

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

### Sunday 2 April 2017: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Donor's intention
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	For grandparents: José Amaral & Maria Dorosario de Fátima
5.30pm	Deceased Sisters of Providence

### Monday 3 April

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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### Tuesday 4 April

7.30am	Deceased Brothers
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### Wednesday 5 April

7.30am	CMA
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### Thursday 6 April

7.30am	Sister of Providence's intention
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### Friday 7 April

7.30am	Pereira family intention
About 8pm, after Stations of the Cross	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>

### Saturday 8 April

8.00am	Julia & Natasha 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:** Patrick McCormack, Maida Humphreys, Anthony Hughes, Bridget Pope, William Hanley, Julia Smith, Aldridge Banham, Terence Monaghan, Dorothy Gale, Ejeoma Ugwu, Anthony Edmund Hughes, Thomas McGloine & Mary Rea.

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

## COLLECTIONS

**No Second Collection today**

**Last week's collection:**

Offertory	£445.55	+ Gift-aided	£99.50
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**No Second Collection next week**

## *SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church*

*Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB*

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.*

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## God's Spirit is More Powerful than Sin

As Lent nears its end, we become more mindful of our sins. We have promised to renew our hearts throughout this season. We have accepted a spirit of penitence.

At this stage of Lent, we may be even more aware of our sin. Perhaps we haven't been completely faithful to our Lenten resolutions. Perhaps we feel more strongly the difficult challenge to overcome bad habits that have taken years to form. Lent offers promise, but it sometimes causes discouragement.

Sin is no stranger to the human condition. But sin is not our natural condition. Through baptism, we are children of God. St Paul tells the Romans not to feel disappointed by their experience of sin, because the Spirit of God is much more powerful. "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness."

God's Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. The same Spirit dwells with us. The same Spirit gives life to our bodies prone to death. If Lent has made us more aware of our sin, it should also make us more aware of God's love. God's Spirit reaches us, holds us, and lifts us high—in spite of our sin.



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Response: **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

**Communion Antiphon:** Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**Sunday 2 April 2017: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year A)**

**Today, 2 April**, is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year A). *No 2nd collection today.*

### **Statues Covered**

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of the year we cover everything that is beautiful in our churches, even the crucifix.

But from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (today) until the Easter Triduum the statues and Cross are veiled. This is a relic of a centuries-old custom of hanging a curtain in the sanctuary, cutting it off from the people during this latter part of Lent. It is seen as a more powerful and urgent reminder of the need for repentance and conversion: our sins cut us off from God and the saints. The curtain may not be there today—just the veils—but the message is still the same. The Cross, too, is covered as we await its unveiling at its solemn entry during the liturgy of Good Friday. We do not place the Christ figure in the manger until Christmas; so too with the Cross—it is withdrawn from us so that the impact of its appearance on Good Friday will be heightened.

**This Week:**

### **Church Cleaners:**

This week is the turn of Group D: Norbert & Leonel. Thank you.

### **Friday 7 April: Holy Rosary at 7pm**

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

### **After Rosary on Friday: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm**

The Stations of the Cross, celebrated every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in the church, are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week and especially Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the Way of the Cross. It commemorates fourteen key events in the hours leading up to Christ's Crucifixion. *Note that the Stations of the Cross will also be celebrated on Good Friday at 7.30pm.*

### **Also on Friday evening: First Friday Mass (at about 8pm)**

After the Stations of the Cross, at about 8pm, we celebrate the First Friday Mass to honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by prayers and anointing for healing.

**Next Week (Holy Week):**

### **Palm Sunday (9 April):**

Next Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday, when palms will be distributed and blessed.

### **Maundy Thursday (13 April): Volunteers needed**

During the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm, we have the washing of feet. At the back of the church there is a list: we need six men and six women to have their feet washed. Please volunteer.

### **Good Friday: Walk of Witness. Cowley Road Stations of the Cross**

Those participating, please meet at the Methodist Church, Cowley Road, **at 10.15am for a 10.30 start**. The stations will take place along Cowley Road, finishing at SS. Mary & John Church. Refreshments will be available.

### **Holy Saturday (15 April, 10am): Calling all Altar Servers!**

There will be a meeting for all altar servers on Holy Saturday (10am). *Please be there.*

**Looking further ahead:**

### **Wednesday 19 April: Padre Pio Prayer Group**

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday 19 April **at 7pm** in the Friary Chapel. Please enter the Chapel via the main door of the Friary (182 Iffley Road). At 7pm we celebrate Holy Mass, followed by Rosary and prayer of intercession to Padre Pio and veneration of his relic. Please come and join us.

“Lord, just for today let the eyes of my heart never stray from your face.” (St Padre Pio)

### **Help Needed**

*THE PARISH HALL* needs urgent repair and refurbishment to make it fit for Parish and Community use. It is hoped to obtain Grant funding for at least half of the £100,000 it is likely to cost. Help is needed from a small group of parishioners (3 or 4) who have experience of applying for Lottery and other Grant funding, to handle the written applications. If this is you, please contact Fr Gordon at your earliest convenience.

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### **TIMES FOR CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK**

#### **Wednesday 12 April**

From 6pm–7pm the **Blessed Sacrament** will be exposed for quiet prayer and reflection. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be available during this time.

#### **Maundy Thursday, 13 April**

Confession will be available from 5pm–6pm.

#### **Good Friday, 14 April**

Confession will be available from 12 noon–1pm.

#### **Holy Saturday, 15 April**

Confession will be available from 11am–12 noon & 5pm–6pm.

“Talk with Jesus in prayer while listening to the *Word*; experience the joy of reconciliation in the Sacrament of *Penance*; then receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist; welcome and serve Him in your brothers and sisters.” (Pope St John Paul II)

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### **Your prayers are asked...**

for the repose of the soul of Sadar Masih. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday 12 April at 11am**.

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