

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 18 March 2018: 5th Sunday of Lent (Year B)

6.30pm (Saturday)

Leki Fahic

9.00am

Frances Ruane RIP

11.00am

Parishioners

5.30pm

Ruth Slattery

Monday 19 March St Joseph

7.30am

Friars & Benefactors

Tuesday 20 March

7.30am

St Anthony

Wednesday 21 March

7.30am

Wendy McCullie

Thursday 22 March

7.30am

Mary Keane

Friday 23 March

7.30am

Deceased Family & Benefactors of
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary

Saturday 24 March

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:

Margaret Connaughton, Robin Dancer, Ruth Honoria Mary Slattery, Patrick Hastings,
Joseph Shields, Thomas Bradley, Anthony Siteri, Arthur McGeary, Mills-Hicks,
Marcialis St Hilaire, Bernard Lafferty, Fergus O'Mahony & Peter Conroy.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Second Collection today: Diocesan Schools Fund.

No second collection next week.

Last week's collection:

Offertory £601.94 + Gift-aided £95.00

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

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

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Parish Priest:

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Written on the Heart

When the exiled inhabitants of Jerusalem returned to their holy city, God promised a new covenant through the prophet Jeremiah. The old covenant was good, but people broke it and God had to show them who was their master.

But God had a better idea. God would write the covenant on their hearts. Now when people obeyed, they would do so with the right attitude. They would not resist. They would not wander away from the covenant when they had the chance. They would love God that they would comply with what God asked.

And God would forgive their sins.

During Lent God is asking for your obedience. What attitude have you carried? Will you let God write the covenant on your heart? Will you comply and come to know the Lord?



1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Response: **A pure heart create for me, O God.**

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength..

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Communion Antiphon: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Sunday 18 March 2018: 5th Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B).

Statues Covered

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of the year we cover everything that is beautiful in our churches, even the crucifix.

From the 5th Sunday of Lent (today) until the Easter Triduum the statues and cross are veiled. This is a relic of a centuries-old custom of hanging a curtain in the sanctuary, cutting it off from the people during this latter part of Lent. It is seen as a more powerful and urgent reminder of the need for repentance and conversion. Our sins cut us off from God and the saints. The curtain may not be there today—just the veils—but the message is still the same. The Cross, too, is covered as we await its unveiling at its solemn entry during the liturgy of Good Friday. We do not place the Christ figure in the manger until Christmas; so too with the Cross. It is withdrawn from us so that the impact of its appearance on Good Friday will be heightened.

This week:

Church Cleaning:

This week is the turn of Group D: Norbert & Leonel. Thank you.

Monday 19 March: St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, patron of the Universal Church, enjoys widespread devotion among the faithful. Although his influence has been enormous, the New Testament records not a single word that issued from his mouth.

Friday 23 March: Holy Rosary at 7pm

Every Friday evening at 7pm the Holy Rosary is recited in the church. You are invited to attend.

Also on Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm

The *Stations of the Cross*, celebrated every Friday evening during Lent at 7.30pm in the church, are synonymous with Lent, Holy Week, and especially Good Friday. This devotion is also known as the *Way of the Cross*. It commemorates fourteen key events in the hours leading up to Christ's Crucifixion.

NB. The Stations of the Cross will also be celebrated on Good Friday at 7.30pm.

Looking ahead:

Please note: The clocks go forward next Sunday, March 25 at 1am. Don't forget to make sure your clocks and watches are adjusted as appropriate.

Next Sunday, 25 March, is Palm Sunday.

Palms will be blessed and distributed at all Masses next Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, 29 March: Volunteers needed for Washing of Feet

For the Mass of the Lord's Supper, celebrated at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday, we need six men & six women to volunteer to have their feet washed. At the back of the church there is a list on which you can put your name.

Good Friday, 30 March: Walk of Witness

Those participating will meet outside Cowley Road Methodist Church at 10.15am for a 10.30am start, for a walk along Cowley Road. At each station there is a simple hymn, Bible reading, and prayer. At the end of the walk, tea and hot cross buns are served in the Richard Benson Hall.

Easter Sunday: Cakes & Second-hand Book Sale

Greyfriars Parish would like to welcome you to a Cakes & Second-hand Book Sale after the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Sunday. Buy delicious cakes and help raise money to renovate our Parish Hall.

Sunday 8 April: The Feast of Mercy—Divine Mercy Sunday

In our parish we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on 8 April, starting at 2pm, with blessing of the Divine Mercy picture, devotions, chaplet and confession, finishing with Mass at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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Children's Liturgy—Can You Help?

At the 11am Sunday Mass, children aged three years to pre-communion are invited to assemble in the sacristy, accompanied by some adults, to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. They return to Mass just before the offertory.

In the Children's Liturgy the Gospel is proclaimed at a level the children can understand and enjoy, through prayers, drama, and craft. The aim is to make the children's experience of the Church meaningful and help them grow in the faith.

If you are interested in joining the team, please see Fr Gordon or a co-ordinator of the Children's Liturgy. All volunteers will be CRB-checked.

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TIMES FOR CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK

Wednesday 28 March

From 6pm–7pm the **Blessed Sacrament** will be exposed for quiet prayer and reflection. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)** will be available during this time.

Maundy Thursday, 29 March

Confession will be available from 5pm–6pm.

Good Friday, 30 March

Confession will be available from 12 noon–1pm.

Holy Saturday, 31 March

Confession will be available from 11am–12 noon & 5pm–6pm.

“Talk with Jesus in prayer while listening to the *Word*; experience the joy of reconciliation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”