

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 12 March 2017: 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Mike Todd
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Philomena Fletcher's intention
5.30pm	SFO (Florie Fernandez RIP)

Monday 13 March

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 14 March

7.30am	St Anthony's Guild
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Wednesday 15 March

7.30am	Intercession of St Michael the Archangel & St Josephine Bakhita
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Thursday 16 March

7.30am	Deceased Brothers
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Friday 17 March *St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland*

7.30am	Donor's intention
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Saturday 18 March

8.00am	Donor's intention
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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: Harris Henry Sunder, Constance Milmore, Mary Connell, Michael Creedon, John Campbell, Florence Barrett, Thomas Feeney & Margaret Connaughton.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

COLLECTIONS

Today's Second Collection: CAFOD Family Fast Day

Last week's collection:

<i>Offertory</i>	£510.55	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£163.60
<i>Cathedral Maintenance</i>	£196.20	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£42.50

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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 Gifts God Gives Us

Sometimes other people see our gifts better than we see them. Others recognize in us the abilities we have to make peace, to lead a project or to follow through on what we say we will do.

God has created us for a special purpose, to announce the reign of God and bring it to fulfilment. God knows what gifts we have and how they can be used for good. Knowing what to do with our gifts does not always come easy. Sometimes we suffer greatly at the hands of others because we try to live according to what we believe and according to what we can do.

In today's second reading, St Paul writes to Timothy, 'Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.' God called us to a holy life 'according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ'. God wants us know that he is always with us.

Today we hear the story of the Transfiguration. It signifies the shining wisdom and power of God, for whom all things are possible and who made us to share in his glory by the use of our gifts.



1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

Response: **May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Today, 12 March, is the 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A).

There will be a second collection for CAFOD at all Sunday Masses for the Lent Family Fast Day.

Thank you for your generous donations last October to CAFOD. *The Lent collection is held today, following the Fast Day last Friday, 10 March.* This time CAFOD is publicising a fish farming project in Zambia as an example of how people in poor countries can be helped to improve their lives. Please use the envelopes and, if you are a taxpayer, complete the Gift Aid form, so that CAFOD can claim the tax back, and put it with your donation in the envelope in today's collection. Thank you!

The Annual Fair Trade Fortnight comes to an end today.

This annual event helps us to be aware of where our food comes from and the people who produce it. Please consider continuing to buy Fair Trade tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, and bananas throughout the year to ensure that the growers and pickers are paid a fair amount for their work. It doesn't cost much more but makes a big difference to the producers.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

This week is the turn of Group A: Sam and John. Thank you.

Friday 17 March: St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland

St Patrick (385–461) was born into a Christian Romano-British family. His first encounter with Ireland was as a slave after he was captured by Irish raiders at the age of sixteen and taken there. After escaping, he studied in Gaul and was ordained a priest. About the year 432 he returned to Ireland as a missionary bishop and succeeded in consolidating the faith in large parts of the country.

Also on Friday: Holy Rosary at 7pm, followed by Stations at 7.30pm

On Fridays at 7pm the Holy Rosary is recited in the church, before Stations of the Cross.

The *Stations of the Cross* is a Lenten devotion that offers witness to Jesus' Passion and death. At each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection and simply to experience the visual images which show Christ's love for us. I encourage you to come.

Saturday 18 March: OFS Meeting

The next Secular Franciscan meeting will take place on Saturday at 2.15pm at Greyfriars Friary, for devotion and reflections on "Francis' love of all creation—the simplicity of St Francis in his instinctive perception of every living thing: creatures, trees, plants and the tiniest particle of matter, as a God-given gift". All are welcome to attend.

During the rest of Lent:

During Lent... Why not go to Mass during the week?

Pope Francis has repeatedly told us that the Eucharist 'enlarges our heart'. He has told us how the Eucharist opens us up so that we can receive more of God's grace. So let's make a point this Lent of giving the Eucharist the best chance of doing its job—coming to Mass with a plan, a plan that will allow God's grace, which is embodied in the Eucharist, to build up our natural gifts and talents. God loves all of us.

Please note: When you attend morning Mass during the week at the Friary (Monday-Friday at 7.30am and Saturday at 8am), please enter via the main door of the Friary at 182 Iffley Road and follow the signs to the chapel.

Be Reconciled

The late Pope St John Paul II called for the Church to return to the Sacrament of **Confession** during Lent.

'Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand alongside the great mountain of the mercy of God.' (St John Vianney)

The great season of Lent is a time to step back and seek the Lord and experience his mercy and love.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays (11.30am-12 noon, and 5.30pm-6.25pm) or on call, or see a priest after Mass.



Receiving Holy Communion

When we receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, we should receive him with reverence, care, gentleness and humility. For in the Holy Eucharist, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes, 'Christ, God and Man, makes himself wholly and entirely present.'

Whether we receive on the tongue or in the hand, all of us should receive with great reverence and respect. To demonstrate reverence and respect, the Church asks us to make a slight bow of the head immediately before receiving Holy Communion.

If you are receiving the Body of Christ in the hand, you should consume the host immediately. Do not walk away from the priest or eucharistic minister before putting the host in your mouth.



Sarah Keating RIP

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Sarah Keating. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 28 March at 11.30am.

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