



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C – 3rd April 2022

1st Reading – Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm – What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

2nd Reading – Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel – John 8:1-11

Jesus in the Gospel refuses to engage with the crowd who wishes to punish the woman who sins in the story. There is no doubt that she has sinned, but Jesus decides to bend down and start writing in the sand instead. It seems people are more offended by the sin of another person than the Lord is. They almost force a response from Him, and He asks a simple question which stuns each one into silence and makes them finally walk away. His silence, His gestures, His words eventually get through to the crowd. Jesus finally addresses the woman and says very simply: go and sin no more.

Is that it? Is there no reparation for sin? Does she not have to do penance in order to be forgiven? The love and mercy of God seem to bypass our expectations of what should happen and set the sinner free. There is no long conversation as to what happened or why she did it, there is instead an offer of real freedom and encouragement. Our Lord shows what compassion and empathy look like in practice. It is a stark picture that shows God covering up the woman with dignity and understanding, the very opposite of the crowd who wished to expose all her sins and take not only her dignity away but her very life.

Continuing our Lenten journey leads us deeper into the heart of God. There will be many people in our lives whose sins we often call to mind and broadcast to others, whose failings are so apparent to us and we find difficult to resist commenting on, and at the same time Jesus in today's Gospel reminds us to pay attention to what our own heart looks like. We can lose sight of the Gospel so easily and quickly, and replace it with our own sense of justice and right and wrong. Let us pray that the good Lord would bless those we harm in this way and renew the dignity and beauty of every person.

Belong & Believe - Join us for the last 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 4th April at 7.30pm**, in the parish hall, for about two hours. All are very welcome, with refreshments from 7.15pm.

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 - In March the Parish received £6,000. This is entirely due to the 25% enhancement on donations given to the Parish using Gift Aid. Under the scheme, some tax paid to HMRC is returned. This means that, for example, for every £10 given, the Parish receives £12.50. If you are a UK taxpayer, and have enough tax to cover the 25%, please consider signing a gift aid declaration. It helps the Parish get money back from the Government!

Washing of the Feet – If you will be here for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm, and would like to have your feet washed as part of the service, then please put your name down on the list at the back of the church. We need 12 willing disciples. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass begins so I could meet you all.

Holy Week and Easter Services – Please pick up the leaflet with the times of services and Masses for Holy Week and Easter Week. These are also available on our website.

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.

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.

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.

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 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: £352.88

Gift Aid: £ 47

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 3rd April 2022 Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat)	People of Ukraine
9.00 a.m.	Edward James Martin R.I.P.
11.00 a.m.	Barry Macey-Dare R.I.P.
5.30 p.m.	Parishioners

Monday 4th

7.30 a.m.	Samuel Hay R.I.P.
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Tuesday 5th

7.30 a.m.	Johnny O'Leary & Family, Mary R.I.P.
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Wednesday 6th

7.30 a.m.	Friars & Benefactors
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Thursday 7th

7.30 a.m.	Kieran Hughes
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Friday 8th

7.30 a.m.	Vocations
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Saturday 9th

8.00 a.m.	C.M.A.
6.30 p.m.	Parishioners

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.