



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
Parish Priest: Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM Cap
Tel. No. 01865 256 750 (Parish), 01865 243694 (Friary)
Email: ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.greyfriarsoxford.uk

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 6th February 2022

1st Reading – Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm – Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel – Luke 5:1-11

‘Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?’ God could be asking each of us the same question. There is a lot that needs to be done or could be done. From our first parish meeting about the Synod, we could name a few things: we need to reach out to those who no longer come to church, we need to reach out to young families, young professionals, we need to become more welcoming, we need to offer others a sense of belonging to this community. These are just a few examples. As we reflect on these and other issues, we do so in the light of the Word of God. The Lord is interested in each of us, in all our choices, and in order to reach out God needs assistance. He asks who will I send? He reaches out constantly, but relies on us to make Him visible.

As we continue to reflect on our own unique responsibility within the life of the Church, we have to keep in mind that ultimately it is God who touches our hearts, cleanses them, frees them from sin, and fills them with His gift of eternal life. Our responsibility lies in ensuring that first of all we don’t get in the way of what the Lord does, and secondly making ourselves available for God to use in the way that is best for all. Praying to the Holy Spirit as we do at the end of each Mass becomes essential if we are to be guided by that Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is already at work in all of us, and all of us from time to time have to remind ourselves of this. We are gifted, we do serve, we are chosen. Each member of the community contributes to the spread of the Gospel in their own way, sometimes we may fail in not recognizing what the Lord has already done and that He is in our midst. As we continue on our journey as a community, I encourage all to pray that we may become more conscious of the real presence of God all around us and within us, and bear witness to that gift by the way we live, work, and relate with one another.

The Synod – More details about this can be found on our diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk and on our own website. This **Sunday 6th February at 3.30pm** we will have our second meeting. It will last for a maximum of 1hr30mins. The meeting is open for all and we hope this becomes a more structured beginning 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. **The meeting will take place in the parish hall.**

Bible Study Group - You are warmly invited to join a Bible study group which will be meeting every 2 weeks or so to study the Gospel of St Luke, starting on **Thursday 17th February from 8pm to 9pm in the friary.** Our objective will be to enrich our understanding of this year's Gospel readings, which are mainly from St Luke, by studying the whole of his Gospel before the end of the year. At least a week before each meeting a sheet of ideas and questions will be posted on the parish website, and it would be a great help if participants could read the set passage in advance, think about at least some of the questions, and be ready to share their insights and difficulties at the meeting. But don't worry if you can't manage much preparation – no one will be checking up on you. If you can't get to the meetings, you are very welcome to use the sheets as a starting point for your personal Bible study. You can find the question sheets for the first two studies at <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/biblestudygroup>. If you need e-mail or paper copies, please e-mail the parish or leave a message on the parish number.

Belong & Believe - Join us for the first 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 February at 7.30pm,** in the parish hall, for about an hour. The first theme explores 'Building welcoming communities'. All are very welcome, with refreshments from 7.15pm.

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

Confirmation Programme 2022 – We ask the parish community to pray for all those who will be beginning their time of preparation to receive this sacrament and complete their Christian initiation, and for their families.

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.

Covid Update – The latest guidelines can be read in full on our website. Holy water is now back at the entrance of the church as you go in and leave. Our hymn books will also be returning – please note you are still encouraged to wear a face covering if intending to sing. We will also be resuming the practice of exchanging the sign of peace – be mindful of others who may not feel comfortable shaking hands yet! Due to currently high number of infections the priests will continue distributing the host on the hand only. For the time being, we will also keep the side aisles socially distanced as they are now. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company – There are a number of positions advertised by the MAC. Please take a look at our notice board at the back of the church for details or take a look at our website to access the documents in full. The Pope Francis Catholic MAC is looking for a Chief Financial Officer, a Primary Lead for School Improvement, and Governance Clerks.

Church cleaning – This week we thank the Travelling Community 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: £298.71

Gift Aid: £568.20

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 6th February 2022 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

9.00 a.m. Thomas Gerard Smith R.I.P.

11.00 a.m. Private Intention

5.30 p.m. Parishioners

Monday 7th

St. Colette of Corbie

7.30 a.m. Maria C Pereira

Tuesday 8th

7.30 a.m. Pauline Richards R.I.P.

Wednesday 9th

7.30 a.m. Br. Lucjan's Intentions

Thursday 10th

St. Scholastica

7.30 a.m. Friars & Benefactors

Friday 11th

***Our Lady of Lourdes
(World Day of Prayer for
the Sick)***

7.30 a.m. Terry McDonna R.I.P.

Saturday 12th

8.00 a.m. Vocations

6.30 p.m. Seamus Kenny 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.