

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Although there will be no public Mass,
the friars will continue offering Mass for your intentions

Sunday 22 March 2020: 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

9.30am
Parishioners
Daniella Dunleavey RIP
Manuel Soares Pinto & Nuno Inosensio
Pinto

Monday 23 March

7.30am
Br. Lucjan's intention

Tuesday 24 March

7.30am
Lost souls

Wednesday 25 March *Annunciation*

7.30am
Kieran Hughes

Thursday 26 March

7.30am
Br. Loarne's intention

Friday 27 March

7.30am
Secular Franciscan Order

Saturday 28 March

8.00am
In honour of St Anthony

CONFESSIONS: available on request.

Please pray for those members of our community who are sick.

Pray, too, for those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including:

Patrick Hastings, Joseph Shields, Thomas Bradley, Anthony Siteri, Arthur McGear, Mills-Hicks, Marcialis St Hilaire, Bernard Lafferty, Fergus O'Mahony, Peter Conroy, Dhanti Lal, Francis Hunt, Frances Hemmings, & Thomas Penders.

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

COLLECTIONS:

Last week's collections:

Offertory £391.07 + *Gift-aided* £136.00

No more collections for now. Donations can be sent to the friary.

Sunday 22 March 2020: 4th Sunday of Lent (Year A)

SS Edmund and Frideswide Roman Catholic Church

Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1SB

Parish Priest:

Br. Paul Coleman, OFM Cap.

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A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe
that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there,
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Response: **The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

ALL MASSES AND OTHER GATHERINGS AT CHURCH ARE CANCELLED

Sadly, because of the coronavirus epidemic, there will be no public Masses this weekend and in the days and weeks following. Our bishops have instructed us not to gather for public acts of worship in our churches until further notice. You can read their letter here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/letter-on-public-acts-of-worship-in-catholic-churches-in-england-and-wales>.

We friars will be celebrating Mass every day in our friary chapel, remembering you all in our prayers, and we invite you to join us in spirit. We will also be live-streaming our Masses and other times of prayer, so that you can join us virtually as well. The live-stream will be on the main page of our website: www.greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com.

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Greyfriars Community Support

If you need to be at home for an extended period of time in the coming weeks and aren't able to go shopping or need help with an errand, please let us know. Email: GreyFriarslffley@gmail.com or call 01865 256750 or 07917 562661. To reduce any risk of infection shopping etc. would be left on the doorstep rather than handed over in person.

If you are not in a vulnerable group and want to help, please email stating that you can help, we will then be able to get in touch with you as and when help is needed. Please email: GreyFriarslffley@gmail.com.

Intercessory Prayer Group

Intercessory prayer is the act of praying for other people. The Lord instructed us to pray not only for our personal needs but to reach out and pray for others as well. We find this in 1 Timothy 2:1-6 where we are told to pray and to make intercession for all men. We have started a parish Intercessory Prayer Group. If you would like us to pray for somebody, please email: GreyfriarsIntercessoryPrayer@gmail.com. All requests will be treated in strictest confidence.

Sunday 22 March: Light a Candle of Hope

A National Day of Prayer and Action has been announced by the presidents of Churches Together in England, re. the Coronavirus epidemic. "At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds. Therefore, at 7pm (GMT) this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer."

Sunday 29 March: Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry

Catholics all over England are invited to join in committing themselves to the care of Our Lady and in rededicating the country as her Dowry. More information is available here: <https://www.behold2020.com/>.

"Lockdown" - a reflection by Br. Richard Hendrix, Irish Capuchin

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again. They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes. But blue and grey and clear. They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them. They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality;

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that,

yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing!!