



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
Parish Priest: Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM Cap
Tel. No. 01865 256750 (Parish), 01865 243694 (Friary)
Email: ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk
Website: www.greyfriarsoxford.uk
Greyfriars Catholic School: www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk

The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)
11th February 2024

1st Reading – Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalm – You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

2nd Reading – Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel – Mark 1:40-45

Ash Wednesday - 14th February – This coming Wednesday the season of Lent begins. Apart from our usual morning Mass at 7.30am, there will be an evening Mass at 7.00pm. 'Ash Wednesday is the doorway into our Lenten season of renewal – a day rich in associations and symbolism. It marks the beginning of Lent – a time for turning again to the practice of our faith, in prayer, self-denial (fasting) and practical generosity (almsgiving). Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, many Catholics consider it important to receive ashes on this day. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of 40 days (Sundays excluded) in which Catholics prepare for Eastertide. This period also represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert as well as the 40 years that the Israelites spent in exile. The ashes themselves come from the burned palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration: thus bringing us full circle to our last celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are called to turn away from sin, to repent and to believe the Good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Receiving Ashes (An outward sign of an inner step) "As we cross this threshold we customarily receive ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of the cross. This is a public mark of our turning again to God, seeking his mercy, forgiveness and help. "We use these words: 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. Yes, we cannot pretend otherwise. Or: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Yes, we seek the one thing that is absolutely necessary: the grace of God.'"

Please note there will be no morning confessions next Saturday 17th February due to a meeting of the brothers.

Season of Lent – Walk with me Booklets are available in the church porch and are a useful way to help us prepare for our Lenten journey for the coming weeks ahead. Please take one.

Stations of the Cross – This Friday 16th February we will meditate on the Stations of the Cross at 7pm in the church. We walk from station to station in order to relive the mystery of Our Lord's Passion and Death that He has undergone out of love for us and in order to set us free from sin.

Friary News – We welcome Br. Anoop Kurian OFM Cap. into our fraternity. He is from India, Pavanatma Province in Kerala, and has come to serve in our Delegation in the UK. He will be with us in Oxford until after Easter.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group – next meeting is 17:30, Monday 12 February 2024, at Greyfriars Library. Gospel reading Mark: 1:12-15. Br Martin Sanderson will continue to lead future sessions as and when his ministry permits. In Br Martin's absence, Helen and Yvette will administer to the Group. For more information, email: iffleycross@gmail.com.

Cake Sale - many thanks to all who donated or bought cakes at the cake sale on Sunday 4th February. Together we raised £370 towards the refurbishment of the church hall. The next cake sale will be on Sunday 7th April. Please put the date in your diary!

The Crucifixion by John Stainer – Friday 23rd February at 7.30pm at The Oxford Oratory. Sung by the choirs of the Oxford Oratory. Tickets £15 (students £5) or book online TINYURL.COM/ORATORY-STAINER. Please see posters in the Church porch.

Second Collection - CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal on 25th February

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please use the envelopes provided or donate online: cafod.org.uk.

Oxford North Deanery Year of Prayer 2024 - monthly Deanery talks:

All sessions (except May) from 7.00pm – 8.00pm in the various Parishes/ locations indicated:

March tbc Fr. Nicholas Edmonds Smith C.O. (The Oratory);

Tuesday April 16th Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM (Cap) (Greyfriars, Iffley Road);

Sunday May 12th Fr. John Seward (3.00pm SS. Gregory and Augustine, Woodstock Road);

June 16th Fr. Paul Whieldon (St. Joseph's, Carterton);

Tuesday July 9th Fr. Nicholas OP (Blackfriars);

Tuesday September 24th Fr. Damian Howard SJ (Corpus Christi, Headington – live-streaming available). Other dates to follow.

Parish Donations

Collection Last Week: £402.71 Gift Aid: £39

St. Anthony's Bread: £32.13 Candles: £44.76

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

Intercessory Prayers - 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.

Cleaning our Church – if you would like to help keep our Church clean and tidy please speak with one of the Brothers or email the parish on ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick, especially Therese O'Malley, Aline Beaupiere, Margaret Corcoran, Oonagh Clarkson, Albert Paintin, Gillian Mellor, Br. Michael Hargan, Ewan Williams, Anne Wilkinson. 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.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Geraldine Coggins, Michael Curran, Anne Harpin. They can be contacted at: sg.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

The Mass Times

Sunday 11 th February 2024 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)		
6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Thanksgiving for our Salvation, the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ	
9.00 a.m.	Armstrong family int.	
11.00 a.m.	Parishioners	
5.30p.m.	Isabel's Int.	
Monday 12th		
7.30 a.m.	Anne, Jimmy & family	
Tuesday 13th		
7.30 a.m.	1) Darlene Letey 2) Friars and benefactors	
Wednesday 14th		<i>Day of Fast and Abstinence</i>
7.30 a.m.	Padre Pio Prayer Group	
7.00 p.m.	James Brogan R.I.P.	
Thursday 15th		
7.30 a.m.	1) Rosa da Silva R.I.P. 2) Kieron Hughes	
Friday 16th		
7.30 a.m.	1) Jorge Garcia Valente R.I.P. 2) C.M.A.	
Saturday 17th		
8.00 a.m.	Mateus da Silva R.I.P.	
6.30 p.m. (Vigil)	Mrs Bernadette Smith	

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

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