

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 12 February 2017: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Patrick and Martin Reilly RIP
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Venicio Quintao
5.30pm	Secular Franciscan Order

Monday 13 February

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 14 February *St Cyril & St Methodius*

7.30am	Nora McIntyre RIP
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Wednesday 15 February

7.30am	Donor's intentions
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Thursday 16 February

7.30am	Vocations
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Friday 17 February

7.30am	CMA
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Saturday 18 February

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:

Patrick McWilliams, Piotr Lacny, Catherine O'Hanlon, Margaret Dickson, Ernest Parker, Ellen McAvoy, McGovern, Paul Blick, Paschal Doyle & Michael Hopkins.

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

COLLECTIONS

No Second Collection today

Last week's collections:

<i>Offertory</i>	£419.53	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£105.00
<i>Pro-Life</i>	£198.58	<i>Gift Aid</i>	n/a

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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

Website: greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com



The Great Commandment

There is a great need for more charity in the world. In our material age there is a great tendency for each one to get what he can out of life: money, pleasure, honours. We are so individualistic-minded. We can be selfish. We need charity towards all people. Christ died for all, and we must be willing to go out of our way to be especially kind rather than prejudiced.

Love has many wonderful effects. It increases our energy for good. It gives strength to overcome obstacles. Love makes us joyful, cheerful. Everything we do out of love seems light, for love is our strength, our joy and peace.

Christ emphasizes that we should always be on good terms with our neighbour, with everyone.

We should follow Christ's advice, 'If you bring your gift to the altar [if you are at prayer or about to attend Holy Mass] and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift at the altar and be reconciled with him [make up, apologize].'

Without charity there is no prayer. St John says, 'If anyone says, "I love God", and hates his brother, he lies.'

The Great Commandment is *Love*.



1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-20

Response: **They are happy who follow God's law!**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Today, 12 February, is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

This Sunday we will celebrate *World Day of Prayer for the Sick*.

This day was established by Pope St John Paul II in 1992. It is 'a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering 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, who by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind'.

To celebrate this Day of Prayer for the Sick, I invite the parish community to attend devotions and Benediction this afternoon at 3 o'clock. During these devotions we shall celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

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

Tuesday 14 February: St Cyril, Monk, & St Methodius, Bishop

Sts Cyril & Methodius are patrons of Europe. Missionaries to Bulgaria, Moravia and Dalmatia, these two brothers tirelessly served the Church. They translated the Scriptures into Slavic, developing its Cyrillic alphabet.

Friday 17 February: Holy Rosary

The Holy Rosary is recited in the church every Friday at 7pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 18 February: Secular Franciscan Order

The next Secular Franciscan Order meeting will take place on Saturday 18 February at 2.15pm at Greyfriars Friary, 182 Iffley Road. Devotions and reflections on *Perfect Joy*—knowing that we are the beloved of God and that one day we will be with him in heaven for all eternity—the perfect joy enjoyed by St Francis, for which we all should strive.

Looking Ahead:

Carmelite Days 2017: Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill

The *Carmelite Days* are days of reflection to share core aspects of the Carmelite heritage. These days are held on Wednesdays, beginning at 10.30am and finishing at 4pm. There will be a talk followed by prayers and time for recollection. Soup lunch will be provided. (You may also wish to arrive earlier for Morning Prayer at 9.05am and Mass at 9.30am.)

The first Carmelite Day this year is on 22 February, with the theme: St Teresa of Avila, a life of change, growth, conversion and total giving of self to God and others. It will be led by Fr Matt Blake OCD.

The second, on 22 March, has the theme: St Elizabeth of the Trinity—to be another humanity for Christ, and will be led by Roderick Campbell-Guion OCDS.

The Carmelite Days are held at the Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill OX1 5HB (tel.: 01865 321991 or 735133). All are welcome. Just come!

For more details of dates/topics see the poster in the church porch.

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.



Gift Aid

Gift Aid donors are asked to collect from the servers' sacristy a set of envelopes for use during the next financial year: they are clearly labelled. Any donor whose name is omitted should contact James Martin at jandt08martin@metronet.co.uk.

We have been asked to remind all Gift Aid donors to inform the Parish Gift Aid Organiser, James Martin, of any change of address or tax situation in order that accurate records may be kept. Such an update may be emailed or posted to the address in the letter accompanying the annual envelope supply.

The Parish is very grateful to every parishioner who has been able to join the Gift Aid scheme, which enhances each gift by 25% without further expenditure as this is recoverable from HM Revenue and Customs.

Any taxpayer who is interested in joining the scheme should contact James Martin as above. The procedure involves only filling in a simple form of declaration.



Christ is Present in the Eucharist

It is highly fitting that Christ should have wanted to remain with his Church in this unique way. Since Christ was about to take his departure from his own in his visible form, he wanted to give us his sacramental presence; since he was about to offer himself on the Cross to save us, he wanted us to have the memorial of the love with which he loved us to the end—even to the giving of his life. In his Eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us, and he remains under signs that express and communicate this love.

Think about it!

Through the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus fortifies the sick person's soul with more grace and with the strength to resist temptations. Often temptations are stronger when one is physically weak. Jesus gives the sick person comfort to bear his or her sufferings bravely, and courage and consolation in the face of death. He cleanses the soul of venial sin and removes mortal sin. Even forgotten ones, if the person wants forgiveness and is unable to make a confession.

The Lord remits at least some of the temporal punishment due to sin.