



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Advent

13th December, 2020

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Sunday, 13 th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 15 th December	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 16 th December	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 17 th December	6.00 pm Exposition with Confessions 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Rolly & Jocelyn Esteban - Thanksgiving</i>
Friday, 18 th December	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 19 th December	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 20 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Mary Quigley</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we set aside the penitential aspect and remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

Please pray for Ronald Rowles, and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Cyril Barlow, John Griffith, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O’Connell, Daniel O’Connor and Michael O’Meara, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and Sarah Craig. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Bubbles



Our Christmas tree has arrived, and I am very grateful to the generous parishioner who has donated it. Instead of it being just a decoration I should like to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God’s love for us, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

We have all become very “bubbles” this year, and would be nice to decorate (which look suspiciously like at the school have made some beautiful
BIG THANK YOU TO THEM. All members visitors are invited to write, on one of the anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their hearts – probably the people in your social bubble. The bubble will be hung on the tree. The many bubbles will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.



conscious of being in therefore I thought it the tree with bubbles baubles!) The children decorations for us. A of the parish and our bubbles, the name(s) of

Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.

Please pray for those we know who are sick. If you or family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank 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.*

Advent Reflections. Each Friday during Advent at 10.30 am you are invited to join the Mill Hill Missionaries online for about 20 minutes to reflect on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday.

18 December - Fr Vincent Oates MHM

Christmas Day - Fr Anthony Chantry MHM

You can join by going to the **Missio YouTube channel:** [youtube.com/MissioUK](https://www.youtube.com/MissioUK).

Sunday Mass at home: If you can't come to church yet please watch Mass as it is streamed live, if that is possible

An Act of Spiritual Communion:

"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."

New publications. The Advent *Walk With Me* booklet, the Advent *Day By Day* booklet, and the latest edition of *The Sower* (the Diocesan magazine) are available today. Please see one of the stewards for a copy of any of them.

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. They need our support to continue their work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at Christmas and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the statues of the Sacred Heart or Our Lady for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?



Advent Carol Service. We shall be having a service of carols and readings in the church on Monday, 21st December at 7.00 pm. Unfortunately, it will have to be different this year because we can't gather indoors to sing, so what I propose to do is to livestream the service so that there will be just a few musicians in the church and everyone else can join in from the comfort of their own home.



Christmas Mass times at Our Lady's

Confessions: Thursday, 17th December, 6.00-7.00 pm;
Monday, 21st December 10.00 - 11.00 am

CHRISTMAS EVE: 6.00 pm MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00 am MASS

WEEKEND MASS TIMES AS USUAL

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 11.15 pm MASS

NEW YEAR'S DAY: 10.00 am MASS

CAFOD World Gifts. World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Safeguarding. If you need to contact the Archdiocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Team call 0121 230 6240 or by email: safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk.

Diocesan Directories. The new directories are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, then this is the book you need. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.00.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please ask a steward. Take a few and drop them off to your neighbours. Thank you.

Christmas Crib Collection. It is a custom to have a basket in the Christmas Crib for any donations that people wish to make. The donations go to a specified charity. The charity this year will be Friends of the Holy Land – a charity that is based in this Diocese that seeks to help Christians living in the Holy Land. Please call me with suggestions for a local charity.

Tailpiece: Many years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury was Frederick Temple. He always enjoyed community singing and seldom missed the chance to join in a rousing carol or hymn. During a visit to the Midlands one Advent he was passing a church holding its carol service and, hiding his 'dog collar', he decided to go in. The pews were packed, but he squeezed in, opened the hymn book and began singing enthusiastically. Sadly, no more than a couple of verses had passed before the man standing next to him said under his breath, "Dry up, mister, you're spoiling the show."

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