

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 17 December 2017: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

6.30pm (Saturday) Terry Walsh
 9.00am Parishioners
 11.00am John O'Malley RIP
 5.30pm O.F.S.

Monday 18 December
 7.30am Friars & Benefactors;
 Ciara Ryan RIP

Tuesday 19 December
 7.30am Richard Pinniger

Wednesday 20 December
 7.30am Kieran Hughes

Thursday 21 December
 7.30am In thanksgiving

Friday 22 December
 7.30am Tom & Charlette Flanagan RIP

Saturday 23 December
 8.00am *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

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:

John Bradley, Thomas Collings, Francis Cyran, Maud Bint, Margaret Bedwin, Persis Harvey, Raul Casares, Daniel Moore, John Dunworth, Isabel Parmiter, Patrick Browne & Helena Banham.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Second Collection today: Christmas Flowers for the church

Last week's collection:

<i>Offertory</i>	£294.38	+ Gift-aided	£67.00
<i>Poor Parishes Fund</i>	£104.11	+ Gift-aided	£25.10

Second Collection next week: Christmas Offering for the Friars

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Priest:

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What do you Want for Christmas?

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The child in each of us still wants stuff like toys and new clothes. But deep inside us we have more basic needs. We need security, fairness and love. We want something huge for Christmas. We want peace on earth and justice for the oppressed. We want poverty eliminated and wars to cease.

Isaiah promises we will not be disappointed. He promises that God will do such wondrous things that justice and praise shall spring up in every nation. When God is our joy, we feel as rich as royalty, no matter how poor our state.

What does the earth want for Christmas? It wants good news for the poor, healing for the broken-hearted, liberty for captives and release for prisoners. The earth wants what God alone can provide.

What do you want for Christmas?



1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Response: **My soul rejoices in my God.**

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Sunday 17 December 2017: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B).

There will be a second collection at this Sunday's Masses, the proceeds of which will go towards buying flowers to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Thank you.



John the Baptist continues his central role as the prophetic figure whose life and ministry point the way to Jesus. The optional rose-coloured vestments and the rose candle on the Advent wreath announce that the season of waiting is nearing its end. This is one of the Sundays that used to be identified by the first Latin word of its entrance antiphon, and hence the first word of the day's Mass. Some people still call it *Gaudete* Sunday.

God sent...a man named John, who came to tell the people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe (Jn 1:6-7).

American Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis was leaving the pool. A boy with a cigarette in his mouth ran up to him. 'You shouldn't be smoking' said Greg. 'Why do you do it?' The boy said proudly, 'Because you do it and I want to be like you.' That episode played a big role in getting Greg to stop smoking. He said, 'I'd better accept my position as a role model, and live it out.'

The calls of John the Baptist and of Greg Louganis to live out their roles invite me to ask: How might I better live out my call as a Christian?

This Sunday afternoon: Service of Lessons & Carols at 3pm

You are invited to attend a Service of Lessons and Carols this Sunday in the church, starting at 3pm and led by the Greyfriars Choir under the direction of John Brennan.



This Week:

Church Cleaning:

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

Wednesday 20 December: Padre Pio Mass at 7pm

On Wednesday in the Friary Chapel, starting at 7pm, there will be Rosary, Mass, and intercessory prayers and veneration of St Padre Pio's relic. All are welcome. Please come to the main door of the Friary, 182 Iffley Road.

Friday 22 December: Rosary at 7pm.

Every Friday at 7pm, the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. All are welcome.

Looking ahead:

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, the final rehearsal will be at 5pm before the Vigil Mass in the church.

Christmas Mass Times

An insert in this week's newsletter gives you the times of Christmas Masses. Please take one home. **Please note:** On Christmas Day there will be NO evening Mass.

Attending Daily Mass

Morning Mass is celebrated during the week (Mon.–Fri. at 7.30am, Sat. at 8am) in the Friary Chapel. When attending Mass during the week, please enter via the front door of the friary (182 Iffley Rd) and follow the sign to the Chapel.



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!

The Crib—Origins

The representation of the scene of the Nativity is a tradition that is nearly a thousand years old. In the year 1223 St Francis decided to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way. His aim was to help people to better call to mind the poor surroundings in which Jesus was born and to make the wondrous event of the Incarnation more real to the people of the time. In the town of Greccio, with the help of a local landowner, a nativity scene was set up with a stable, animals and straw. People came at night from the town with candles and torches to attend Holy Mass by the crib and, seeing the scene, be reminded of God's love for us in sending his only Son to be born in the poverty of a manger.

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.: