

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 23 April 2017: 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday	
6.30pm (Saturday)	Joedy & Nelly Joyce & family
9.00am	Sisters of Providence-deceased
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	James Pender RIP
Monday 24 April	St George, Patron of England
7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
Tuesday 25 April	St Mark, Evangelist
7.30am	Bill Charlesworth RIP
Wednesday 26 April	
7.30am	Ellen Crockford RIP
Thursday 27 April	
7.30am	Angela & Raymond Keown
Friday 28 April	
7.30am	Trevor Dean's intention
Saturday 29 April	St Catherine of Siena
8.00am	Sisters' of Providence intention

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11.30am-12 noon; 5.30-6.25pm

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.

Pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including:

Stuart Kennedy, Mary Murphy, Kathleen Jones, James Jones, Frederick Hicks, May, Peter Minoli, James Murphy, Mary Pearce, Mr O'Sullivan & Vera Ramsen.

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

COLLECTIONS:

No Second Collection today

Last week's collections:

<i>Holy Places (Good Friday)</i>	£270.88	+ Gift-aided	£80.50
<i>Friars' Easter Offering</i>	£1819.34	+ Gift-aided	N/A

No Second Collection next week

Sunday 23 April 2017: 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

*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



When Faith is Tested

Faith is not fact. Our belief in the Resurrection of Jesus comes from our trust in the promises of God and the faith of those we love. We call it faith and not fact because it is an assurance that comes from deep within our souls. Faith comes with confidence that the God who made us in goodness has destined us for eternal goodness.

There are times, though, when our faith is tested. We undergo trials that make us question the goodness of the world and the Creator who made it. We want to believe in Jesus, and yet we do not have the advantage of the disciples who saw him, heard him and touched him. Our belief is different from theirs, and it faces challenges they did not know.

Our faith may feel weak at times, but those are times of testing. God is present to us, arms filled with promises, ready to steady our vision and shore up our hope. Faith is not fact. It is faith. It struggles deep within the soul, and it survives. It is tested only that it might grow stronger.



1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Response: **Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Entrance Antiphon: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Today, 23 April, is *Divine Mercy Sunday*, a Feast of Mercy.

Jesus asked St Faustina to write down the request: “I want a feastday of Mercy. I want my Divine Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of my Mercy. I desire that all proclaim this great mercy of mine towards souls of sinners on this day.”

Jesus said: “On this Day, the very depths of my tender mercy are open, I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy!”

This Sunday at 2pm we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, with the blessing of the Divine Mercy picture, devotions, chaplet, confessions, with Mass at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Humble Church

Peter must have felt terribly guilty about denying Jesus three times. When the risen Jesus appears to Peter, Jesus offers him three opportunities to reaffirm his love and be reconciled.

The Catholic Church also believes that this passage establishes Peter as the leader of the early Church and as the first Pope, indicated by Jesus’ commands to Peter to ‘feed my lambs’, ‘tend my sheep’ and ‘feed my sheep’. By linking Peter’s reconciliation to Peter’s authority, John seems to be reminding the Church to be humble and forgiving.

This Week:

Monday 24 April: St George, Patron Saint of England

Every nation has its own ‘Patron Saint’, who in time of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies. St David is the patron saint of Wales, St Andrew of Scotland and St Patrick of Ireland, St George being the patron saint of England.

Very little is known about St George’s life, but it is thought he was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in about AD303. It seems that the Emperor Diocletian had him tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine.

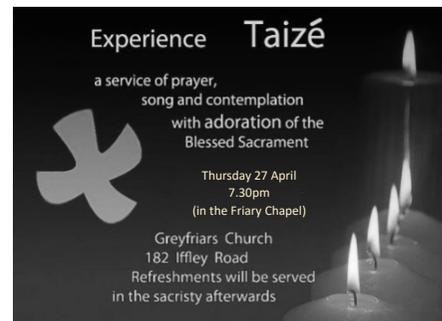
King Edward III made him Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St George’s name in 1350.

Tuesday 25 April: St Mark, Evangelist

Mark’s Gospel is thought to have been put together about the time of St Peter’s martyrdom—the early 60s. Mark was in Rome with St Paul and St Peter. His Gospel is based on St Peter’s teaching in Rome. Its direct and mixed style tells us something of Mark’s personality. He is Patron Saint of Venice, where his body and relics remain.

Thursday 27 April: 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 28 April: Holy Rosary at 7pm

On Fridays at 7pm the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are invited to attend. “Continue to pray the Rosary every day.” (Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia)

Saturday 29 April: St Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church

A third-order Dominican, Catherine (1347-1380) was a responsible instrument for the return of Pope Gregory XI from Avignon to Rome. In words and actions, she showed her love for the Church and for the Pope. With her short life, she gave us a lesson in courage: the courage to tell the truth for love of the Church and of all who would listen. She died in Rome at 33 years of age. She is a Patron of Europe.



Thomas was absent when Jesus appeared to the disciples (see John 20:25-27).

Pigeon Feathers is a story about a boy who begins to have doubts about Jesus. One night in bed, the boy decides upon an experiment. He lifts his hand above his head and asks Jesus to touch it. Then he waits. After a while he puts his hand down again, not sure if Jesus touched him or not.

We all crave assurance of our faith. In the end, however, faith is saying to Jesus, “I trust you!”

Why do I find it hard to trust Jesus?



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.