

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 28 May 2017: The Ascension of the Lord (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	John Yates
9.00am	Florie Fernandes RIP
11.00am	Parishioners
5.30pm	Frank Colton RIP

Monday 29 May

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 30 May

7.30am	CMA
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Wednesday 31 May

*Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

7.30am	Sr Marie Alix Peters's intention
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Thursday 1 June

St Justin, Martyr

7.30am	Sisters of Providence
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Friday 2 June

*St Felix of Nicosia,
Capuchin Brother*

7.30am	Pious Union
7.30pm	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>

Saturday 3 June

*St Charles Lwanga &
Companions*

8.00am	Elizabeth Lee
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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.

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

James Livingstone, Thomas White, Gregory Slattery, Una Riordan, Ellen Franklin, Kate Flanagan, Samuel Flynn, William Yardella & Joan Conway.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Second Collection today: Catholic Communications

Last week's collection:

<i>Offertory</i>	£649.23	+ <i>Gift-aided</i>	£76.10
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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.

Tel. No.: 01865 256750 (parish office)

email: ofmcaparish@gmail.com

Website: greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com



The Ascension of the Lord

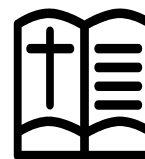
We have many ways of saying goodbye: 'So long'; 'See you later'; 'Take care'.

Goodbyes are softened by the promise of another meeting: 'Till we meet again.' The time until the reunion is filled with both joyful hope and anxious waiting.

Jesus' goodbye came with two promises. He promised the Holy Spirit would guide the disciples in his absence, and he promised that he would come again. That left the disciples in an in-between kind of time. After the goodbye, they waited for his coming again.

In fact, that's where we are, too. We are 'in between' the visits of Jesus, a time of hope and anxiety. We often wonder if we have the tools we need to survive. We need vision and companionship on life's long road.

We have at our disposal the first promise of Jesus, the gift of the Holy Spirit. That Spirit will guide us through times of loneliness, into good decisions, amid the sorrows of sad goodbyes. The Spirit is our centre.



1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Response: **God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations. I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Sunday 28 May 2017: The Ascension of the Lord (Year A)

Today, 28 May, we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord (Year A).

There will be a second collection at all Masses for Catholic Communications.

This Week:

Church Cleaning:

This week is the turn of Group A: the Joyce family. Thank you.

Wednesday 31 May: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The origins of this feast are rooted in the Franciscan charism of peace and reconciliation. St Bonaventure introduced it into that order's calendar in the thirteenth century. It was extended in 1389 to the entire Western Church as a liturgical observance of prayer to heal the division affecting the Church in that age.

Also on Wednesday: Padre Pio Prayer Meeting

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday 31 May at 7pm in the Friary Chapel. Rosary, Mass and intercessory prayer to Padre Pio. All are welcome to join us. 'You must have boundless faith in the divine goodness, for victory is absolutely certain.' (St Padre Pio)

Thursday 1 June: St Justin, Martyr

St Justin defended the faith in his *Apologies* and *Dialogue*, but his earnestness gained him enemies and he suffered martyrdom in one of the early persecutions of Christians in Rome in 165. He is frequently quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, notably for a description of the early Eucharist.

Friday 2 June: St Felix of Nicosia, Capuchin Brother

Born at Nicosia in Sicily in 1715, Felix joined the Capuchin Franciscans and for more than thirty years he exercised the office of quaestor, collecting alms to support the friars and their works of charity. Noted for his humility and simplicity, he was adviser, guide and support for the poor, the learned and the clergy alike. He died in 1787.

Also on Friday: Holy Rosary & First Friday Mass

On Friday evening we have Holy Rosary in the church at 7pm. Since it is the first Friday of the month, Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will follow at 7.30pm, followed by prayer and anointing for healing.

Saturday 3 June: St Charles Lwanga & Companions

One of twenty-two Ugandan martyrs, Charles Lwanga is patron of youth and Catholic action in most of Africa. He protected his fellow pages (aged 13 to 30) from the demands of the Bagandan ruler, Mwanga, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the ruler's demands. Charles was burned to death in 1886. Before his martyrdom, Charles encouraged his friends to remain faithful to God.

Also on Saturday: Secular Franciscan Order Day of Recollection

A Day of Recollection, organized by the Oxford Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan

Order, will take place from 9.30am to 4pm on Saturday 3 June at the Mornese Centre, Elmthorpe Convent, Oxford Road, Cowley OX4 2LF, led by Brother Gerard Mary, OFM Conv., with the theme "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words": evangelisation with Franciscan joy in the charism of St Francis of Assisi".

Gather at 9.30 for 10 o'clock Talk, Quiet period, Devotions, Bring a packed lunch, Afternoon talk, Exposition & Benediction. Depart approx. 4pm.

Open to all. Suggested offering: £10. For further information contact Michael Martin on 01235 526346.

Next Saturday, too: Garden Party at Newman's College, Littlemore

The Friends of the College invite you to a Garden Party from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday 3 June. All proceeds will go towards maintaining Newman's College.

Come with your friends and family to enjoy a lovely afternoon in the beautiful College garden with tea and homemade cakes and ice cream, various stalls, games and live music, and a guided tour at 4pm.

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Looking further ahead:

Next Sunday, 4 June, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.

On this day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, as Jesus had promised. The frightened disciples gathered in the upper room. There they experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in such a profound way that it drove them out into the streets of Jerusalem, proclaiming the Gospel with courage they did not have before.

Also next Sunday: First Holy Communion Mass at 11am

Several children of the parish will be making their First Holy Communion at the 11am Mass next Sunday. Please pray for them.

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Tea/Coffee after the 11am Sunday Mass

Please note that after the 11am Sunday Mass tea and coffee are served in the Parish Hall—a time to relax and take the chance to get to know each other.

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St Pope John Paul II asks:

'Are you ready for what Christ asks of you now? He wants you—all of you—to be the light of the world as only you can be light. It is time to let your light shine!'

Interesting. The Holy Father says that you are ready for what Christ wants of you now! Now is the time for you to follow Christ. Now is the time for you to be the light of the world. Now is the time to let your light shine! He asks you not to wait till you are older, because you will never be more ready than you are right now!

Go do God's work right now! Do God's work all week!