



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B) – 2nd May 2021

1st Reading – Acts 9:26-31

Psalm – You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

2nd Reading – 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel – John 15:1-8

Every gardener will tell you that pruning is essential, but you need to know what to cut, how much needs cutting off, and what is the best time to do it. Jesus tells us that His words do this job effectively within us, they are addressed to our hearts and touch what is most precious and fragile at the same time. In that way the Word of God gives us shape and steers us in the right direction. The Lord does this each time we experience His cross, in other words each time our hearts get cut. This is just the beginning of what the best doctor does to each of us, He isn't satisfied with simply letting us experience His saving cross.

The Lord wants us to remain in Him, to make our home in Him. He is happy to move in with us, but we need to be accustomed to His presence, to recognize Him and then to welcome Him. Easier said than done. Ultimately, we are being taught how to love, so that 'our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active'. This is the message of St. John and it is challenging. As strange as it may seem, it can be difficult to accept such love focused us. Love that reaches out to us even though we spend so much time not even paying attention to it, being indifferent to it, or doing the opposite of what we are asked to do. Faced with such love it is no wonder that our hearts get cut even more, there's real pain involved, and no one likes pain.

Jesus tells us that if we remain in Him, we can ask what we will and we will get it. Let us pray this week for a greater understanding that we need to go through the pain of facing the One who loves us eternally. This pain is nothing less than sharing in the life-giving cross of Christ, and we know that if we share in His cross and suffering, we shall pass over with Him into eternal life. We can then give Him thanks for all the heartaches we experience and start recognizing the hand of God behind everything we go through.

Café Programme – Joy of Hope



Don't miss: 'The Joy of Hope'. Our 3rd session is on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm. Each session features a short video followed by discussion in small groups and closes with a prayer. The sessions explore the virtue of Christian hope and what it means for us today. Sessions start at 7.30pm and each runs for just over an hour, finishing around 8.30pm. You are very welcome to attend any session. **To receive further information please e-mail John Kirwan johnkirwan1a@gmail.com**
Zoom Link: Meeting ID 828 0652 7052 Passcode 744625

CAFOD Campaign to Reclaim our common home - Cafod have launched a campaign 'to reclaim our common home' in advance of the G7 meeting in June of leaders from seven of the world's richest countries under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and the COP26 climate talks in November also under Mr Johnson's chairmanship. The aim of the campaign is to bring before our political leaders in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic the plight of the poorest nations of the world and to adopt measures to help rebuild them by ending unjust debt repayment and tackling the climate crisis.

The easiest way to sign the petition is to do so online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>

Parish donations – Our website provides you with details of how you can support our parish financially during this time, whether you are a member of our GIFT AID scheme or not. If you are a tax payer, please take a moment to fill in the relevant form you will find on our website – all at no cost to yourself, but helping us immensely. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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.

Diocesan Newsletter

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

Important information for EU Citizens

If you are an EU passport holder and have not yet obtained Settled status please be aware that the deadline for this is the end of June this year. It applies regardless of how long you have been resident in the UK. Spread the word! You can ask for help with your application at **Europa Welcome**, based in East Oxford. They can help with language problems and have information on their website in **Tetum**, the language of East Timor, many of whose citizens hold Portuguese passports.

You can find more information generally about who needs to apply for Settled Status here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk>

And here is the website for Asylum Welcome:

<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/europa-welcome>

To read it in **Tetum**, go here:

https://www.asylumwelcome.org/docs/Asylum%20Welcome%20Eschema%20Settlement%20iha%20EU%20no%20Coronavirus_4%20Aug%202020.pdf

NB The information above does **NOT** apply to Irish citizens as they are covered by the Common Travel Area legislation and do not need to apply for Settled Status.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 2nd May

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Barry Macey Dore R.I.P.
5.30pm	O.F.S.

Monday 3rd May

Sts. Philip and James, Feast

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 4th May

The English Martyrs, Feast

7.30am	Annie Breen R.I.P.
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Wednesday 5th May

7.30am	Br. Charles' Intentions
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Thursday 6th May

7.30am

Kieran Hughes

Friday 7th May

7.30am

Holy Souls

Saturday 8th May

8.00am

In thanksgiving for the gift of children

6.30pm

Parishioners

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick, especially **Therese O'Malley**. 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.