



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C – 27th March 2022

1st Reading – Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm – Taste and see that the Lord is good.

2nd Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

We often tend to feel sorry for the young man in the Gospel who has chosen to enjoy his so-called freedom and realized how much he lost in the process. A life of sin caught up with him, but thankfully he does come to his senses and decides to come back home. The whole story seems to focus so much on this son's journey and on the Father's welcome. The one who really deserves our pity is the older son who only comes on the scene towards the end of the story. Sadly, despite following the rules and doing the right thing he finds himself unable to rejoice and welcome his brother. He doesn't go in to celebrate, he is the one who is left out.

We easily make assumptions about others, and can equally try to work out which brother I can relate to, or which one is better, but the reality is that both have fallen and lost sight of the Father. The Father is the only one who is truly free in the story, free enough to continue longing for the younger son's return, to embrace and welcome him. He is equally free enough to encourage the older one and help him see the extent of his love and generosity. He wants both to celebrate and share his joy.

St. Paul reminds us that we have a very good reason to rejoice – we have been reconciled already. God has acted in Christ and has reconciled the world with Himself. In the next line St. Paul tells us to be reconciled. In other words, live and put into action what has already been achieved by God and not us. If we have been reconciled, then why choose to remain a slave to anger, resentment and all the other things that prevent us from enjoying God's life to the full? It is challenging to realize that it is not we who effect these things, but we do become transformed when we realize and receive what God has done for each of us.

Belong & Believe - Join us for the next in our series of five informal and engaging café style discussions, using high quality video resources. Each session draws upon the wisdom and inspiration of our Celtic spiritual heritage, as we move beyond the separation of pandemic and rekindle community. We will meet on **Monday 28th March at 7.30pm**, in the parish hall, for about an hour. This week's theme is 'Caring for God's Creation'. All are very welcome, with refreshments from 7.15pm.

Bible Study Group - The next meeting of the Bible study group will take place on **Thursday 31st March from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.**, in the Friary library. You can find the preparation sheet for session 3 on the parish website: <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/biblestudygroup>, or e-mail the parish office for a copy.

Growing in Communion - Are you seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus? Would you like to learn about Mental Prayer? Do you find it hard to plough through the extensive material on the subject? Then 'Growing in Communion' might help you focus. 'Growing in Communion' is the parish of Greyfriars' initiative to grow in faith. Sessions are open to all, but specifically designed to help the parishioners, their families and friends – (Catholic and non-Catholic) grow in faith through prayer through scripture to facilitate ways to implement our faith in Jesus Christ in our daily lives. Programme will start with sessions on mental prayer. Meetings are held on Wednesdays, twice monthly, **next session on 6th April 2022, at 7pm**. Please come to the friary door. If you have any questions, or would like to register your interest, please email Yvette on IffleyCross@gmail.com

Gift Aid - Envelopes for the new financial year starting on 6th April 2022 are available to be collected from the Server's sacristy. They have been issued only to those who have used them in the last 12 months. If there isn't one in your name and you would like to start using them again, please let Thelma Martin know on 01865 790065 or edward854@edward854.plus.com

Volunteers needed – As we are gradually returning back to normal arrangements during our Masses, we will require you to volunteer fulfilling certain roles to ensure our liturgies run smoothly. In order for that to happen, we would need a couple of people to help take the collection during Mass, and others to take turns bringing the gifts to the altar during the offertory. Please make yourself known to the parish priest, or one of the stewards, or email or phone.

1st Friday Devotions – This coming Friday we will have our usual Mass for the sick at 3.30pm, followed by a chance to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Let's make the most of the opportunity to honour the Sacred Heart of Our Lord on that day. Church will be open from 2.30pm for a chance to go to Confession.

Stations of the Cross – Every Friday evening during Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross in our church at 7pm. Please join us during this Lent to pray and reflect on what this suffering journey means to us today.

Rosary Prayer Group – During Lent the Rosary will be said on Thursday evenings in the church at 7pm. Our special intention will be for peace in Ukraine.

Penitential Service – On Tuesday 12th April at 7pm we will have our Lenten Penitential Service. An opportunity to reflect on our relationships, ask God's forgiveness for our sins and become reconciled with the Lord and one another through the Sacrament of Penance.

Good Friday Cowley Road Stations – We are invited to join our Christian brothers and sisters on Good Friday morning to bear witness together to Jesus' painful journey to Calvary. We will gather at the Cowley Road Methodist Church from 10.15am and begin the walk at 10.30am. We will stop at various stations for a short reading and reflection as we make our way to St. Mary & St. John Church on Cowley Road. All are welcome for refreshments at the end in St. Mary & St. John Church.

Parish Hall – 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.

Church cleaning – This week we thank Angelika and Olivia for coming to clean the church. If you would like to lend a helping hand and join the rota to clean the church please get in touch.

Collection Last Week: £404.17

Gift Aid: £ 63

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 27th March 2022 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Valerie's Int. (Profession OFS)
9.00 a.m.	Parishioners
11.00 a.m.	Sylvia Collins & Family
5.30 p.m.	Members of Agony in the Garden Prayer Group

Monday 28th

7.30 a.m.	Jozef Bilik
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Tuesday 29th

7.30 a.m.	Friars & Benefactors
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Wednesday 30th

7.30 a.m.	Kieran Hughes
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Thursday 31st

7.30 a.m.	Palmira De Aranja R.I.P.
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Friday 1st

1st Friday Devotions

7.30 a.m.	Joan & Mary Barratt R.I.P.
3.30 p.m.	For the sick

Saturday 2nd

8.00 a.m.	Souls in Purgatory
6.30 p.m.	People of Ukraine

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

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. We also remember those who have died, especially **Kevin Colton, Palmira De Araujo, Steven Fontaine**. May they and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.