



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
Parish Priest: Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM Cap
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**Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)
17th December 2023**

1st Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
Psalm – My soul rejoices in the God.
2nd Reading – St. Paul 5:16-24
Gospel – John 1:6-8,19-28

Carol Service this Sunday 17th December at 3pm in the church followed by refreshments in the hall. All are invited to attend.

PLENARY INDULGENCE IN FRANCISCAN CHURCHES:

From the 8th December till 2nd February, the faithful who visit a Franciscan church in order to stop and pray in front of the nativity scene can receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (be in a state of grace, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, receive the Lord in the Eucharist). Likewise, those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of plenary indulgence, offering their sufferings to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety. 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church n1471)

This gift and privilege granted to all our Franciscan churches throughout the world by our Holy Father is to mark the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio, where St. Francis of Assisi wanted to commemorate the birth of the

Lord starting with a nativity scene leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.

Our church will be open from **5.30pm - 6.30pm on Monday 18th and Thursday 21st** for prayer of the rosary, evening prayer and silent meditation. Extra times will be announced in the New Year.

Penitential Service – On Monday 18th December at 7pm we will have a possibility to pray, reflect and confess our sins in preparation for Christmas.

Crib Collection this year is for the Friends of the Holy Land – to recognise the urgent needs of Christians in the land of our 'Mother Church'. Thank you for your generosity.

Year of Prayer - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a **Year of Prayer** by Pope Francis and it starts now. The links below will take you to some great resources that you can make use of throughout the year. These resources have been produced by Fr. Rob Taylerson, a Diocesan Priest and Spiritual Director at St. Mary's College, Oscott.
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=d88fed60-f246-43dc-ab7d-06c23408159f>
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=084a0ba5-85ca-41ca-acd7-6490028f9025>

Oxford Street Pastors If you would be interested in joining us please get in touch, there is no obligation and we are happy to talk: email, message or meet with you! Email: streetpastorsoxford@gmail.com or call 07910 758363. You can chat to a current street pastor to find out what it is really like. You can come out on a shift as an observer with no obligation. Please see the poster in the Church porch for more information. Finally, we would be grateful for your prayers! Please pray for our team as they undertake their weekend shifts, Christ's work in action on the city street.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service will be held at 2pm on Sunday 21st January at the Christadelphian Church, and Rev Canon Dr Geoff Bayliss will be preaching. It will be preceded by a bring and share lunch at 1pm. If anyone would like to read at the service please contact them directly and see more details are on the attached poster in the Church porch.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers."

Tea and Coffee – After 11am Mass every week. After 9am Mass on 1st Sunday of each month – next Sunday will be 7th January.

Parish Donations

Collection Last Week: £372.16

Gift Aid: £69.50

Poor Parishes: £50

Gift Aid: £5.80

St. Anthony's Bread: £41.49

Thank you for your generosity and support of our parish, also to those of you who also contribute on-line and via the contactless payment machine.

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick, especially Therese O'Malley, Aline Beaupiere, Margaret Corcoran, Oonagh Clarkson, Albert Paintin, Gillian Mellor, Br. Michael Hargan, Ewan Williams, Anne Wilkinson. 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.

Sacrament of Penance (Confession): Saturdays 11am-12noon, 5.30pm-6.15pm and by appointment.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Geraldine Coggins, Michael Curran, Anne Harpin. They can be contacted at: sg.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Sunday 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)		
6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Kit Gaffey and family	
9.00 a.m.	Helen & Johnnyboy Collins	
11.00 a.m.	Parishioners	
5.30 p.m.	Christy & Ann-Marie Gaffey	
Monday 18th		
7.30 a.m.	1) Richard Pinniger R.I.P.	
Tuesday 19th		<i>Dedication of the Church</i>
7.30 a.m.	1) Sarah Meagher R.I.P. 2) C.M.A.	
Wednesday 20th		
7.30 a.m.	1) Private Int. 2) Friars and Benefactors	
Thursday 21st		
7.30 a.m.	1) Father Gerard Mary 2) Herlander Pereira	
Friday 22nd		
7.30 a.m.	1) Isabel, children & deceased husband 2) Br. Ade's Int.	
Saturday 23rd		
8.00 a.m.	Geraldine & Jimmy O'Leary	
6.30 p.m. (Vigil)	JohnJoe Gaffey & family	

24th December - 9.00am, 11.00am

24th December Christmas Eve - 5.30pm, Carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

25th December Christmas Day - 9.00am, 11.00am (**NO EVENING MASS**)

26th December - 30th December Masses at 9.00am

31st December Holy Family- 9.00am, 11.00am, 5.30pm, 11.00pm (In Thanksgiving and welcome the New Year), 1st January Mary Mother of God – 9.00am