



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

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Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

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Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Sunday 26 th July	10:00	Mass (via Zoom) people of the Parish
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated
Monday 27 th July	10:00	Mass in private for the sick and the housebound
Tuesday 28 th July	19:00	Rosary & Mass (via Zoom) for all Heath Workers
Wednesday 29 th July	10:00	Mass in private for those suffering economic hardships
Thursday 30 th July	10:00	Mass in private for the for persecuted Christians in the world
Friday 31 st July	10:00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 01 st August	10:00	Mass in private for all who died from COVID 19
Sunday 02 nd August	09:30	Mass for people of the Parish (1 st face-to-face Mass after lock down)
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

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 sources of income like hall rental.

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: sacredheartchurch.oxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903 or 01865 762964. **Live streaming of Mass from St Anthony of Padua church at 10.00 am every day.** Please visit: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/> or https://www.facebook.com/Saop_Oxford-974143142974717/

Live streaming of the Mass also available at:

<https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk>

<https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>

Sunday Reflection from Fr. Pius Duke

Seeking the kingdom of heaven is the primary and ultimate goal of every Christian. This is the sole reason for which God created us. As such all other things we do, social or religious must be at the service of this end. The Catechism teaches us that God created us to know him, to love him, and to serve him and through this attain eternal life. In the first reading (1 Kings 3:5,7-12), Solomon recognized his mission as the king of Israel a divine mandate. Consequently, all he requested from God was what he needed to prosecute this mission. We are told that "It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this". In opting for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will, Solomon requested from God the gift of prudence, "an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern God's people properly. Pleased with his request, God granted him a wise and discerning heart which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom. Let us examine the content of our prayers. What do we ask of God? Do we ask from him what we need to fulfil the assignment he has given to us or other things that are of little or no bearing with them? Do we dissipate what he has given us on things that cannot help our vocation(s) and mission, or do we concentrate them on our divine call?

The Gospel teaches us that God's Kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Most of the time, we are caught chasing false treasures such as money, social status or worldly pleasures. Jesus teaches us that identifying God's will and living according to the Gospel (both with His grace), are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. In our prayers, let us ask for wisdom and the grace to do God's will.

Church reopening for face to face service: Reopening of our church for face to face service on Sunday 02nd August, initially just with a Mass on Sunday at 9.30 am. If you are planning to come please remember that a mask or face covering is necessary. Please DO NOT visit the church if you have a fever, new cough or have noticed recent changes in your ability to taste or smell. Please be aware that the numbers are limited by government guidelines on social distancing, and please respect the decision of the stewards if you are informed that the church is full. **For more details please visit:** <https://sacredheartoxford.com/>

Volunteers: Adults between the age of 18 and 70 to kindly volunteer to help as cleaners and stewards in line with the current pandemic safety guidelines. PE and training will be provided and a minimum of two people will be on duty at any one time.

As the Body of Christ, let us pray...

Priest: As we celebrate the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time we ask God to speak to us through his word and to listen to us as we pray.

Lord, you granted Solomon's plea for wisdom and a heart to discern the difference between good and evil. Grant the same gift of your wisdom to Pope Francis, all the leaders of the universal Church and our own priests, Frs. Pius and Vincent. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for political leaders worldwide and for the leaders of our own government as they slowly lead us along the difficult path out of lockdown. May we all work together to follow their guidance for the good of our whole community. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We remember those living in the countries that have been especially hard hit by the Covid 19 pandemic. We ask you, Lord, to keep them in your care and strengthen them in their struggle. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all our parish community, especially those suffering from financial hardship, ill-health or isolation, and those who have lost loved ones at this time. We pray too for those who have worked so hard to keep our parish alive through meetings on Zoom, virtual prayer services and the weekly bulletin. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We think of our young people who have had much to cope with recently: their education severely disrupted, their plans for further study and their hopes for employment increasingly uncertain. We pray, Lord, that you will guide their choices and bring them new hope for the future. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We ask Mary our Mother to join her prayers with ours as we say **Hail Mary**

Priest: We ask God, who turns all things to good for those who love him, to guide us through the days ahead and keep us all in his loving care. Our Lady of Oxford pray for us. St Anthony of Padua pray for us.