



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 20th February 2022

1st Reading – 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23

Psalm – The Lord is compassion and love.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel – Luke 6:27-38

Jesus presents us with an image of what love can look like in practice. Some see it as being very radical, Jesus calls it loving others. Some mistake it for allowing yourself to be taken advantage of, or even abused, being treated like a doormat over which others can walk. Jesus never advocates such a stance, He is simply showing what love looks like and is capable of. He does not call us to be on the receiving end of things, He is calling us to actively love others. The radicality of it all has to do with how committed we are to be loving people.

In order to love in the way the Gospel teaches, we need to be very strong. In fact, we need to be like the Father – almighty. Only strong people can love others in all sorts of circumstances, only the strong ones can show compassion, mercy, forgiveness in the face of evil. Those of us coming to church realize that we need someone who is able to fill us with enough strength to get through each day in the way the Lord has shown us. The readings remind us that we shouldn't settle for anything less as it would no longer be love. We come to church to listen to the Father speak to us through His Word, and today we are invited to focus on the one whom we are meant to become like – the compassionate Father.

Each of us has a tremendous privilege and a call to become like our Father. To be compassionate means to be able to suffer with someone, to accompany them, to reach out, to struggle to understand without judgment, without condemnation. It is not about forgetting the past, or moving on, or pretending certain things never happened. It is about what I do next. It is about aiming for a concrete goal and ensuring I take the necessary steps to achieve it. If it is anger that gets in the way, then I need to befriend it and learn to listen to its message. If it is judging others, then I need to spend more time reflecting on my own life. If we truly desire to be like the Father, God will always show us what needs addressing in order to make it a reality. Let us make it our prayer this week.

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.

Bible Study Group - The next meeting of the Bible study group will take place on **Thursday 3rd March from 8.00 to 9.00 p.m.**, probably in the Friary library. We will be studying the accounts of Our Lord's birth and childhood from St Luke's Gospel. You can find the preparation sheet for session 2 on the parish website, <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/biblestudygroup>, or e-mail ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk. 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.

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 at the Parish Hall, on Wednesdays, twice monthly **starting 9 March 2022, at 7pm**. If you have any questions, or would like to register your interest, please email Yvette on IffleyCross@gmail.com

CAFOD Family Fast Day – On Friday 11th March we will hold a Family Fast Day, an important part of our Lenten journey encouraging us not only to reflect and pray, but to do something concrete for those who struggle most. Our prayers do make a difference, our financial contribution on the weekend of 12th/13th March will also help, but we wanted to encourage you to mark this Family Fast Day in a special way in your homes. Our Parish Council has provided some simple recipes to try out at home. Visit <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/cafod> for details.

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

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.

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 – I'm happy to say that the essential work on the church and the hall has been done, and the scaffolding has gone. We are now 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.

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 Isobel, Michael, and Sam 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.

We wish all the children and their families a restful time during their half-term break.

Collection Last Week: £373.55

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 20th February 2022 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

9.00 a.m. Henry Cunha (Good health)

11.00 a.m. Parishioners

5.30 p.m. Private Int.

Monday 21st

7.30 a.m. Patrick Rudden R.I.P.

Tuesday 22nd

The See of St. Peter

7.30 a.m. Fatima Jaoã Bosco

Wednesday 23rd

St. Polycarp

7.30 a.m. Clara Fernandes (Birthday)

Thursday 24th

7.30 a.m. Sean McCarthy R.I.P.

Friday 25th

7.30 a.m. Vocations

Saturday 26th

8.00 a.m. Friars & Benefactors

6.30 p.m. Sparla Somseah 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.