



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

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Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

Email: fr.pius.duke@rcaob.org.uk

Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Sunday 26 th April	09:30	Mass in Private – Cecilia Michael
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated
Monday 27 th April	09:00	Mass in private for all Heath Workers
Tuesday 28 th April	19:30	Mass in private for all students and young people
Wednesday 29 th April	09:00	Mass in private for All died from COVID 19
Thursday 30 th April	19:00	Mass in private for all suffering from COVID 19
Friday 1 st May	19:00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 2 nd May	10:00	Mass in private for Government and policy makers
Sunday 3 rd May	09:30	Mass in Private – John PM (RIP)
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

Sunday Reflection from Fr. Pius Duke

The story of the Emmaus disciples shows how God works in our lives. These two disciples, leaving Jerusalem and walking back to Emmaus, symbolize humans in their hopeless, discouraged and disillusioned state. The one whom they had followed for three years, hoping for better times under his leadership, is no more. All the talk about his rising from the dead on the third day has only been a myth. Now there is no more reason to stay on in Jerusalem. In their hopelessness they are returning to their obscure village. But the Lord is not ready to leave them in their hopeless condition. The Lord leads them through the scripture, through breaking of bread, opens their eyes, and brings them back their hope and joy. Our Lord is, therefore, a living God. He is alive and active in our lives.

Since it was impossible for Christ to be held captive by death, so it is equally impossible for us, whom Christ has ransomed with his precious blood to remain captives. This is because, we share in Christ's new life. It was while celebrating the liturgy of his own body and blood (the Eucharist) with the disciples "that their eyes opened, and they recognised him". Therefore, the celebration of the Eucharist with his disciples, underscores the importance of Christ's injunction: "Do this in memory of me." Indeed, he has ransomed and given us new life through his paschal mystery. Yet, in order to sustain and nourish this new life, He left us himself in these two important liturgies of the Holy Mass (Word and Eucharist). Christ did this today to remind us that each time we celebrate these liturgies worthily, He opens our eyes, in order to recognize his divine presence with us. Through the breaking of bread in memory of Him, He nourishes our life, and makes it new every day.

Offertory (collections): Normal weekend collections cannot be taken under current circumstances. While recognising that this is a very difficult time financially for many people, others may still wish to continue their regular Sunday donations, if they are not already using the envelopes or standing order facilities. Donations may be sent to the Parish even through standing order. We do not receive any financial support from the Diocese, and other important activities like letting out the hall for community use have ceased, while our expenditure remains effectively the same.

Mass Suspension Information

COVID 19: If you or someone you know in the parish is self-isolating and is in need of any support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with the Parish Office: Email: sasacredheartchurch.oxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903 or 01865 762964. **Corpus Christi Parish in Headington will continue to be live streaming weekday and Sunday Mass, and more details can be found at**

<https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk>

<https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>

Also, you can visit the parish website: <https://sacredheartoxford.com>.

Masses will be celebrated each day privately by the parish clergy for your intentions. New Mass intention should be sent to sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com.

Let us pray together

The prayers below can be used to aid our spiritual reflection over the coming week.

As we celebrate the Risen Lord, in these very difficult times, we turn humbly to him in hope and place the needs of the Church and the World into his loving care.

Let us pray together

In today's Gospel we read how the disciples, who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, recognised Him at the breaking of bread. As we rejoice in the Resurrection, we pray that our eyes, too, are opened to the wonderful peace and joy which Jesus shares with us in the most Holy Eucharist.

Lord hear us ...

We pray for Pope Francis, his bishops and priests, especially Frs Pius, Vincent and Mervyn. May they show the courage and dedication of the apostles in spreading the good news of the Resurrection, and, like Jesus, embrace the marginalised and those who have suffered in the past from isolation in the Church.

Lord hear us ...

We pray for all those who have lost loved ones during this time of crisis and who have been unable to be with them, grieve for them and be comforted by friends and community.

Lord hear us ...

We pray for all doctors, health workers and carers who at great personal risk and sacrifice are attending to the needs of victims of this devastating global pandemic. We pray that the Lord bless them with safety in their work and reward their personal sacrifices.

Lord hear us ...

We pray for our senior citizens, particularly those who are lonely in isolation, and those in nursing and retirement homes. We pray that our loving Father look down on them with compassion and inspire those who care for them to bring them safely through this very difficult period.

Lord hear us ...

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS (Pope Francis)

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Our Refuge and our Hope, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen