

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 19 March 2017: 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	<i>In honour of Our Lady</i>
9.00am	For the sick and lonely
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	James Pender RIP

Monday 20 March *St Joseph*

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 21 March

7.30am	CMA
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Wednesday 22 March

7.30am	Vocations
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Thursday 23 March

7.30am	For the intercession of St Sebastian & St Francis
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Friday 24 March

7.30am	For the intercession of St Joseph, St Philomena & St Sé
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**Saturday 25 March *The Annunciation
of the Lord***

8.00am	Br Loarne'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:

Robin Dancer, Ruth Honoria Mary Slattery, Patrick Hastings, Joseph Shields, Thomas Bradley, Anthony Siteri, Arthur McGeary, Mills-Hicks, Marcialis St Hilaire, Bernard Lafferty, Fergus O'Mahony, Peter Conroy, Dhanti Lal & Francis Hunt.

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

COLLECTIONS

Today's Second Collection: Diocesan Schools Fund

Last week's collections:

Offertory	£548.20	Gift Aid	£71.20
CAFOD Family Fast Day	£350.92	Gift Aid	-----

No Second Collection next week

Sunday 19 March 2017: 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Priest:

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How Different God is from Us!

If someone offends you and apologizes, you are probably willing to forgive. But if someone offends you and never apologizes, you might withhold forgiveness.

You might do a favour for someone you love, or even for a complete stranger. But if someone has offended you and has never apologized for it, you probably will not do a favour for that person.

You wouldn't take the risk, but God would. God sent his only-begotten Son into the world to suffer and to die so that we could have eternal life. God did it for everyone. God even did it for sinners.

St Paul tells us that Christ died for the ungodly.

How different God is from us! We would not give the time of day to people we know are sinners. Jesus gave his life for them. Jesus gave his life for you, no matter what you've done or how well you've apologized. God's love lies beyond human experience.



1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Response: **O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'**

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Today, 19 March, is the 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year A).

There will be a second collection at all Masses today for the Diocesan Schools Fund.

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

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

Monday 20 March: St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We interrupt Lent for this special celebration. St Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, patron of the Universal Church, enjoys widespread devotion among the faithful. Although his influence has been enormous, the New Testament records not a single word that issued from Joseph's mouth.

Friday 24 March: Holy Rosary, followed by Stations of the Cross

On Fridays **at 7pm** the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are invited to attend.

The *Stations of the Cross* follow **at 7.30pm**. Pope Francis invites us to walk with Jesus with renewed appreciation and thanksgiving for the mercy of God. "We are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives."

The Stations of the Cross are a traditional devotion that evolved initially to help Christians meditate on the sufferings of Jesus as he was led to the Cross.

Saturday 25 March: The Annunciation of the Lord. Solemnity.

More a feast of the Lord than a feast of Our Lady, the Annunciation recalls the appearance to Mary of the angel Gabriel, who announces the immediate coming of the Messiah. Mary agrees to God's will and sets in motion the events of our salvation.

During Lent:

Catholics Come Home!

During the season of Lent invite someone home—back to the Church.

The old saying is so true: God loves you. He loves you so much that he sent his only-begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross and rise again from the dead to redeem you and save you from sin and alienation. And, as Christ himself promised, "I will not leave you orphans" (John 14:18). He established a Church, the Catholic Church, with all its imperfections, as the shelter from the storms of this life.

God loves you so much that he will not stop searching for you, reaching out to you, and seeking you—he wants to bring you home. God is gentle—the choice is yours.

Morning Mass during the Week

Daily Mass is celebrated 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, once you are in the porch, follow the signs to the chapel.

Blackfriars Lent Talks (selected Fridays in Lent)

The next Blackfriars Lent Talk is on Friday 24 March (Rev. Dr Richard Conrad on 'From Passion to Pentecost') at 5.30pm in the Aula at Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford.

Be Reconciled, urged Pope St John Paul II

The late Pope St John Paul II called for the Church to return to the Sacrament of **Confession** during Lent. In a message for Lent, he said that unless a person is willing to 'go up to Jerusalem' with Christ, God cannot penetrate into that person's life. He said that Lent is a time to seek reconciliation with one's neighbour, one's enemy, and with God through conversion, prayer, penance, and recourse to the sacraments. During the season of Lent, then, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

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

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Looking further ahead:

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on 23 April.

In our parish we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on 23 April. Jesus promised St Faustina that on Divine Mercy Sunday "The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins." Please join us on Sunday 23 April. The programme will start at 2pm and finish with the 5.30pm Mass.

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.

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Mass Intentions

Every Mass is offered for "the peace and salvation of the world" (Eucharistic Prayer 3). But we can have Mass offered also for a particular intention or person, living or dead, perhaps for someone who is sick or anxious, or perhaps for a special occasion such as a wedding, baptism, funeral or special anniversary, or in thanksgiving.

If you would like Mass to be offered for someone or for a special intention, please take an envelope marked 'Mass Intentions', available at the back of the church, or see one of the brothers. By looking in the Newsletter you can see when your Mass is coming up. Intentions are always published for the week ahead.

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.