

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 11 December 2016: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)		
6.30pm (Saturday)		George & Kathleen Drennan RIP
9.00am		Gail Ann Barth RIP
11.00am		Parishioners
5.30pm		Secular Franciscan Order
Monday 12 December		
7.30am	<i>In honour of</i>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
Tuesday 13 December		
7.30am	<i>St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</i>	Friars & Benefactors
Wednesday 14 December		
7.30am	<i>St John of the Cross</i>	Donor's intentions; (also) Br Loarne's intention
Thursday 15 December		
7.30am		Vocations Donor's intention
Friday 16 December		
7.30am		St Anthony's Guild
Saturday 17 December		
8.00am		<i>In honour of Our Lady</i>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11.30am-12 noon; 5.30-6.25pm

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.

Please pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including: Michael Cahill, Walenty Brzozowski, Robert Marriott, Alice Ferrett, Josephine Crockett, Elsie Stone, Edith Pearson-Walker, Petronella Cobb, Michael Smith, Patrick Cummins, Molly O'Connor, Josephine Strange, Helen Massey & John Bradley.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

COLLECTIONS

Second Collection today: Fr Hudson's Care

Last week's collection:

<i>Offertory</i>	£425.63	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£67.05
<i>Poor Parishes Fund</i>	£183.49	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£57.00

Next week's 2nd Collection: Church Flowers for Christmas

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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If Only...

We all have our own 'if only's'. If only my hand didn't shake. If only my knees were stronger. If only I weren't afraid. If only we had enough rain. If only I didn't feel trapped.

God understands. Even though life is not perfect, and even though our property and bodies deteriorate, God promises a restoration of all that is beautiful, all that is good. The struggles of this life cause us to yearn for another, more glorious life.

Isaiah prophesies a day when God's glory will come. 'Here is your God,' Isaiah says. 'God comes to save you.' These words brought hope to those in exile, a people powerless and poor.

When Christians hear this text, we hear a promise that echoes all the way to the birth of Jesus. Jesus, whose name means Saviour, is coming, and all will be made new in him.

Every time we strengthen the weak, help the needy, water the plants or shovel the snow, we remove someone's 'if only'. Eyes are opened. We help people witness the coming of Christ.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:



1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Response: **Come, Lord, and save us.**

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Sunday 11 December 2016: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Today, 11 December, is the Third Sunday of Advent (Year A).

There is a second collection at this weekend's Masses for Father Hudson's Care.

Today we hear how John the Baptist continues his central role as the prophetic figure whose life and ministry point the way to Jesus. The optional rose vestments and the rose candle on the Advent Wreath announce that the season of waiting is nearing its end. This is one of the Sundays that used to be identified by the first Latin word of its entrance antiphon, and hence the first word of the day's Mass: *Rejoice!* Some people still call it Gaudete Sunday.

The Gatehouse Christmas Presents Collection finishes today

The parish Justice and Peace group's collection for the Gatehouse, to help them give their guests a Christmas present of **socks, pants, gloves, hat, scarf and toiletries, plus chocolate**, ends today. There is a box for you to leave any of the above items (new please) in the Sacred Heart Chapel.

This Week:

Church Cleaning:

This week is the turn of Group D: Norbert & Leonel. Thank you.

Tuesday 13 December: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Lucy suffered martyrdom at Syracuse, probably during the persecution of Diocletian. Her name, meaning 'light', makes her a perfect Advent saint. Christian art depicts her holding her eyes. According to one legend her tormentors removed her eyes. Devotion to her spread almost throughout the whole Church and dates back to the earliest times.

Wednesday 14 December: St John of the Cross

St John of the Cross, born at Fontiveros in Old Castile (Spain) about the year 1542, was a Carmelite friar, mystic and poet. A Carmelite reformer, he befriended St Teresa of Avila. He was outstanding in holiness and knowledge, as his many spiritual writings testify.

Friday 16 December: Rosary at 7pm

Each Friday evening at 7pm, the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are welcome.

Remember—Advent season is about trusting and waiting like Mary, and with Mary. The liturgical year begins with Advent, the joyful expectation of Someone, of the Coming One, Emmanuel, God with us. A God who enters history to experience all its stages and share the anxieties, joys, sorrows, hopes and concerns of men and women of all history and of all peoples. Jesus became one of us to give us divine life.

Saturday 17 December: Secular Franciscan Order

The next Secular Franciscan Order meeting will take place on Saturday at 2.15pm at Greyfriars Friary, 182 Iffley Road, for devotions and reflections on the Apostolate to the Sick. All are welcome.

Looking Ahead:

Next Weekend: Second Collection

There will be a second collection at next weekend's Masses, the proceeds of which will go towards buying flowers to decorate the church for the Christmas Season.

Sunday 18 December: Service of Lessons and Carols at 3pm

The Greyfriars Choir, under the direction of John Brennan, will be leading a Service of Lessons and Carols in the church on Sunday 18 December at 3pm. The parish community is invited to attend.

Children's Christmas Mass Nativity Play Rehearsals

There will be rehearsals for the Nativity Play **from 11am to 12 noon** on Saturday 17 December, and before the 6.30pm Mass on 24 December **at 5pm**.

First Holy Communion Classes

These classes will start on Sunday 22 January at 10am. They will be held in the Friary Chapel. Registration forms can be found at the back of the church.

First Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated on 4 June at 11am.

Confirmation Classes

These classes will start on Sunday 29 January. Registration forms are available in the church porch. Confirmation candidates must have finished primary school and be entering, or already in, secondary school.

Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 21 May at 5.30pm.



Mass Times for Christmas

Saturday 24 December:

6.30pm. The first Mass of Christmas—Children's Mass.

From 11.30pm. Carol Service by Candlelight followed by Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day (25 December): *Masses at 9am and 11am.*

NB. *There will be no 5.30 Evening Mass on Christmas Day.*



Christmas Tree Star

For a donation of £5, you can have a star put on the Church Christmas Tree in memory of a loved one. Mass will be said for all those whose names are on the tree on Christmas Day. Please complete the form below and return it to Br Gordon with your donation.

CHRISTMAS TREE STAR

Name of person to be remembered.....

(Block Capitals)

Name of donor: Tel. No.: