the reality of the challenges we face in our life of faith. That insight makes us humbler and more open to the grace of God. Freedom and new life will start pouring in as soon as we become more honest in our prayer and tell God what we have discovered and what we really need. Let us allow Him to be Our Father.

Br. Charles Serignat OFM Cap R.I.P. – His body will be received into the church this Sunday evening at 7p.m. Requiem Mass will be on Monday 25th October at 11a.m. His funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 26th at 10a.m. in Pantasaph. Thank you to all parishioners and others who have been praying for Br. Charles during these last months of his illness.

Anne Sanderson R.I.P. – The funeral of Anne Sanderson, Br. Martin's mother will take place on the 1st November in York. We continue to pray for the repose of her soul, and for Br. Martin and his family during this time.

Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalized communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.

Church Hall Renovations – As you can see we are still awaiting the vital works to be carried out on our parish hall in order to prevent water damaging the building further. We are planning a good clean of the hall in the meantime so that we can start using the space for various parish events and functions. The plan is to have a parish hall we can all be proud of, a warm and welcoming place not just for parishioners, but also for the use of the wider community. All of this will need a lot of financial assistance and I together with the parish committee responsible for the project of renovating the hall will be calling on your support in many ways in the near future. Start thinking about ways in which we can fundraise as a community or you as an individual. We will be presenting our proposals as well as the journey towards achieving our goals through our website and in the porch at the back of the church. I pray we will all engage with the work, even if your contribution would be to pray for its success. It is all deeply appreciated.

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers – Please inform the parish priest if you are an extraordinary eucharistic minister in the parish and would like to continue with this ministry. So far there has been no response since last week. This service is a vital support to our community in our celebrations of the Eucharist, as well as providing a visible link with our sick parishioners who can no longer join us for the celebration in church for whatever reason.

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.

Rosary Prayer Group Fridays 7.00p.m. – From next Friday we would like to resume our weekly Rosary Prayer Group. We would meet every week in church to ask Our Lady's protection over our parishioners and the whole world. Come and join us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Just a note to remind all parishioners that our church opens from 5.30 p.m. on Saturday evenings for a time of silent adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It is a perfect opportunity for some quiet prayer and reflection, which ends at 6.15 p.m. with benediction.

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.

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

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 24th October 2021 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

6.30 p.m. (Sat) Parishioners
9.00 a.m. Br. Charles Serignat R.I.P.
11.00 a.m. Angelino D Esteres
5.30 p.m. Argo William Ashton

Monday 25th

7.30 a.m. Pauline Ann Turner R.I.P.
11.00 a.m. Requiem Mass for Br.
Charles Serignat OFM.Cap

Tuesday 26th

Sts. Chad & Cedd

7.30 a.m. Arthur & Felicia Van
Cuylenburg R.I.P.

Wednesday 27th

7.30 a.m. Joan Hayes R.I.P.

Thursday 28th

Sts. Simon & Jude

7.30 a.m. Teresa Scollan

Friday 29th

7.30 a.m. Franciscan Missionaries of
Mary & Benefactors

Saturday 30th

8.00 a.m. Claudia Schaffie
6.30 p.m. Kieran Hughes

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.