



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th September, 2020

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 27 th September Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for the Harvest	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>John PM (RIP)</i>
Monday, 28 th September <i>Optional Memorial of St. Wenceslaus, Martyr, or of Ss. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Rolando Balbag (RIP)</i>
Tuesday, 29 th September <i>Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels</i>	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 30 th September <i>Memorial of St. Jerome, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 1 st October <i>Memorial of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church</i>	6.30 pm Exposition with Confessions 7.00 pm Mass	<i>James McVeigh</i>
Friday, 2 nd October <i>Memorial of the Guardian Angels</i> <i>Harvest Fast Day</i>	No Mass Today	
Saturday, 3 rd October <i>Op. Memorial of St. Thomas Cantilupe, Bishop</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday, 4 th October Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Edward & Mary Murphy (RIP)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church, especially if you are here for the first time for a long time.

Today is a Day of Prayer in thanksgiving for the harvest and the fruits of the earth.

Next Friday is the First Friday of the Month, which is significant in the devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Please pray for those we know who are sick. If you or a family member is ill and would like to be included on this newsletter for prayers, let me know (in writing, please).

Please pray for Adam Quelch, Antonio Abreu, and all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time, including: HH Pope John Paul I, Mgr. Henry Farrelly, Frs. Edward Cotter, Laurence Daly, Denis Mary Egan, William McGann, John Nightingale, John Danaher, Deacons Tony Colby and John Burrows. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Season of Creation. What would St. Francis say? Wild animals, gardens and I do not seem to get on well. A mixture of any two is fine, but put the three together and things go wrong. In my last parish I came down one morning and discovered that during the night a badger had neatly and industriously removed about 20 square feet of turf from my lawn. It wasn't a particularly good lawn, but it was better than the mud bank that was left. Last Monday morning I came down again and found a fox lying in my garden, having apparently laid waste to several shrubs and tried to dig his way out through the membrane that is there to keep out weeds. He didn't even have the grace to look ashamed about his work as he trotted off. It has helped me to reflect on the Season of Creation which runs from 1st September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year. It is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation, a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. I can't say that I am totally reconciled yet to Brer Fox, but it helps to recognise that he is as much a part of God's creation as the rest of us. G.K.Chesterton made a fine observation about St. Francis: he was not a nature-lover, he was a lover of nature. Think about that, and I may take it up again next Sunday, the feast of St. Francis. We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth, our common home. This year we have been made acutely aware of how interconnected we all are, and so we come together in hope that we can rebuild and heal our world.

If you cannot get to Mass – and the Sunday obligation to attend Mass has been lifted for the time being – you can still join in by watching a live Mass via the wonders of modern technology. Here is a prayer, an Act of Spiritual Communion, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come 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.”

Prayer in time of pandemic:

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray: look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

In this time of pandemic we have to be very careful, so please note the following precautions:

People attending Mass are asked to...

- + Wear a face covering (please bring one)
- + Remain 1 metre+ apart
- + Sanitise hands on entering and leaving
- + Complete a slip for Track and Trace

During Mass there will be no...

- + Holy water in the stoups
- + Hymnbooks
- + Children’s liturgy
- + Serving team
- + Collection bags
- + Offertory procession
- + Physical Sign of Peace

At Holy Communion

- + Wait for stewards’ directions
- + Process in single file
- + Maintain social distancing
- + Face coverings to be worn
- + Receive in silence on the hand only

Please stay at home if...

- + You have a pre-existing condition or are immuno-compromised
- + You are feeling ill
- + You suspect you may be ill or have been exposed to COVID-19
- + You have a sick family member at home

PLEASE REMAIN VIGILANT. Maintain a safe distance from other people, even while wearing a face covering. The one is not a substitute for the other. Thank you for your co-operation with these measures to help stem the spread of Covid-19 and keep those attending our church safe. 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. Live streaming of the Mass each day is available at: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/>; <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>

NHS Track and Trace System. Government guidance states that churches should assist NHS Track & Trace by keeping a record of those who come to church. So, I ask you to give your name and ‘phone number. Thank you. With the new Government app, we can get more high-tech and hopefully we shall have a QR code which you can scan on your ‘phone when you arrive. There’s posh!!

Gift Aid. Thank you to all the people who Gift Aid their offerings to the Church. Normally you would receive a letter from the Gift Aid officers in the Diocese telling you how much you have donated over the year. However, because of the pandemic, most of the office workers are working from home at present. This means that you will not be receiving the usual letters. If you need to know how much you have donated, please email Sally McVeigh via sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Gift Aid envelopes for the financial year 2020/21 are now available in the hall. If you haven’t already done so, please take your box, avoiding touching the others.

If you are paying income tax in the UK and you are not currently Gift Aiding your offertory gifts, please consider doing so. It allows us to claim back the tax you have already paid on the donations that you make to the parish, at no extra cost to you. So if you give £1, we can get 25p back from the taxman. Contact Sally McVeigh or Chris Breward) to complete gift aid forms.

During the Covid pandemic, we encourage people to make their regular offertory gifts by direct transfer into the parish bank account so that we minimise the amount of cash that the counting team have to deal with. Please email Chris Breward (sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) to request the bank account details.

Census. Please return your census form if you have not done so yet; if you have lost the form, email Chris Breward at sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Holy Hour at the church of Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore, Tuesday, 8th October, 8.30-9.30 pm. Confessions available. This is commemorating the arrival of Blessed Dominic Barberi and the anniversary of St. John Henry Newman’s reception into “the One Fold of the Redeemer”. Unfortunately this year no organised Night Walk can take place, but you might like to make the pilgrimage from the Oxford Oratory to Littlemore privately.

Tailpiece: A teacher was talking to her class about selfishness. “Do you know where children go if they don’t put their money in the collection plate?” she asked. “Yes Miss,” a boy blurted out. “They go to the cinema.”

**May God bless you and all those whom you love,
and keep you safe. Fr. Harry.**