

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 10 December 2017: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Bridget Pender (Tessie)
9.00am	Parishioners
11.00am	Patricia Kirwan RIP
5.30pm	Sisters of Providence (deceased)

Monday 11 December

7.30am	Ruth & Joel da Cunha RIP
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Tuesday 12 December

7.30am	Matthew Tobin RIP
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Wednesday 13 December *St Lucy*

7.30am	Sisters of Providence (int.)
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Thursday 14 December *St John of the Cross*

7.30am	Kieran Hughes
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Friday 15 December

7.30am	Tom Doherty RIP
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Saturday 16 December

8.00am	Ellen Granish 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:

Josephine Matthew, Ivy Hodgkinson, Ruby Olive Baker, Michael Cahill, Walenty Brzozowski, Robert Marriott, Alice Ferrett, Josephine Crockett, Elsie Stone, Edith Pearson-Walker, Petronella Cobb, Michael Smith, Patrick Cummins, Molly O'Connor, Josephine Strange & Helen Massey.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Second Collection today: Poor Parishes Fund

Last week's collection:

Offertory £471.27 + *Gift-aided* £206.08

Gift-aided donations by standing order in November: £930.00

Second Collection next week: Christmas Flowers for the church

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB

Parish Priest:

Fr Gordon Pesterfield, OFM Cap.

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Making a Straight Highway for our God

People like straight highways. They are quicker, safer and more pleasant.

In the prophecy of Isaiah, a voice cries out, 'In the desert prepare a way for the Lord!' John the Baptist quoted this passage to prepare people for the coming of Jesus.

During Advent we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in our lives. In the past we formed habits as sturdy as two-lane roads. They got us where we wanted to go, but sometimes not by the most direct route.

We have only a couple of weeks till Christmas. It is time to move the roadblocks and detours that keep us from encountering Christ.

Hardness of heart, stinginess of time, or unbending habits: which of these need repair on your highway towards Christ?



1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Response: **Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.**

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Sunday 10 December 2017: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Year B).

This Weekend: the Archbishop’s Visitation

We welcome to our parish this weekend His Grace, Archbishop Bernard, on his Deanery Pastoral Visitation, during which he will preach at all the weekend Masses. Please note that after the Sunday Masses tea/coffee will be served in the Hall so that you may meet Archbishop Bernard.

Also today: Last Day of the Christmas Collection for the Gatehouse
The Gatehouse is appealing for Christmas presents of **new underpants, and socks, hats, gloves, scarves and bars of chocolate.** Please bear in mind that 90% of guests at the Gatehouse are male, and that whilst underpants should be new, other clothes could be slightly used but must be clean and of good enough quality to be given as a Christmas gift. Please bring your gifts to the Sacred Heart Chapel.

Also this Sunday: Cake Sale towards Church Hall Refurbishment

Plans are being drawn up for the renovation of our Parish Hall. A committee are in the process of obtaining grants to pay for the majority of costs. It would be great if the parish can help raise a small proportion. We are holding a **Cake Sale** in the Hall after every Mass this Sunday: 9am, 11am and 5.30pm. We are asking for donations of cakes, biscuits etc. Please drop them off before Mass in the Hall. We hope you will support this event. Thank you.

Refurbishment of the Church Hall: Shopping online this Christmas?

Please use the **Easyfundraising** website (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to help our fundraising. It’s easy: 1) Select Greyfriars Parish Hall as the charity you wish to support. Then 2) follow the links to the online site you wish to shop at. 3) Your chosen shop then donates (at no cost to yourself) a small percentage to your charity. 4) Save it in your favourites or download the app and it will remind you before you shop to go via them. Thousands of shops have signed up to this including all top brands. Even your weekly shop can be done via the website! Happy shopping!

This Week:

Church Cleaning:

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

Wednesday 13 December: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Lucy suffered martyrdom at Syracuse, probably during the persecution of Diocletian. Her name, meaning ‘light’, makes her a perfect Advent saint. Christian art depicts her holding her eyes. According to one legend her tormentors removed her eyes. Devotion to her spread almost throughout the whole Church and dates back to the earliest times.

Thursday 14 December: St John of the Cross

St John of the Cross, born at Fontiveros in Old Castile (Spain) about the year 1542, was a Carmelite friar, mystic and poet. A Carmelite reformer, he befriended St Teresa

of Avila. He was outstanding in holiness and wisdom, as his spiritual writings testify.

Friday 15 December: Rosary at 7pm.

The Holy Rosary is recited in the church at 7pm every Friday. All are welcome.

Looking further ahead:

Next Weekend: Second Collection

There will be a second collection at next weekend’s Masses, the proceeds of which will go towards buying flowers to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Also on Sunday, 17 December: A Service of Lessons and Carols at 3pm

The Greyfriars Choir, under the direction of John Brennan, will be leading a service of lessons and carols in the church on Sunday 17 December at 3pm. The parish community and their families and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Wednesday 20 December: Padre Pio Mass

In the Friary Chapel at 7pm: Rosary, Mass & veneration of St Padre Pio’s relic.

24 December: Nativity Play at Children’s Christmas Vigil Mass

If your child would like to take part in the Christmas Vigil Mass Nativity Play at the 6.30pm Mass on Sunday 24 December, please leave your name (and your child’s) and a contact number on the the list at the back of the church. Rehearsals on Saturday 16th from 11am to 12 noon, and before the 6.30pm Mass on Sunday 24th at 5pm

Mass Times for Christmas

Sunday 24 December: *Morning Masses at 9am & 11am as normal.*

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass with Nativity Play at 6.30pm.

From 11.30pm: Christmas Eve Carols by candlelight, followed by Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day (Monday 25 December): *Masses at 9am and 11am.*

Please note: *There will be NO Evening Mass on Christmas Day.*

Boxing Day (26 December): *Mass at 10am.*



Christmas Tree Star

For a donation of £5, you can have a star put on the Church Christmas Tree in memory of a loved one. Mass will be said for all those whose names are on the tree on Christmas Day. Please complete the form below and return it to Br Gordon with your donation.

CHRISTMAS TREE STAR

Name of person to be remembered.....

(Block Capitals)

Name of donor: Tel. No.: