



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God) Year C – 23rd January 2022

1st Reading – Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Psalm – Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel – Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

In the first reading we hear about the community's reaction to the Word of God being proclaimed. Today the Church celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God and invites us to reflect on our own attitude to the same Word of God. In our busy lives, too often this life-giving Word can become secondary or even replaced by all the other activities we would rather enjoy. Listening to God can be seen as something we have no time for and this attitude can creep up on us in a very subtle way. There are many ways in which we can shut ourselves off from the Word of God.

In our parish today, we will be celebrating the service of men, women, and young people who proclaim this Word to us during Mass. As we will hear, what they do is not simply read to the congregation. Reading the Word of God requires commitment on the part of those who undertake it, in much the same way as those of us who listen also need to be committed to that task. A while ago I asked for volunteers to come forward and take up this important role in the community, and today I renew that call once again. Allow the Lord to use your voice to reach out to others.

We all know that it may not be easy at times to understand the Scriptures, even those who study them will also admit the same. The Bible can be read in many different ways, and where two or more are gathered in the Lord's name to study His words, or to meditate on them, He will always be there in the midst. If you feel you'd like to be part of such a group in the parish, or to lead such a group, please make yourself known. These things cannot happen without your active participation.

Congratulations – We welcome Scarlett Collins and Jaden Fernandes into the community of the Church. They have been baptized last week and we ask God's blessings upon them and their families.

1st Holy Communion – We ask the parish community to pray for all children and their families, who are now preparing for their 1st Holy Communion this summer. May this time of preparation be a time of renewal in the life of faith.

Fr. Hudson's Society – Thanks to your generosity over Christmastime, we have been able to donate £181.87 collected at the crib to support the work of Fr. Hudson's Society.

The Synod – More details about this can be found on our diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk and on our own website. Put **Saturday 5th February at 12noon** or **Sunday 6th February at 3.30pm** in your diary and attend one of those meetings if you can. Meetings will last for a maximum of 1hr30mins. These meetings are open for all and we hope they will become a start of our communal reflection on our understanding of the Church, our role within the Church and our own mission. As Pope Francis encourages us, most of all we hope this space will become a place where we can listen to the Spirit and one another. Apart from the meetings, if you would like to respond to the questions set out by the diocese via email, or letter, please do so and forward all your responses to the parish office.

Please note there will be no confessions on Saturday 29th January in the morning.

Church & Hall Update – As you can see, the work has begun on doing essential repairs / maintenance of our church and hall. We are also looking into the details of the proposals for the renovation of the hall so that this work can proceed to its next stage. As soon as we have an update on those, we will let you know. If you would like to make a specific donation towards the renovation of the parish hall, please specify that you wish that donation to go for that purpose. You can write a cheque made out to Capuchin Oxford Parish, or donate via bank transfer to the Capuchin Oxford Parish Account (Acc. No. 50154109 Sort Code 60-70-03). Thank you for your support and generosity.

Rosary Prayer Group – We meet every Friday evening at 7pm in the church to pray the rosary. Join us when you can. All welcome.

Covid Update – The situation hasn't changed since our last update before Christmas. We continue to celebrate Mass and other religious services as normal. Our side aisles and chapels are socially distanced. The priests will distribute Holy Communion on the hand only at this time. There is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you feel unwell, or display any symptoms, please stay at home. Thank you for your co-operation and for doing what you can to be responsible for yourself and others around you when in church.

Thank you from The Gatehouse - In the last 3 months of The Gatehouse operations we have delivered 776 food parcels to those in our community most in need and had over 2000 visits to our cafe. On average we are supporting well over 250 people a week and without the help of our donors, we wouldn't be able to offer the help and support that we currently do. Christmas always brings together members of the community and this year was no different. We were on the receiving end of many donations of boxes of chocolates and new pants and socks. The chocolates have been given out to our guests and we had enough for everybody to receive a 2nd box and even potentially a 3rd! The new pants and socks donations were overwhelming and I am hopeful that the supplies we now have will last us well into 2022. It's always amazing to see people come together and help and support those in need. We are truly thankful for each and every donation we receive as without these donations, we wouldn't be able to sustain our service. I know our guests are very grateful too and if they were able to, would also extend their thanks. Please do pass on our appreciation to our kind supporters, we really couldn't do it without you! We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2022 and look forward to seeing what this year has in store for us all.

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.

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.

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.

Collection Last Week: £269.15

Gift Aid: £171.40

S.P.U.C.: £207.86

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

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 23rd January 2022 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

9.00 a.m. Anthony & Clara Fernandes
(Wedding Anniversary)

11.00 a.m. Ladislav Nagy R.I.P.

5.30 p.m. Parishioners

Monday 24th

St. Francis de Sales

7.30 a.m. Healing for Elizabeth, Charlie
Lee & Family

Tuesday 25th

The Conversion of St. Paul

7.30 a.m. Mary Joyce & Family

Wednesday 26th

Sts. Timothy and Titus

7.30 a.m. Terence McDonald R.I.P.

Thursday 27th

7.30 a.m. Mr Cahill R.I.P.

Friday 28th

St. Thomas Aquinas

7.30 a.m. Sally O'Connell R.I.P.

Saturday 29th

8.00 a.m. Eamon Flanagan R.I.P.

6.30 p.m. Danuta Rauhut R.I.P.

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.