

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 4 February 2018: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

6.30pm (Saturday) Deceased Family & Benefactors of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
 9.00am Prayers for Maria & family
 11.00am Parishioners
 5.30pm Br. Thomas More RIP

Monday 5 February *St Agatha*

7.30am Friars & benefactors

Tuesday 6 February *St Paul Miki & Companions*

7.30am *St Anthony*

Wednesday 7 February *St Colette of Corbie*

7.30am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 8 February

7.30am Br. Thomas More RIP

Friday 9 February

7.30am Catherine Madden RIP

Saturday 10 February *St Scholastica*

8.00am Kieran Hughes

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 Kennedy, Mary Taylor, Kristian O'Farrell, Patrick O'Mahoney, Hugh McKenna, Michael Gilboy, Daniel McCarthy, Domenico Rosato, Ruby Cross, Bruno Nowak, Liam Mulhern & Margaret Hillier.

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

COLLECTIONS:

No Second Collection today

Last week's collection:

Offertory £444.98 + *Gift-aided* £96.00

No Second Collection next week

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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The Trials of Job

No one in the Bible experiences despair as much as Job. Job lost his livestock, his servants, his children and their homes through the forces of nature and enemy troops. He lost everything that was dear to him.

He realizes that what he has belongs to God. "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

As the reality of his loss sinks in, Job expresses despair. "My days come to an end without hope. I shall not see happiness again."

When we experience those emotions we may feel far from God. The security we once felt in God's presence departs.

But Job's raw emotions appear uncensored in the Bible and in today's readings. All human experience finds its place under the mantle of God's foreseeing care.



1st Reading: Job 7:1-4,6-7

Response: **Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Sunday 4 February 2018: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Today is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B).

This week:

Monday 5 February: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

St Agatha, one of the earliest Christian martyrs, died during the persecution of Decius. The tortures included the removal of her breasts, and she is now patron of women with breast cancer and other diseases of the breast. Her name is remembered among the women martyrs in the First Eucharistic Prayer.

Tuesday 6 February: St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

Caught up in the midst of political machinations and fear of national conquest, Paul Miki and 25 companions, of whom some were altar servers, were tortured and finally crucified at Nagasaki in 1597. Celebrating this memorial of the martyrs from Japan reminds Catholics in other places of the global witness to the faith.

Wednesday 7 February: St Colette of Corbie, Poor Clare

Colette was born in France in 1381. After the death of her parents she distributed her wealth to the poor and, taking the habit of the Third Order, lived for some time as a recluse. She later entered the Poor Clares. She was responsible for renewing many of the Communities through her insistence on prayer and poverty. She died in 1447.

Friday 9 February: Holy Rosary

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

Saturday 10 February: St Scholastica

Born at Nursia in Umbria in the late fifth century, the sister of St Benedict, she consecrated herself to God in early childhood and dedicated her life to prayer and work. She is the patron of Benedictine nuns.

Looking ahead:

Next Sunday, 11 February: World Day of Prayer for the Sick

St Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. He had himself been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, and perhaps his own illness provided impetus for the designation of this day. 11 February is also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

To celebrate the Day of Prayer for the Sick, I invite the parish community to attend a Holy Hour and Benediction at 3pm next Sunday, 11 February, during which we shall celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick.

It is almost the Season of Lent.

Lent is a time for spiritual renewal. For many people summer is the time for physical renewal, and Christmas the time to renew friendship and family relationships. In Lent we renew our spirit. We recommit ourselves to life in Christ. It is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to arrive at Easter purified of heart and renewed in spirit.

Lent starts with *Ash Wednesday*, 14 February.

Walk with Me—a Lenten Journey of Prayer

Each year Lent is our opportunity to receive God's grace afresh and respond to it. The work of Lent is well summed up in the three practices: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

At the back of the church you will find the *Walk with Me* booklet to aid your Lenten journey with daily meditations. *Price: £1.*

Adult Confirmation Programme: from Wednesday 28 February, 7pm

This programme is for those aged 16 and older who have been baptized Catholic but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation. They are invited to participate in a preparation programme which will start on Wednesday 28 February at 7pm in the Friary (182 Iffley Road). Registration forms are still available at the back of the church.

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Children's Choir!

Hello! We are the Greyfriars youth choir and are looking for new members in the new year. If you want to come along on Sundays from 10–10.45am then go to the Parish Hall and join us for singing, games & fun!

Tea/Coffee after the 11am Sunday Mass

After the 11am Sunday Mass tea and coffee are served in the Parish Hall.

Morning Mass

Morning Mass is celebrated on every weekday (Monday–Friday at 7.30am & Saturday at 8am) in the Friary Chapel. For morning Mass, please enter via the main door of the Friary at 182 Iffley Road. Once in the porch, follow the sign to the Chapel.

Gift Aid Scheme

As a member of this parish, if you pay tax on income, be it in wages, salaries or pensions, it is easy to increase the value of your weekly parish donation to the collection at no additional cost to yourself. So, if you haven't yet signed up for the Gift Aid envelopes, please consider the Gift Aid scheme. Contact James Martin at jandt08martin@metronet.co.uk or collect a form from the back of the church.

NB. If you are already a member of the scheme, it is important that you notify James of any change of address. If we do not have accurate up-to-date records, the Revenue may withdraw from the parish the privilege of the Gift Aid scheme.

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Get Wet

Dipping your fingers into the holy water when you enter and leave the church can become just a habit. Make this profound gesture intentional. As you reach towards the holy water font, thank God for the gift of your baptism, by which you became God's son or daughter and entered into the life of faith. As you trace the sign of the Cross on your body, contemplate how water brings both life and death, and consider how important it is to be filled with God's grace through the sacraments.