



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
Greyfriars, Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB
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The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Year C) – 25th December 2021

Happy Christmas! May the blessings of this holy night during which our Saviour has been born fill your hearts with joy and peace. On behalf of the whole Capuchin fraternity at Greyfriars, I thank you for all your support and generosity throughout this last year. We keep praying for a better New Year 2022.

I pray you will enjoy this season together with your loved ones if you can. I will be away most days from this Monday till 15th January, and in my absence Br. Martin Sanderson will be looking after the parish. Our Masses won't be live-streamed during this time.

Please note that our Masses from Mon 27th till Sat 1st will be at 9am.

A big thank you to everyone who helped us with the celebrations in church during this festive season – our cleaners, our flower arrangers, our choirs, our organists, our stewards, our readers, our altar servers. Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Covid Update – The situation changes very quickly and we'll do our best to keep you updated on any changes. No official guidance has been given to the churches at present, apart from the compulsory wearing of masks introduced recently. We continue to celebrate Mass and other religious services as normal. Our side aisles and chapels are socially distanced. The priests will distribute Holy Communion on the hand only at this time. There is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If you feel unwell, or display any symptoms, please stay at home. Thank you for your co-operation and for doing what you can to be responsible for yourself and others around you when in church.

The Synod – More details about this can be found on our diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk and more will appear on our own website shortly. We hope to have a number of meetings together based on the questions provided by our archdiocese for our reflection. These will appear on our website

and you will be able to obtain a paper copy of those if you wish in the coming days and weeks from the church. Apart from the meetings, if you would like to respond to the questions via email, or letter, please do so and forward all your responses to the parish office. Covid permitting, please put **Saturday 5th February** at 12noon or **Sunday 6th February** at 3.30pm in your diary.

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.

Oxford Street Pastors - We are now recruiting more volunteers. It is great fun to be out in a team of four, enjoying the night-time atmosphere and feeling fully prepared to offer help. We have highly experienced team leaders on each shift and volunteers usually go out once every 3-4 weeks. Full training is provided and we are accredited by the Ascension Trust, meeting their high standards for operating as Street Pastors. Many of our volunteers choose to come out on a shift as an “Observer” as their first step, so they can see first-hand what it is like. Then they apply to join and start their training. The application process is simple and includes getting a reference from your minister / vicar. The first thing to do is to contact Petra, the Coordinator of the Oxford Street Pastors.

Email her on streetpastorsoxford@gmail.com

Church & Hall Update – We are waiting for scaffolding to be put in place by the end of the 2nd week of January, with the works hopefully beginning from the 12th January. It’s been a long wait to begin the process of ensuring that our buildings are protected from damage caused by leaks, but at least if you keep praying long enough, things might be sorted soon. That means we can start looking ahead towards the details of what will be done with the parish hall. As soon as we have an update on those, we will let you know. We are planning on refreshing our space in the porch as you enter the church.

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.

Altar servers – If your child would like to serve at the altar, please get in touch with Br. Martin M or Br. Martin S. This is for children who have made their 1st

Holy Communion and older. Training will be provided once we have a list of interested children.

Rosary Prayer Group on Fridays at 7.00 p.m. will resume on the 7th January.

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 26th December 2021 The Holy Family (Year C)

9.00 a.m. Alan Inseal R.I.P. Anniv.

11.00 a.m. Parishioners

5.30 p.m. Esmerelda Da Cunha

Monday 27th

St. John

9.00 a.m. Christy & Winnie Joyce R.I.P.

Tuesday 28th

The Holy Innocents

9.00 a.m. Br. Paul's Intentions

Wednesday 29th

St. Thomas Becket

9.00 a.m. Geraldine & Jimmy O'Leary

Thursday 30th

9.00 a.m. Healing for Elizabeth

Friday 31st

9.00 a.m. Margaret Cahill

7.00 p.m. In thanksgiving for the last year
(Mother Mary's blessings on
Darlene Letey & everybody)

Saturday 1st

9.00 a.m. John O'Sullivan R.I.P.
 6.30 p.m. Kit Gaffey & Family

*Mary, Mother of God***Sunday 2nd**

9.00 a.m. Edward James Martin R.I.P.
 11.00 a.m. Parishioners
 5.30 p.m. Johnny, Heidi & Family

*Second Sunday after Christmas***Monday 3rd**

7.30 a.m. Friars & Benefactors

*The Holy Name of Jesus***Tuesday 4th**

7.30 a.m. Joan Jennings

Wednesday 5th

7.30 a.m. Rhona Shilson

Thursday 6th

7.30 a.m. Beryl Ridehalph

*The Epiphany of the Lord***Friday 7th**

7.30 a.m. St. Anthony's Guild
 3.30 p.m. For the sick

*1st Friday Devotions***Saturday 8th**

8.00 a.m. Sabrina Hennigan R.I.P.
 6.30 p.m. Bob Ruske 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.