

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 26 March 2017: 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Kevin & Margaret's intention
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Johnny Kennedy & family
5.30pm	Ruth Slattery RIP

Monday 27 March

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 28 March

7.30am	Donor's intention
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Wednesday 29 March

7.30am	Sisters' of Providence intention
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Thursday 31 March

7.30am	Donor's intention
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Friday 24 March

7.30am	Donor's intention
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Saturday 1 April

8.00am	Sr Martine Meuwissen'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:
 Frances Hemmings, Thomas Penders, Jozeph Korobiecki, Harold Pearce & John Purcell.

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>	£402.79	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£131.00
<i>Diocesan Schools Fund</i>	£154.47	<i>Gift Aid</i>	£27.50

No Second Collection next week

Sunday 26 March 2017: 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Living as Children of Light

Sleep is beautiful when it comes at the right time, but embarrassing otherwise. Some people sleep through class, through meetings, even during concerts. By doing so they miss out on important moments of life.

Other people sleep through life in other ways. They are unaware of political issues, the needs of the poor, family and friends around them. Some people just sleep through life, through relationships and through faith.

Many people are unaware of Christ. They live in a darkness outside the light of the Good News.

Through baptism we have been awakened from our sleep. Christ is our light. We no longer belong to the night. We shine with the light of day.

As a consequence we must "live as children of light". Having moved from darkness to light, we now have responsibilities. Let us shake off the sleep that threatens to keep us from being faithful to Christ. Throughout this Lent, let us rise from sleep and live in light.



1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Response: **The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

Today, 26 March, is the 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A), *Laetare Sunday*.

On *Laetare Sunday* the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fast and penances. We are now halfway through the penitential season and we can use rose-coloured vestments at Mass today. It is known as *Laetare Sunday* from the first words of the entrance antiphon, 'Rejoice, Jerusalem.' The day marks the point at which the rigours of Lent are temporarily relaxed. It is also known as *Mothering Sunday*.

Mother's Day

The fourth Sunday in Lent is Mother's Day. For at least three centuries it has been an occasion for family reunions. Its roots go back to before the Reformation, when families went together to worship at their parish church. Later, when it was the practice for boys and girls to leave their homes and serve as apprentices, they were always given a holiday on Mothering Sunday, so that they could visit their mothers, taking gifts of wild flowers gathered on the wayside and made into posies. On that day the rigid Lenten rules of eating were relaxed and the family enjoyed a special meal, with perhaps a fruity Simnel cake for tea. In France the cakes were impressed with the figure of Christ or the Virgin Mary and were known as 'Bread of Our Lord'.

Today, as in years past, it is still a mother's special day, and it is nice that families still like, whenever possible, to return home to express their gratitude for her love and care.

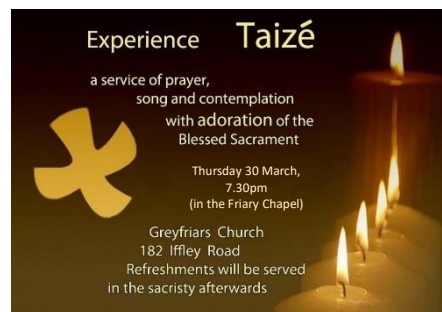
God Bless you all! Happy Mother's Day!

This Week:

Church Cleaners:

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

Thursday 30 March: 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 31 March: Holy Rosary at 7pm

On Fridays at 7pm we recite the Holy Rosary in the church. You are invited to attend.

Also on Friday 31 March: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm

On Friday evenings during Lent you are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm in the church.

The message of the Cross is the message of God's love. We cannot earn this love, we don't deserve this love. This is love, not that we first loved God but that God first loved us (cf. 1 John 4:19). The Cross has the power to transform our lives.

During Lent:

Be Reconciled!

One day John the Baptist was talking with some people. Seeing Jesus in the distance, he said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about." (John 1:29-30)

John the Baptist touched people's hearts for two reasons: he helped them to see they were sinners who needed a saviour, and he helped them to open their hearts to Jesus, who came to save them.

This raises questions for me. To what extent do I see myself as a sinner who needs a saviour? And to what extent am I opening my heart to Jesus, who came to save me?

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.

Looking further ahead:

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Bishop Robert Byrne will be leading the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 13 May. A coach will depart from the Oratory (and then from St Gregory's and Pear Tree Services) at 7am, and will return by 9pm. The cost is £25 per head. Please sign up and pay via the Oratory Porter's Lodge as soon as possible.

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.



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.