

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 1 January 2017: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
6.30pm (Saturday)	Fernando Loe-Mau, Fernanda Cai-Mesak, Abilio Taibessi & Amelia
9.00am	Richard Piriniger RIP
11.00am	Viera Hejzlarova RIP
5.30pm	Parishioners
Monday 2 January	Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
10.00am	Friars & Benefactors; (also) Jane Brown
Tuesday 3 January	Holy Name of Jesus
7.30am	Deceased Brothers; (also) Anthony McDowell
Wednesday 4 January	
7.30am	CMA; (also) Theresa Hassell
Thursday 5 January	
7.30am	Vocations; (also) for those asking for prayers
Friday 6 January	
7.30am	St Anthony's Guild; (also) Aileen and William Whitehall
7.30pm	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>
Saturday 7 January	
8.00am	Julia and Natalka's intentions

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: Jones, Teresia James, Kyan Elliott, Joanne Rainer, Catherine Walsh, Elizabeth Warwick, John McGarron, William Veloz, Philip McArdle, Emma Pearson, George Reid & Patrick Hartigan.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

COLLECTIONS

No Second Collection today

Last week's collection:

Christmas Offering to the Friars £1865.29

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SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Our Lady, Mother of God

We begin the New Year with hope. It is filled with possibility. Our new calendars look empty, but they will soon be filled with activity and events. We have plans for some of them. Other events will surprise us. We realize this year will bring its measure of sorrow, but we trust it to bring its measure of joy.

Let this day and this year be a blessing!

On this New Year's Day we hear the words of blessing spoken by God to Moses: 'The Lord bless you and keep you.' They are words of protection. 'The Lord be gracious to you.' They are words of favour. 'The Lord give you peace!' They are words that wish the finest blessing, the gift of peace.

The New Year, with all its promise, gives us the possibility of blessing. Let this blessing calm your heart. Let it inspire you to breathe God's gift of peace to all you meet today and this New Year.

May Mary our Blessed Mother pray for us and be with us as we journey into a New Year.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:



1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Response: **O God, be gracious and bless us.**

2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

Today, 1 January, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

We celebrate many events today. The Octave of Christmas brings our week-long celebration to a close. The civic calendar celebrates New Year's Day. Many Eastern calendars emphasize the circumcision of Jesus, an event the gospel notes took place on the eighth day after his birth. Pope Paul VI designated this as a day of prayer for world peace.

The key scripture passage that sounds the theme for this day is the gospel, Luke's account of the eighth day of Jesus' life, when he was circumcised and named. The same text mentions Mary, whom we honour today as *Theotokos*, mother of God, reflecting in her heart on the birth of Jesus.



Happy New Year

'The Lord bless you and keep you—the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.'
(Numbers 6:24–26)

Let the blessing of God, first spoken to Moses, echoing throughout the ages, enter your home and warm your heart!

For the New Year

*Trust the Past to the Mercy of God,
the Present to His Love,
and the Future to His Providence.*



This Week:

Mass Times

Please note that on Monday 2 January—Bank Holiday—morning Mass will be at 10am in the church. From Tuesday to Friday we are back to the usual time of 7.30am in the Friary Chapel, with Mass at 8am as usual on Saturdays.

When you attend morning Mass in the Friary, please enter the chapel via the main door of the Friary, 182 Iffley Road. Once in the porch, follow the sign to the chapel.

Monday 2 January: St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen

Sts Basil and Gregory, both great fourth-century theologians of the Eastern tradition, were also the best of friends from their schooldays in Athens. Basil's monastic rule serves as the ideal for monastic life in the East. Both were bishops of the church. Basil died on 1 January 379, Gregory on 25 January 390. *Mass at 10am in the church.*

Tuesday 3 January: The Holy Name of Jesus

The invocation of the Holy Name has been a continuous practice since the earliest days of the church. Its veneration in liturgical celebrations dates from the fourteenth century. The spread of the devotion in Italy and then throughout Europe was due to the efforts of St Bernardine of Siena and his disciples, and the liturgical feast was

sanctioned in the sixteenth century. In 1530 Pope Clement VII granted to the Friars Minor permission to celebrate an Office of the Holy Name.

Friday 6 January: Rosary at 7pm, followed by First Friday Mass

This (and every) Friday evening at 7pm, the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. Afterwards, at 7.30pm, our regular First Friday evening Mass is celebrated, in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with prayers and anointing for healing.

Looking Ahead:

Next Sunday, 8 January, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord

'Epiphany' means 'manifestation', referring to the appearance of Jesus. The significance of this day is not just the arrival of the Magi, but the coming of Gentiles to adore the newborn King of the Jews. This event recognizes Jesus' rule over the entire world. So next Sunday celebrates his Epiphany, manifestation or revelation to the nations as Son of God.

Next Sunday's 2nd collection will be for the Diocesan Schools Fund.

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 and will meet in the parish hall. 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.



Weddings 2017

If you are planning to get married this year (2017), please contact Br Gordon as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

The Diocese requires at least six months notice, which is essential in cases where the marriage is taking place abroad, when a good deal of administrative work has to be completed. Marriage preparation is also a requirement, whether or not both partners are Catholic.



Thank you!

I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to contribute to our Christmas celebrations: the ladies who decorated the church; organists and choir; the altar servers; and all the others who enhanced our Christmas celebrations.

Thank you.

Fr Gordon.