



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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 27th February 2022

1st Reading – Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

Psalm – It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel – Luke 6:39-45

Speaking at the end of the General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. “I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,” he said. As we enter this holy season, we realize how fragile and precious the gift of peace can be, and we pray that the Lord would strengthen that gift within all of us and make us true instruments of His peace. With so much suffering and pain, we continue to pray for all governments to be guided by the Holy Spirit to serve the people they govern.

St. Paul’s words are very apt, encouraging us never to give up or admit defeat in the face of evil and sin, both can be conquered. The Word of God reminds us not to look at others and condemn them, but to examine our own hearts and see where sin is still at work within us. The season of Lent is given us to turn around and face the Lord once again, and to keep on turning towards Him. It is only when we keep looking at the Lord and His teachings that we will be equipped to look at others in a way that will be healing and constructive, enabling real growth to take place.

The Church always reminds us to make use of the means at our disposal to reach our goal. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving. There are ample opportunities to practice all three within our community, in our homes, and throughout each day. As we take up any penitential practice, let us not compare ourselves with others around us. Each of us knows how much it costs us to find a bit more time for a one-one with the Lord, or to fast from food or drink or anything else that we enjoy, or share our wealth with others. The Lord sees our efforts, He understands, He looks on with mercy, and He loves us.

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.

Ash Wednesday – This coming Wednesday we begin the season of Lent. There will be an extra Mass in the evening at 7.00 p.m. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.

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 11th March – Every year the second Friday of Lent is kept as Family Fast Day. We are invited during Lent to implore justice through our prayers, to stand in solidarity with the poor and hungry and to reach out through

our giving. 200 million children around the world are currently at risk of malnutrition. The climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and unequal distribution of food mean extreme hunger is getting worse. Pope Francis invites us to choose to cultivate kindness. 'Those who do', he says, 'become stars shining in the midst of darkness'. We can do this by supporting the work of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD). We are invited to eat a little less on 11th March and contribute at least what we save to the work of CAFOD. Parishioners have been very generous in previous years. This year a collection will be taken at masses on 12th and 13th March. Next week-end envelopes will be available after masses so that you can return your offerings at masses on 12th and 13th March. For those who prefer it is possible to donate online at: Cafod.org.uk.

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.

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.

1st Friday 4th March – This Friday we will have our usual devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart, Mass followed by the Anointing of the Sick.

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 Angelika and Olivia 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: £261.22

Gift Aid: £ 34

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 27th February 2022 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

6.30 p.m. (Sat) Sparla Somseah R.I.P.
9.00 a.m. Parishioners
11.00 a.m. Vierka Hejzeiadvā R.I.P.
5.30 p.m. Private Int.

Monday 28th

7.30 a.m. Arthur & Felicia Van Cuylenburg
R.I.P.

Tuesday 1st

7.30 a.m. Mary Giling Int.

St. David

Wednesday 2nd

7.30 a.m. Martina & Teena & Family
7.00 p.m. Parishioners

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 3rd

7.30 a.m. Joseph Maloney R.I.P.

Friday 4th

7.30 a.m. Friars & Benefactors
3.30 p.m. For the sick

Saturday 5th

8.00 a.m. Br. Lucjan's Int.
6.30 p.m. Joaquim Da Cruz 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.