

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 15 January 2017: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

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| 6.30pm (Saturday) | Donor's intention |
| 9.00am | Parishioners |
| 11.00am | Jose Duarte RIP |
| 5.30pm | Margaret and Kevin's intentions |

Monday 16 January

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| 7.30am | Friars & Benefactors |
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Tuesday 17 January

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| 7.30am | Donor's intentions |
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Wednesday 18 January

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| 7.30am | Donor's intentions |
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Thursday 19 January

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| 7.30am | Vocations |
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Friday 20 January

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| 7.30am | Donor's intentions |
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Saturday 21 January

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| 8.00am | Br Loarne's intentions |
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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: Rebecca Heels, Henry Sundar, Eileen Mulherne, Ellen McAvoy, Lisa O'Farrell, Patrick O'Mahoney, Patrick Joseph Haren, Marriott, Margaret Blay, Brigid Lodowski & John Slattery.

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

COLLECTIONS

Second Collection today: Pax Christi

Last week's collection:

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| Offertory | £447.55 | Gift Aid | £72.60 |
| Diocesan Schools Fund | £125.77 | Gift Aid | £45.00 |

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SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB

Parish Priest:

Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.

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Making God Proud

Imagine God telling you, 'Job well done! Congratulations!' How proud we would be to know that God's favour rested on us.

Imagine God saying next, 'Because you did so well with this task, I want to give you something more to do.' Would you gulp in apprehension? Would you calmly accept the new directions? Or would you take on the new task with excitement?

In Isaiah's prophecy, God tells Israel, 'You are my servant.' These words comfort the chosen people because they remind them that God proudly kept their friendship. But God goes on. 'It is too little for you to be my servant. I will make you a light to the nations.' Ancient Israel would show not only their own people but other nations how to walk in the light of God.

For Christians, this prophecy points ahead to Jesus, who was revealed as God's servant at his baptism. Jesus won God's pleasure as the longed-for Messiah. But God asked for something more—for Jesus to save all the nations. Jesus opened wide God's doors of salvation. He accepted God's task.

What about you? What task have you done that makes God proud? Is God asking you for something more? What might that be?



1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6

Response: **Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Today, 15 January, is the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

The second collection at today's Masses is for Pax Christi.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

This week is the turn of Group A: the Joyce family. Thank you.

Monday 16 January: St Bernard & Companions, Franciscan Martyrs

St Bernard and his companions were the first martyrs of the Franciscan Order. In 1219, Bernard and some friars, moved by divine inspiration, went as missionaries to preach the Gospel of Christ to the inhabitants of Morocco. They were martyred for the faith.

Tuesday 17 January: St Anthony, Abbot & Monastic Founder

Born in Egypt about 260, St Anthony is heralded as the founder of monasticism. When his parents died, he gave away his possessions, fled to the desert and attracted a band of followers. He supported those who suffered for the faith under the persecution of Diocletian. He died in 356.

Thursday 19 January: St Wulstan, Bishop

St Wulstan, 1008–1095, became a Benedictine monk at Worcester and, after serving as Prior, he was appointed Bishop in 1062. He was the only Englishman to retain his diocese after the Norman Conquest. He built his cathedral, reformed his diocese and tried to stop the slave trade at Bristol.

Friday 20 January: Holy Rosary at 7pm

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

Saturday 21 January: St Agnes, Martyr

St Agnes came from a noble Roman family. She was about thirteen years old when she suffered martyrdom. After refusing to marry a pagan, she was tortured and beheaded. Her name lives on among the saints listed in the First Eucharistic Prayer.

Also on Saturday: Secular Franciscan Order

The next Secular Franciscan Order meeting will take place on Saturday 21 January at 2.15pm at Greyfriars Friary, 182 Iffley Road. All are welcome.



Looking Ahead:

Next Sunday, 22 January: The 2nd Collection will be for Racial Justice.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed from 18-25 January. In a world marked by diversity in language and culture, we express our Christian faith in diverse ways. During this week we are called both to celebrate this diversity and to be faithful to Christ's call for the unity of the Church.

The unity service will be at 4.30pm on Sunday 22 January at Cowley Road Methodist Church and will also be a chance to meet people from other churches.

Also next Sunday, during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, there will be a *Day of Prayer for Christian Unity* in Newman's Chapel at Littlemore from 3pm till 8pm, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 3 o'clock, Vespers at 5, Guided Adoration at 7, and finishing with Benediction and Compline at 7.30pm.

To find out more, Tel. 01865 779743 or email littlemore@newman-friends.org

First Holy Communion Classes

Please note that the First Holy Communion classes start *next Sunday* at 10am. Please meet in the church. At that first class, parents are asked to attend a meeting along with their child for about 15 minutes. Thank you.

Confirmation Classes

These classes start on Sunday 29 January at 10am and will meet in the parish hall at 10am. Please be on time.

Notice for all Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Eucharistic ministers are lay people, trained by the Church to assist the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass. They may also be asked to take the Eucharist to the sick and housebound who are unable to attend Mass.

The Eucharistic ministers of the parish are asked to attend a meeting on **Wednesday 25 January** at 7pm in the Friary. Thank you.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The Padre Pio prayer meeting will take place on the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Friary Chapel, with Rosary, Mass, & prayer and intercession to St Padre Pio. Please come and join us; the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 February.



Prayer

One of the most beautiful definitions of prayer is:

'Prayer is life lived in love with God.'

We Christians have occasionally been criticized for the 'wordiness' of our prayer, or for the hurried manner in which we carry it out. These criticisms may be valid. Jesus strongly criticized the practice of prayer that remains a verbal ritual and that never leads to a change in life. He also criticized prayer that seeks only to fulfil our needs, comparing it to 'pagan prayer'. Therefore our prayer can be without God. This happens, for example, when we ask God for what we ourselves need rather than seeking God for who he is. Jesus teaches that God knows everything, that he loves us, that he is ready to give us everything, that the most important thing for us is to seek his righteousness and everything else will follow. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't tell Jesus our needs, lay before him our troubles, or look for his help in trials. He himself instructs us: *Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened for you.* (Matthew 6:7-8)