

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

**Sunday 29 January 2017: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

6.30pm (Saturday)	Thanksgiving and good health of Vailency & baby
9.00am	Mrs Holland RIP
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	<i>In honour of St Anthony</i>

**Monday 30 January**

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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**Tuesday 31 January     *St John Bosco***

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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**Wednesday 1 February**

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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**Thursday 2 February     *Presentation of the Lord***

7.30am	Vocations
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**Friday 3 February     *St Blaise***

7.30am	Donor's intentions
7.30pm	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>

**Saturday 4 February     *St Joseph of Leonissa***

8.00am	Julia & Nataalka 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:**

Nora Cronin, Margaret Fry, Andrew Valentine Sheehy, Darren Berry, Patrick O'Callaghan, Jacob Lennon, Giuseppina Wilkins, Mikolaj Bandrowski, Ellen Merry, John Kennedy and Mary Taylor.

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

## COLLECTIONS

**No second Collection today (Next week's 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Pro-Life)**

**Last week's collections:**

Offertory	£393.11	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£127.00
Racial Justice	£159.95	<i>Gift Aid</i>	n/a

**Sunday 29 January 2017: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

## *SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church*

*Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB*

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.*

*Tel. No.: 01865 256750 (parish office)*

*email: [ofmcaparish@gmail.com](mailto:ofmcaparish@gmail.com)*

*Website: [greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com](http://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com)*



### The Humility of Survivors

People who have had a close encounter with death often feel that God has saved them for some reason. They cannot explain it. They do not know what that reason might be. Whether they were preserved from an accident, aggressive violence, or a near-fatal illness, they believe that God has some future purpose for them. The experience often makes them appreciate every day. It makes them humble.

The prophet Zephaniah spoke to people who had had that kind of experience. He spoke not just to individuals who felt they had been spared; he spoke to a whole people who felt that way. They had survived a war. They had endured persecution. They had lived through exile.

These people had a name for themselves. They called themselves 'the remnant'. The experience deepened their faith. It kept them humble.

When Jesus blessed 'the poor in spirit', he addressed the descendants of the people who had escaped this danger. They formed a remnant who had remained faithful after years of persecution and waiting. They were humble.

What calamity has your community survived? How has God protected you? Has this made a difference to you or re-directed your life? Has it kept you humble?



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

Response: **How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

**Entrance Antiphon:** Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

**Today, 29 January,** is the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

*There is no second collection today.*

### **Today the Confirmation Programme begins.**

The Confirmation Programme begins this Sunday, 29 January, at 10am. The candidates are asked to meet in the church hall.

### **This Week:**

#### **Church Cleaners:**

This week is the turn of Group C: Margaret Madden, family, & Michael. Thank you.

#### **Tuesday 31 January: St John Bosco, Priest**

Born 1815 in the diocese of Turin and brought up in poverty, he was ordained in 1841. He founded the Salesian Society of St Francis de Sales. He encouraged and educated deprived young boys in various trades. The order spread throughout the world, establishing schools, hospitals, and missions. With the help of Mary Mozzarella he established the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, to do similar work with girls.

#### **Thursday 2 February: The Presentation of the Lord**

Forty days after the celebration of the Birth of Jesus, the Church remembers his presentation in the Temple. Today's feast used to close the Christmas cycle. Although that season now ends with the Baptism of the Lord, today's feast is still calculated from Christmas Day. Formerly called the Purification of Our Lady and regarded as a Marian feast, the day is now regarded as a feast of Christ. We recall Jesus' entry into the Temple, a place this descendant of David calls home.

#### **Friday 3 February: St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr**

He was Bishop of Armenia, but little is known of him. We are told he suffered a brutal martyrdom under Diocletian, having his flesh ripped open by metal wool combs, then decapitation. The story that he removed a fish bone from the throat of a boy has made him patron for those with sore throats, and a blessing of throats is usually given in his honour. The blessing of throats will be given both at the 7.30am morning Mass and the 7.30pm evening Mass today.

#### **Also on Friday: Holy Rosary & First Friday Mass**

The Holy Rosary is recited in the church at 7pm as usual. At 7.30pm we celebrate the First Friday Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with prayers and anointing for healing, plus the blessing of throats.

#### **Saturday 4 February: St Joseph of Leonissa, Capuchin Priest**

Born in 1556 at Leonissa in the Kingdom of Naples, he joined the Capuchin Friars. He was noted for the purity and austerity of his life. In his zeal for the faith he went to Turkey where he was taken captive and tortured, but surprisingly he survived and escaped. He returned to his native land, where he worked with great success for the conversion of sinners. He died at Amatrice on 4 February 1612.

### **Looking Ahead:**

#### **Sunday 12 February: Celebrating World Day of Prayer for the Sick**

The World Day of Prayer for the Sick, established by St Pope John Paul II in 1992, is a 'special time of prayer and sharing of one's suffering for the good of the Church and of reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ...'

The message of Our Lady of Lourdes (celebrated on 11 February) calls for conversion, prayer and charity. So on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, you are invited to attend Devotions and Benediction at 3pm. During this celebration the Sacrament of the Sick will be administered.

#### **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, and prayer of intercession to St Padre Pio. Please come and join us. The group will meet on Wednesday 15 February.

Pope Francis told the prayer groups that their devotion to St Padre Pio should help them rediscover each day 'the beauty of the Lord's forgiveness and mercy'. He said that 'the river of mercy that Padre Pio unleashed should continue through their prayers, and especially the willingness to listen and to care for others.'

Padre Pio used to tell people that prayer is 'a key that opens God's heart'. Pope Francis says, 'God's heart is not armoured with all sorts of security measures. You can open it with a common key—prayer.'

Come and join us.



### **Think about it!**

When we approach the God of Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with sincerity and faith, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain:

- Our sins are forgiven.
- Our souls are restored to the state of grace.
- We are set free from all the eternal punishment due to our sins.
- We receive the sacramental grace of the Sacrament of Penance, which strengthens us to avoid sin in the future, and the sacrament restores the merits of our good works if they have been lost by mortal sin.
- We receive the help to lead better lives.

*Use the Sacrament of Reconciliation often and well!*

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated on Saturdays (11.30am–12 noon, and 5.30pm–6.25pm) in the church. Alternatively, see a priest after Mass.



### **Florie Fernandes RIP**

Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 7 February at 11am in the church. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.