

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th October, 2020

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 25 th October Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Antonio Gomes (RIP)</i> <i>Adelina & Cosme Ximenes</i>
Monday, 26 th October <i>Optional Memorial of St. Cedd, Bishop</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Alvin Jomy</i>
Tuesday, 27 th October	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 28 th October <i>Feast of Ss. Simon & Jude, Apostles</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 29 th October	6.00 pm Exposition with Confessions 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Bernadette Nolan (RIP)</i>
Friday, 30 th October	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 31 st October	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 1 st November Solemnity of All Saints	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Martinho L Soares, Fernando Neves</i> <i>Liu & others</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

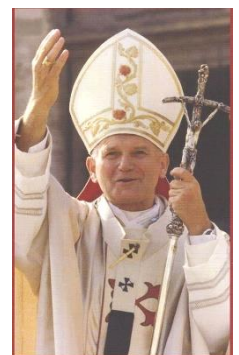
Welcome to Sacred Heart Church, especially if you are here for the first time for a long time.

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

Please pray for Kathleen Hill, Mary Murphy, Delia Simmons, Maria Barresi, Noleen Keenan, and all those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, including Frs. Edward Burbage, Patrick Moore, John McGovern, Bernard Kelly, John O'Dwyer, Patrick O'Sullivan, James Faulconer-Morgan, and also Noreen Mason, Valentine Mason and William Durkin. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

The Sacraments. I am available for Confessions on Thursday evenings, 6.00-6.45. If you would like to arrange a Baptism or a Marriage, please call me.

I once met a saint, and I've got the photo to prove it! We tend to think of saints as people who lived hundreds of years ago, but as recently as 1979 my name was drawn from a hat to be one of the servers at a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II. Do you remember the crosier he had, which was really a crucifix on a standard? Well, I had to hold that during the Mass while he wasn't using it. Before Mass he came down the line of servers, shaking hands and saying a few words to each of us. As he came towards me I realised that he was not as tall as I had expected, but after he had gone by it felt as though he were ten feet tall. He had a big personality. But I did not expect that within forty years he would be known as Pope St. John Paul II. It's quite a boast to say that I have met a saint. But the truth is that we can all make that boast. There are countless people who are saints in everyday life and we meet them each day. They may not be canonised by the Church, but the grace of God has raised them to holiness. Next Sunday we shall celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, the cloud of witnesses who have given glory to God through the ages by their lives and who now enjoy the fullness of life with Him in heaven. Let us praise and thank God for His grace which wins the victory over evil in mere human beings.



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 at the end of Mass:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God*, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

COVID-19

- **PLEASE REMAIN VIGILANT.** Wear a face covering in the church and keep a safe distance from other people. If you or anyone with whom you have been in contact has symptoms of Covid-19 please do not come to church.
- **NHS Track and Trace System.** Each time you come to Mass please provide your contact details. Either scan the QR code for our church with your phone, or give your name and phone number to the stewards as you come into the church.
- At the end of Mass please wait for the stewards to direct you and leave the church through the hall.

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>

All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Next Sunday, 1st November, is the Solemnity of All Saints. All Souls Day on Monday, 2nd November, is not a Holyday of Obligation, but many people like to go to Mass to pray for their deceased family and friends. There will be Mass here at 9.15 that morning.

November is approaching, and it is the month when traditionally we pray for those who have died:

- **November Prayers for the Dead.** There will be memorial slips available to write the names of those for whom you wish to pray during November and they will be remembered at Mass during the month.
- **There will be a Parish Memorial Mass for those in the parish and our family/friends who have died**, especially those whose funerals have been held here during the past year, on Saturday, 28th November, 11.00 am. If you would like anyone's name to be included in this special commemoration please let me know (in writing). All welcome.
- **Remembrance Sunday.** Sunday, 8th November, will be Remembrance Sunday when we remember and pray for those who have died in past and present wars. We shall have a short service after the parish Masses to lay a wreath at the foot of the cross and pray for those who died and for peace.



Gift Aid. Gift Aid envelopes for the financial year 2020/21 are now available in the hall. Thank you to all those who Gift Aid their contributions to the parish; it makes a big difference. Just a reminder that if your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax, or you have moved house, could you let Sally McVeigh know, please. 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. For a form, contact Sally McVeigh or Chris Breward, (sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk).

Hall bookings. I am afraid that for the present, events in the hall are limited to parish ones authorised by me.

First Holy Communion. Please pray for Arianna who will be receiving our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time on Thursday evening this week and for the four other children who will do so on Sunday, 8th November.

Rosary: October is the month of the Rosary, and you are welcome to join me to pray five Decades on Monday after Mass.



APF (red) Boxes. If you have a red box please bring it in to be emptied today. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage, next Sunday, 1st November, at noon, celebrated by Bishop David Evans. Livestream via St Chad's Cathedral website (<https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>). Married couples are encouraged to join the Mass at home which will include the Renewal of Commitment. If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary (1st or every 5th year up to 60 years and every year over 60), please email Lianne Pap lianne.pap@rc-birmingham.org with the following information to be included in the booklet: your full names; the anniversary being celebrated in 2020. You are also encouraged to email photos of your wedding day and a current one. Please include the parish you were married in as well as the name of your current parish.

Tailpiece: One evening, while the choir was practising, an elderly man came hobbling through the church, bent over his cane, and went into the parish priest's office. Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed. "Good gracious," the choirmaster exclaimed. "Did Father heal you through prayer?" "Not exactly," the old man said with a smile. "He gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"

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