

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 27 August 2017: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Gladys Nolan RIP
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Recardinha dos Santos
5.30pm	Herminia Madeira

Monday 28 August *St Augustine*

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
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Tuesday 29 August *The Beheading of St John the Baptist*

7.30am	Dunleary family RIP
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Wednesday 30 August *Sts Margaret Clitherow,*

7.30am	<i>Anne Line &amp; Margaret Ward</i> Pious Union
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Thursday 31 August

7.30am	Jonathan Hennigan RIP
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Friday 1 September

7.30am	Carol Waldock RIP
7.30pm	<i>In honour of the Sacred Heart</i>

Saturday 2 September

8.00am	Br. Thomas More RIP
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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:**

Fr John O'Reilly, James Patten & Pierre Dubois.

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

### COLLECTIONS:

**No Second Collection today, & No Second Collection next Sunday**

Last week's collection:

Offertory	£470.09	+ Gift-aided	£107.00
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*SS Edmund and Frideswide  
Roman Catholic Church*

*Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB*

*Parish Priest:*

*Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.*

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Sunday 27 August 2017: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

### God: Incomprehensibly Rich in Wisdom and Love

We cannot completely figure God out. God dwells in ultimate mystery. We believe in God's presence, we experience his presence in spiritual ways. But we do not understand it or fully grasp it.

God created. Consider the many plants, flowers in bloom, the various animals, fish that swim, the birds that fly. Consider the differences in human beings alive today. Consider the stars of the sky and the planets unseen. God's creativity knows no end.

In the course of our lives we sometimes question God's judgements, but we also stand in awe at our blessings. God has given us the gift of life in the midst of a wondrous creation. God has given us freedom to choose our actions, to develop good friends, and to pray in faith.

We cannot completely figure God out. It's not ours to know or comprehend. It is ours to be in awe—to give glory. God is so rich in wisdom and love.



1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Response: **Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A).

*This Week:*

### Church Cleaning:

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

### Monday 28 August: St Augustine (354-430)

No theologian has influenced the direction of the Church in the West as much as Augustine. Born in Thagaste, Africa, at first he followed his mother's example, but later fell into a licentious way of life. His mother, St Monica, constantly prayed for his conversion. He converted at the age of thirty-three in Milan, where he was baptised by St Ambrose. He went to Africa and was elected Bishop of Hippo. He is one of the greatest Doctors of the Church.

### Tuesday 29 August: The Beheading of St John the Baptist

Was there ever a more foolish waste than the silencing of so great a preacher because of a two-bit despot's drunken promise to an exotic dancer whose mother bore a grudge? Yet the Baptist's voice echoes on. His witness is continued in all those who dare to confront power with truth and to speak the truth without compromise.

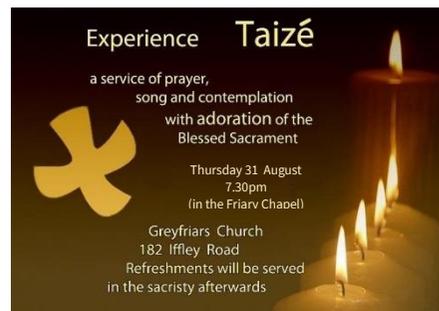
### Wednesday 30 August: St Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs

*Margaret Clitherow.* A convert, she hid priests in her home. When this was discovered she was arrested and crushed to death.

*Anne Line.* A convert, she kept house for priests, and after people had been seen coming to her house to attend Mass, she was arrested, tried and condemned to death in 1601.

*Margaret Ward.* On hearing that a priest was in solitary confinement in Brideswell, she contrived a visit to him and smuggled him a rope with which to escape. The priest escaped, but Margaret was arrested and martyred in Tyburn in 1588.

### Thursday 31 August: Taizé Prayer



return, we can surrender everything to him.'

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

### Friday 1 September: Evening Rosary & First Friday Mass

Every Friday evening the Holy Rosary is recited in the church at 7pm. This Friday we also celebrate the First Friday Mass at 7.30pm in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by prayers and anointing for healing.

Earlier on Friday, the Requiem Mass for **Santa Korobiecki RIP** will be at **10am**.

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### First Holy Communion and Reconciliation Programme for 2018

Children applying for First Holy Communion need to be in Year Three (seven years old) and their families need to be part of the Greyfriars parish community. The First Holy Communion programme prepares children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for First Holy Communion through a series of sessions which will be held on Sunday mornings at 10am in the Friary Chapel. Children are expected to attend one of the Sunday Masses.

As a parent, you have the most important role in the preparation process, which is primarily to accompany your child to Mass, to pray for and with your child, to witness to your faith by your lifestyle and to help them with their homework. Your support and encouragement during the process is vital to the catechist (teacher) and to your child's faith development. Sports, parties and other such compelling attractions must come second to First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation.

Registration forms will be available next week at the back of the church.

The programme will start in the New Year.

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### Peter the Rock (Matthew 16:13-20)

What images does the name of St Peter bring to your mind? The simple fisherman named Simon who was among the first disciples called by Jesus. The hopeful believer who first recognised Jesus as the Messiah. The fearful friend who denied Jesus three times. The leader of the early Church whom we recognise as the first Pope. Peter is all these things and more. The Bible paints a picture of a very human leader with sins and weaknesses along with many gifts and great faith.

The author of Matthew uses a play on words to make a statement about Peter as the foundation of the Church. The new name that Jesus gives him—Peter—means 'rock'. So Jesus is saying, "You are a rock, and on this rock I will build my Church." The Catholic Church uses this Scripture passage as support for its teaching on the Pope's position as the spiritual leader and highest authority of the Church. Peter's primacy as the first of Jesus' apostles is understood to be passed on to the current Pope, through the succession of Popes who go back to the beginnings of the church at Rome.