



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

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Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

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Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Sunday 02 nd August	09:30	Mass for Angel & Josepha Antonio (1 st face-to-face Mass after lock down)
Monday 03 rd August	10:00	Mass in private for the sick and the housebound
Tuesday 04 th August	10:00	Mass in private for all Health Workers
Wednesday 05 th August	10:00	Mass in private for those suffering economic hardships
Thursday 06 th August	10:00	Mass in private for the for persecuted Christians in the world
Friday 07 th August	10:00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 08 th August	10:00	Mass in private for all who died from COVID 19
Sunday 09 th August	09:30 18:00	Mass for people of the Parish Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

Offertory (collections):

- People are encouraged to consider moving to online offertory giving, to minimise the amount of cash we need to handle as we reopen.
- We will give out the gift aid envelopes in future weeks.

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

A comical presentation showing a child sitting down with his chin capped in his palms grew popular in the late 2000s. The child in the picture was worried and asking probing questions. One of the questions he asked was “who shall look after this world when I am gone? And a voice retorted “who had been looking after the world before you were born?” God the Father has more than enough capacity to look after the world he created, to care for humanity. Jesus gave the people the word of God and he healed them physically as well as spiritually. His compassion showed the depth of God’s love and concern for all who are truly needy, and we know that God’s love is made visible through Jesus as St Paul tells us the Second reading. According to St Paul, nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. His message underscores the undeniable fact about God’s care for his people. God is ever ready to give to those who earnestly seek him out. In our world, with all the technological advancement, philosophical heights attained and the economic prowess in place, man has not been able to squarely tackle the problem of insecurity, whether food, health, wealth distribution etc., and this makes him loose hope. At a time like this when the world is experiencing a global pandemic, we are invited to make the message of St Paul from Romans a sure foundation of our hope that God knows our predicament and he is seriously determined to come to our assistance if we turn to him. The feeding of five thousand in the Gospel shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us.

When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. Hence, God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God’s generosity? Do you share freely with others, especially those who struggle?

Church reopening for face to face service: Today, 02nd August reopening of our church for face to face service, 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/>

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

Priest: Lord our God, your Son Jesus gave hungry people more food than they could have imagined through the simplicity of a few fish and some bread. We are hungry for your presence in our lives. Knowing your unlimited love for each one of us, we bring before you ourselves, our hearts and all those for whom we care.

Pope Francis prayed that, "The presence of the Risen Lord in His Word and through the celebration of the Eucharist will give us the strength we need to resolve the difficulties and challenges that we will face after the coronavirus crisis." We pray that he and all Church leaders will continue to inspire hope and courage.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, that we might find God in the busy-ness and in the quiet moments of our daily lives and responsibilities. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray that families, during what should be their summer holidays, might stay safe and will grow in togetherness and peace. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray that all those who are facing business and job insecurity at this time will find hope and security as they look towards the future. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray that governments across the world will make wise and just decisions as we face a possible second wave of the coronavirus. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all people, wherever they might be, who cope with daily food shortages, that they will find enough food to live healthy and happy lives. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and the suffering in mind and body. May you heal and comfort the sick, bless all who care for our loved ones. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We remember our relatives, friends and those in our community who have died; we pray that they would have eternal rest in your heavenly kingdom, and that those who mourn their passing would be comforted by your healing presence. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We ask Mary our Mother to join her prayers with ours as we say, **Hail Mary ...** We pray now for our own personal intentions.

Priest: Loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us. Stay with us. Feed our hungry souls with your love. Amen.