



# 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

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
<b>Sunday</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> August	09:30	Public Mass for Christo (Thanksgiving)
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	10:00	Mass in private for the sick and the housebound
Tuesday 01 <sup>st</sup> September		Fr Harry is arriving today Please check the website.
Wednesday 02 <sup>nd</sup> September	12:00	Funeral Mass for Donna Bernadette Vaughan RIP
Thursday 03 <sup>rd</sup> September		To be confirmed, please check the website
Friday 04 <sup>th</sup> September		To be confirmed, please check the website
Saturday 05 <sup>th</sup> September		To be confirmed, please check the website
<b>Sunday</b> 06 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>09:00</b>	Public Mass for Eileen McGroarty (RIP)

### 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/](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

I once ask a group of men and women in a Bible study group to feel free to pick and choose from the Gospels only what appeals to them. What passages do you think they were comfortable to choose? Most members of the group went for the stories about Christ's birth and infancy, his temptation in the desert and his healing miracles. Others went for their favourite parables, like the prodigal son, the Pharisee and the publican, the parable of the talents, the good Samaritan, and the feeding of the five thousand. It was interesting that no one included the Gospel of today, which is considered by many as a hard teaching about renouncing self, taking up the cross, losing our lives for the sake of Jesus. In today's Gospel Jesus ask the question: what will a person give in exchange for his or her life? Everything we have is a generous gift from God. We owe him everything, including our very lives. It is possible to give God our money, but not ourselves, or to give him lip service, but not our hearts. As St Paul says in the second reading, we must be careful not to be trapped by the lure of glamour of the secular world around us. A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. No sadness or loss can diminish the joy he offers. Christ's Cross leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ is commanding you take up each day? Are you ready to lose all for Jesus Christ in order to gain all with Jesus Christ?

**Announcements:** On behalf of the pastoral team, we appreciate and thank everyone for their support to the MSP during our time at Sacred Heart Parish. On another note, we wish to announce that Fr Vincent Omokpakpo will leave Oxford at the end of August. We thank him for his services and contribution during his stay at Oxford and we pray for God's guidance in his future assignments.

**Sacred Heart Church had reopened for public worship since 02<sup>nd</sup> August. Please note that Sunday morning Mass will be at 9.00 am from 06<sup>th</sup> September.**

**For more details please visit: [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)**

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

Let us pray together....

**Priest:** Lord God, every day of our lives is an invitation to follow you in all of the ups and downs, joys and sorrows which we are likely to meet on our journey. We come before you with our prayers, knowing that you love us more than we can possibly imagine.

We pray for Pope Francis as he challenges us to a more compassionate lifestyle, that his words will not fall on closed hearts and will find a generous response. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We give thanks for our parish Priests Fathers Pius and Vincent and ask that you bless Father Vincent as he prepares to take up his new post at the MSP headquarters. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for governments engaged in making major decisions which will affect the lives of those whom they are called to serve, that their decisions will be guided by wisdom and justice. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the people of California as they battle devastating wildfires, that emergency workers might be kept safe and that those whose lives have been turned upside-down by the fires will find the support and courage that they need at this time. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the people of Belarus in their search for freedom and democracy, that their quest will be without bloodshed and violence. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all migrants particularly desperate families making hazardous journeys in search of a safe home, that you would bring stability and peace to war torn countries and that we would welcome those in need of sanctuary. Please protect the lives of all those who are vulnerable. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers**

We pray for those affected by hurricane Laura; please send the right help to rebuild communities and to comfort those who have lost loved ones. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for children returning to school, for their teachers and families, that they will be safe from infection, that the new academic year will be one of hope and joy and that those who need specialised care and attention will find it. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for young people who are preparing for further education or who will be joining the workforce that their new paths might be joy-filled and supported by wise mentors. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all those who are facing unemployment or job insecurity, that they will find positive solutions to their difficulties. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray for the sick and the suffering in mind and body, and for all affected by the coronavirus. May you heal and comfort the sick, bless all who care for our loved ones and guide those working on vaccines and treatments to end this pandemic. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

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

**Priest:** Loving Lord, hear our prayers which we make in the name of your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who live and reign with you now and forever. **Amen**