

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 23 December 2018: 4th Sunday of Advent (Year C)

6.30pm (Saturday)	Sr Marie-Aloysius RIP
9.00am	Br Lucjan's intentions
11.00am	Holy Souls
5.30pm	Secular Franciscan Order

Monday 24 December

7.30am	Friars & Benefactors
6.00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass Christy & Winnie (RIP) Joyce & family

Tuesday 25 December *Christmas Day:*

12.00 midnight	Midnight Mass Christmas Tree Stars
9.00am	Dawn Mass Jimmy Begley RIP
11.00am	Day Mass Parishioners

Wednesday 26 December *St Stephen*

10.00am	Graham Moffat RIP
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Thursday 27 December *St John the Evangelist*

10.00am	Br Loarne's intentions
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Friday 28 December *Holy Innocents*

10.00am	Kieran Hughes
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Saturday 29 December *St Thomas Becket*

10.00am	Pious Union
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-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:

Patrick Browne, Helena Banham, Anthony Grealis, Thomas Curry, James Begley, Ellen Ruane, Phyllis Wile, Margaret O'Donnell, Edgar Woodward, Angela Murphy, Stanislaus Polubiec, Joanna Curran & Frances Greenwood.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Second Collection today: Christmas Flowers

Last week's collection:

Offertory	£526.87	+ <i>Gift-aided</i>	£147.50
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No second collection next week

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB

Parish Priest:

Br. Paul Coleman, OFM Cap.

Tel. No.: 01865 256750 (parish office)

email: ofmcaparish@gmail.com

Website: greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com



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St Francis and the First Christmas Crib



1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Response: **Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

This Sunday, 23 December: Rehearsal for Christmas Vigil Nativity

Those children who signed up to take part in the Nativity at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve are reminded that there will be a rehearsal *today at 10am*.

Also this Sunday, 23 December: A Service of Lessons and Carols

This Sunday **at 3pm**, the Greyfriars Choir, under the direction of John Brennan, will lead a service of lessons and carols in the church. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

This week:

Church Cleaning:

Groups of dedicated volunteers keep the church clean and tidy. This week is the turn of Group C: Margaret Madden & family, & Michael. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

See our website, <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com/weekly-newsletter.html>, or the separate insert for times of Masses, confessions, and other services at Christmas time.

Christmas Tree Stars

At the back of church you can find stars on which you may write the names of those you wish to pray for especially this Christmas. Hand your star in to one of the friars and it will be hung on the church Christmas tree. Midnight Mass will be offered for all those named on the stars. **(NB.** No donation is required for the stars.)

Christmas Collection

The collection at Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is your gift to the friars. The parish and the friary are financially distinct, and the collection on Sundays normally goes to the parish, with only a fixed amount going to the friary. On Christmas Day and Easter Sunday the whole collection is for the friary.

Tuesday 25 December: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“I bring you news of great joy...” The highlight of the Christmas celebrations is Midnight Mass, because the Son of God came to be a light in the darkness. While the festivities are a joy for many people, others feel the darkness in their lives all the more acutely at this time of year. The birth of Jesus does not necessarily drive that darkness away immediately; but it is the dawn that indicates that the night is over.

Wednesday 26 December: St Stephen, the first Christian martyr

It might seem a bit odd to be celebrating a martyr the day after the birth of Jesus. But the death of a saint, and particularly of a martyr, is traditionally described as their birthday – the day on which they were born to eternal life.

Thursday 27 December: St John the Evangelist

One of the first Apostles, John is traditionally identified with the ‘beloved disciple’ in the Fourth Gospel, and as such he is a model for all of us who are called to be beloved disciples of Jesus.

Friday 28 December: The Holy Innocents

As G. K. Chesterton observed, we cannot properly understand the Christmas story if we do not recognise the presence of evil as part of it. Today’s feast in honour of the children killed by Herod’s soldiers reminds us of the evil that Christ came to combat.

Also on Friday 28 December: Holy Rosary

Every Friday evening we pray the Holy Rosary in the church at 7pm. All are welcome.

Saturday 29 December: St Thomas Becket

This Archbishop of Canterbury was killed for standing up to the king, who infamously said to his knights, “Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?” But the tomb of St Thomas in Canterbury then became one of the main pilgrimage destinations in medieval Europe.

Looking ahead:

First Holy Communions 2019

Preparation classes will start on Sunday 13 January at 10am. Those who have signed up will be contacted and given more information shortly.



Vacancy for Deputy Headteacher at St Joseph’s Primary School

St Joseph’s is a thriving, well-respected Catholic primary school located in a popular residential area of Oxford. The Governors are seeking to appoint a practising Catholic Deputy Head with a clear vision and a strong commitment to the Catholic ethos and needs of a high-achieving school in a 21st-century setting. Please see the notice in the church porch for more details or follow this link to the school website: <https://www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk/teacher-vacancies>.

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School: Admissions open for September 2019

The school invites parents to come and see their outstanding Nursery setting and Early Years provision. To arrange a visit please email coralreefsgp@dbmac.org.uk or call 01865 749933 ext. 263.



Welcome to St Edmund & St Frideswide Catholic Church!

If you are new to the parish and would like to register as a member—whether or not you are a Catholic—please complete a registration form, which can be found at the back of the church. We look forward to getting to know you better. May the Lord bless you and your family.

Tea/Coffee after the 11am Sunday Mass

Please note that after the 11am Sunday Mass tea and coffee are served in the Parish Hall—a time to relax and take the chance to get to know each other.