

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 22 January 2017: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Jessy Farrell RIP – anniversary
9.00am	Madeline Farrell's intentions
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	Zina and Eric's intentions

Monday 23 January

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 24 January

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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Wednesday 25 January

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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Thursday 26 January

7.30am	Vocations
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Friday 27 January

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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Saturday 28 January

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:
 Frank McGubbin, Scanlan, Mary Diddams, Catherine McHugh, Des Farrell, William Brown, Kitty McFarland, Margaret Lindsley & Martin O'Donnell.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

COLLECTIONS

Second Collection today: Racial Justice.

(There will be no second collection next week.)

Last week's collections:

<i>Offertory</i>	£473.07	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£129.00
<i>Pax Christi</i>	£159.36	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£30.00

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SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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The Dawning of God's Light

As in Advent and the Christmas season, Isaiah returns again this week with another optimistic prophecy. The lands that dwell in darkness will see a great light.

Zebulun and Naphtali were the first lands invaded by Assyria. Their oppression was long and hard. The people there feared that they would never again find happiness. Now they learn from Isaiah that God has heard their prayer. The yoke of their oppression has been shattered. Light has dawned upon their darkness.

Matthew cites this passage in his Gospel to introduce Jesus to his readers. Those who longed for the news of salvation received it in his teaching and ministry. Some of them yearned for days of hope. Others did not even know how empty their lives had been. Now the true light dawns upon 'the land overshadowed by death'.

Gloom takes many forms in our lives. Some suffer poverty and debt. Others close their hearts to charity. Still others sense overwhelming despair no matter where they turn. Isaiah prophesies that we do not have to live that way. God hears the prayer even of those whose land has been 'overshadowed by death'.

Open the eyes of faith, prepare yourself for good news, and see the light of Christ.



1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Response: **The Lord is my light and my help.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Today, 22 January, is the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew introduces us to Jesus with the core message of his proclamation: 'Reform your lives! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!' The Gospel also includes the calling of the first disciples. For two weeks now the Gospel readings have been moving Jesus from baptism to the stage where he can begin his ministry.

Listen to his words. Open your heart. Be challenged.

The second collection at today's Masses is for Racial Justice.

Also this Sunday: First Holy Communion Classes

These classes start today at 10am. Please meet in the church. At that first class, parents are asked to attend a meeting along with their child. It should last for about 15 minutes. Thank you.

Also today: In this **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (18-25 January), **the unity service will be held at 4.30pm today at Cowley Road Methodist Church.** It will be a chance to pray with, and to meet, people from other churches.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

This week is the turn of Group B: Sam & John. Thank you.

Tuesday 24 January: St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Born at Annecy in 1567 and died at Lyon in 1622. A noble and learned man, he was ordained in 1593. He became Bishop of Geneva and was a strong defender of the faith. He preached tirelessly, ministered to the needy and wrote about spirituality. He died at the age of 55 with the name of Jesus on his lips.

Wednesday 25 January: Conversion of St Paul the Apostle. Feast.

The conversion of Paul is recounted three times in the Acts of the Apostles. Although born at around the same time as Christ, Paul never encountered Jesus in the flesh. But his meeting with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus was to turn his life around for good. There is a strong message for us here. Like Paul, we have never seen Jesus in human form, but we have been granted a privileged relationship with him through our baptism. Also like Paul, we sometimes persecute Jesus, our brother. But God is merciful and has graced us with the potential for conversion. Each new day offers us a fresh chance to turn back to Jesus and live.

Also on Wednesday 25 January: Meeting for all Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

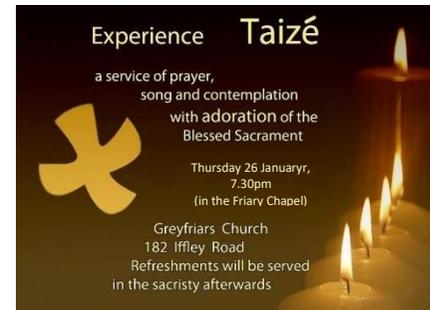
The Eucharistic ministers of the parish are asked to attend a meeting on Wednesday 25 January at 7pm in the Friary.

Thursday 26 January: Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops.

Timothy and Titus, both first-century converts, were disciples and helpers of the Apostle Paul, the former being placed in charge of the Church at Ephesus, the latter

the Church at Crete. St Paul wrote pastoral Epistles to them, which contain much useful advice for the instruction of the clergy and people.

Also on Thursday 26 January: Taizé Prayer



On the last Thursday of each month you are invited to attend a Taizé prayer service at 7.30pm in the Friary Chapel. Taizé-style worship centres on singing, prayer, and readings from Scripture. Brother Alois from Taizé wrote: 'The exchange with God becomes real for us in prayer; by his Holy Spirit God comes to dwell with us. By his Word and by the Sacraments, Christ gives himself to us. In

return, we can surrender everything to him.'

Friday 27 January: Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Martyr

Blessed Edward was born in York in 1561. He was ordained in 1587 and became a Jesuit. For eighteen years he served in Worcestershire. He was arrested in 1606, and although his involvement in the Gunpowder Plot was unclear, he was executed at Red Hill, Worcester.

Also on Friday 27 January: Holy Rosary at 7pm

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

Saturday 28 January: St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church

Aquinas, Italian by birth, Dominican priest by vocation, became a philosopher of unparalleled importance for the Church. He became known as the 'Angelic Doctor'. He had an undisputed mastery of scholastic theology and a profound holiness of life. Pope Leo XIII declared him Patron of Catholic Schools.

Looking Ahead:

Confirmation Classes

These classes start **next Sunday, 29 January.** The candidates will meet in the parish hall at 10am. Please be on time.



Florie Fernandes RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Florie Fernandes. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 7 February at 11am.

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

Parish Gift Aid Scheme Members: Has your address changed?

If you are a member of the gift Aid scheme, please notify James Martin at jandt08martin@metronet.co.uk of any change of address. If we do not have accurate up-to-date records, the Revenue may withdraw from the parish the privilege of the Gift Aid scheme.