



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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All Saints (Year B) – 31st October 2021

1st Reading – Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14

Psalm – Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

2nd Reading – 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel – Matthew 5:1-12

The Book of Revelation shows us what happens every time we come together as a parish community to celebrate Mass. We come from many different nations and are standing together in front of the Lamb who is present at the altar, who gives Himself to us in Holy Communion. Faith unites us, what we go through in our Christian life unites us, and it allows us to worship God together. This is already what is taking place and it is worthwhile to remind ourselves of what God has achieved. St. John reminds us at the same time that there is much more to come. These people in white robes have been washed by the Blood of the Lamb, they are saints, and what will become of us we don't know. We are still on the way and we hope to join their company and be totally transformed.

Today's solemnity is about the saints in heaven, all those who have been washed clean, who are spotless and are enjoying the presence of God to the fullest. We are rejoicing that the Lord has chosen all of them and enabled them to be victorious over sin and death. They are witnesses to what the Lord wishes to do for each of us, they show us the way, and they help us. The only thing required of us is faith and our prayer asking for their intercession. Whether you are inspired by the poverty of St. Francis of Assisi, the search for truth of St. Dominic, the little way of St. Therese of Lisieux, there is enough food for all of us.

Reading and talking about the saints is not enough. We all need to realize that we are meant to be saints. Holiness is not reserved for the few but open to everyone in all walks of life. Settling for anything else would be equivalent to giving up hope. St. Francis in his 6th Admonition tells us 'it is a great shame for us, the servants of God, that the saints have accomplished great things and we want only to receive glory and honour by recounting them'. Let us pray to God for the gift of becoming a real saint.

Congratulations to Adriano and Thrian – Adriano and Thrian will be receiving their Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday evening at our 5.30pm Mass. We pray for them and their family, that this joyful occasion will be a beginning of another chapter in their life of faith.

Anne Sanderson R.I.P. – The funeral of Anne Sanderson, Br. Martin's mother will take place on the 1st November in York. We continue to pray for the repose of her soul, and for Br. Martin and his family during this time.

1st Friday Devotions – This coming Friday 5th November we will start our afternoon of prayer for the sick at 3.30pm with Mass for the sick followed by Anointing of the Sick, and time to spend in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We are all in need of God's healing, please pass on the message to others who might wish to join us that afternoon.

Catholic Schools Inspectors Required - The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking to recruit inspectors of Catholic primary and secondary schools. We are particularly keen to hear from former school leaders who seek to remain connected with Catholic Education. Email b.mcardle@bdes.org.uk for details.

Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalized communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.

Church Hall Renovations –We are planning a good clean of the hall so that we can start using the space for various parish events and functions. We will let you know the date as soon as we set it, more hands make light work. The plan is to have a parish hall we can all be proud of, a warm and welcoming place not just for parishioners, but also for the use of the wider community. Start thinking about ways in which we can fundraise as a community or you as an individual. We will be presenting our proposals as well as the journey towards achieving our goals through our website and in the porch at the back of the church. I pray we will all engage with the work, even if your contribution would be to pray for its success. It is all deeply appreciated.

House Visits / Blessings – An important part of my service to you as your parish priest is to come to know you, pray with you, and bless you. That is why I would like to invite myself into your homes! – not for a 3-course meal, not even a cup of tea required, but to meet you, chat, and pray. Don't be afraid – I won't turn up uninvited. If you'd like a visit, just get in touch in any way you can – speak to me after Mass in the sacristy, email, phone, fill out the form on the website, or fill in a card that should be available at the back of the church.

Rosary Prayer Group Fridays 7.00p.m. – We meet every week in church to ask Our Lady's protection over our parishioners and the whole world. Come and join us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – Just a note to remind all parishioners that our church opens from 5.30 p.m. on Saturday evenings for a time of silent adoration of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It is a perfect opportunity for some quiet prayer and reflection, which ends at 6.15 p.m. with benediction.

1st Holy Communion / Confirmation 2022 – If you would like your child to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation, please get in touch in order to sign your child for the relevant course. All classes will begin from January, but the sooner you let us know the better. Please fill in the relevant form on the website or speak to me in person. You have until mid-December to ensure your child is signed up.

Parish Council – The Parish Council meets on a regular basis throughout the year to ensure we work together as a community of our Lord's disciples and address any aspects of our life together to support everyone in our life of faith. If you would like to contribute to our parish life in anyway, or feel we could be doing something more and you'd like to get involved, or have some constructive suggestions, feel free to get in touch with them, please send your e-mail to pct.ofmca.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 31st October 2021 All Saints (Year B)

6.30 p.m. (Sat)	Kieran Hughes
9.00 a.m.	Tim O'Sullivan R.I.P.
11.00 a.m.	Parishioners
5.30 p.m.	Holy Souls

Monday 1st

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
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Tuesday 2nd

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
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All Souls

Wednesday 3rd

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
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St. Martin de Porres

Thursday 4th

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
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St. Charles Borromeo

Friday 5th

7.30 a.m.	November Dead List
3.30 p.m.	For the sick

1st Friday Devotions

Saturday 6th

8.00 a.m.	November Dead List
6.30 p.m.	Winnie Joyce R.I.P.

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