



St. Edmund and St. Frideswide R.C. Church
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The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Year B) – 6th June 2021

1st Reading – Exodus 24:3-8

Psalm – The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

2nd Reading – Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel – Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Today's solemnity focuses our hearts and minds on the mystery of the Lord's abiding presence in our midst in the sacrament of the Eucharist. When we talk about the Body and Blood of Christ we are referring to Jesus. He gives Himself to us as food under the appearance of bread and wine. What does it mean to receive Him?

Moses in the book of Exodus draws a link between the altar, the blood, and the teaching. To receive the Lord who is present on the altar, to be cleansed by His blood when we receive Him entails our commitment together with the Israelites to observe the Lord's commands and put them into practice. God is fulfilling His commitment to that Covenant by forgiving us our sins and setting us free from the slavery of sin whenever we come to Him with a contrite heart and confess. He gives us strength to respond to this gift and learn to live in obedience to His will. To receive Holy Communion means our need to remain faithful to the teaching of the Church, the teaching of Christ who is the Head of His Church. We cannot separate the Body and Blood of Christ from the Church who gives us that precious gift.

God comes to us in order to make us more faithful. He doesn't come as a reward for our good behaviour, but as the Gospels remind us He comes to the sick and the sinner in order to heal. The letter to the Hebrews describes the Lord as our mediator who brings His own blood into the presence of God to intercede for us, who is there in the presence of the Father showing His wounds in order to obtain mercy for us. The same mercy draws Him to come down from heaven to the altar at every celebration of the Eucharist, to come into sinful hearts in order to cleanse us, enlighten us, and unite us more closely with Himself.

St. Francis of Assisi had a great devotion to the Eucharist as he saw the poverty and humility of God who leaves the glory of heaven behind in order to dwell with us and be united with us so intimately. As we reflect on the immensity of God's love for us, let us in our turn give ourselves wholly to Him in return.

1st Holy Communion – This Sunday we congratulate Christabela Fernandes Soares and Jecarinha Tilman Freitas who receive their 1st Holy Communion. We pray for them on this joyful occasion that they may grow in their love for God.

Baptism – This Saturday 5th June we welcome into the Church Roselyn Desia Soares Rangel who will be baptized. Congratulations to her and her family.

Franciscan Spirituality Sessions – Our next session will be on Friday 11th June at 7.30pm I will be sharing the Franciscan spiritual journey according to St. Bonaventure's 'Itinerarium Mentis in Deum'. It is a short piece of writing commonly translated as the soul's journey into God. A reflection of a saint on the spiritual life of another saint – aimed at helping all of us to deepen our love and experience of God in everyday life. Held on Zoom. Meeting ID **845 9492 0169** Passcode **934692**
Open to everyone, invite your friends.

Readers – I would like to invite all those who read the Word of God during our Masses for a couple of hours of prayer / reflection on Saturday 26th June at 4pm in the church. It will be a great time to meet all of you, and hopefully a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the important ministry that you do for the community. I look forward to meeting all of you, as well as anyone who may be interested in reading during Mass. If you cannot attend, please let me know.

Baptismal Preparation – Our next session for parents who are preparing for their child's baptism will take place on the 2nd Sunday of June – 13th June at 3pm. The meeting will take place in the church. Please email or get in touch with the office to let me know you will be attending.

CAFOD Thank You - Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. In Zambia for instance, in the past year we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside our brothers and sisters in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

CAFOD Campaign to Reclaim our common home - Cafod have launched a campaign 'to reclaim our common home' in advance of the G7 meeting in June of leaders from seven of the world's richest countries under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and the COP26 climate talks in November also under Mr Johnson's chairmanship. The aim of the campaign is to bring before our political leaders in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic the plight of the poorest nations of the world and to adopt

measures to help rebuild them by ending unjust debt repayment and tackling the climate crisis.

The easiest way to sign the petition is to do so online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>

Parish donations – Our website provides you with details of how you can support our parish financially during this time, whether you are a member of our GIFT AID scheme or not. If you are a tax payer, please take a moment to fill in the relevant form you will find on our website – all at no cost to yourself, but helping us immensely. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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.

Diocesan Newsletter

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news, information and online events from across the Archdiocese and beyond please sign up to the newsletter, issued every few weeks via email.

Please visit www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news to sign up.

Important information for EU Citizens

If you are an EU passport holder and have not yet obtained Settled status please be aware that the deadline for this is the end of June this year. It applies regardless of how long you have been resident in the UK. Spread the word! You can ask for help with your application at **Europa Welcome**, based in East Oxford. They can help with language problems and have information on their website in **Tetum**, the language of East Timor, many of whose citizens hold Portuguese passports.

You can find more information generally about who needs to apply for Settled Status here:

<https://www.london.gov.uk>

And here is the website for Asylum Welcome:

<https://www.asylum-welcome.org/europa-welcome>

To read it in **Tetum**, go here:

https://www.asylumwelcome.org/docs/Asylum%20Welcome%20Eschema%20Settlement%20iha%20EU%20no%20Coronavirus_4%20Aug%202020.pdf

NB The information above does **NOT** apply to Irish citizens as they are covered by the Common Travel Area legislation and do not need to apply for Settled Status.

Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 6th June

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Year B)

9.00am	John Downes R.I.P.
11.00am	Julia F. Da Silva Barbosa
5.30pm	O.F.S.

Monday 7th June

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 8th June

7.30am	Kieran Hughes
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Wednesday 9th June

7.30am	Br. Charles' Intentions
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Thursday 10th June

7.30am	Stacy Coelho
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Friday 11th June

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

7.30am	In reparation for offences against the Sacred Heart of Jesus
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Saturday 12th June

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

8.00am	Vocations
6.30pm	Antonio De Oliveira R.I.P.

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