



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

6th December, 2020

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 6 th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>John Cullen (Anniversary)</i> <i>Vimala - Thanksgiving</i>
Monday, 7 th December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 9 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. John Diego Cuahtlatotzin</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 10 th December <i>Memorial of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr</i>	6.00 pm Exposition with Confessions 7.00 pm Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Friday, 11 th December <i>Optional Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 12 th December <i>Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	No Public Mass Today	
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>

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

Welcome back! It's lovely to be able to see people in the church once again.

Please pray for Roderick Chapelle, Marek Pacola, and all who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Canon Joseph Walsh, Frs. Horace Relph, Michael Knight, William Warner, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorrow, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy, Vincent Lucas, George Gallacher and William Henry Browne, and also Mary Batten and E.F.Brunnrius. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Bubbles



Our Christmas tree will soon be here, but when it comes I should like it to be more than just 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 conscious of "bubbles" this year, and therefore I be nice to decorate the tree with look suspiciously like baubles!) The children at the some beautiful decorations for us. A BIG THANK YOU members of the parish and our visitors are invited to the bubbles, the name(s) of 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.



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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.

11 December - Fr Dermot Byrne MHM

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)**.

Gift Aid Coordinator. I am very grateful to Sally McVeigh for all the hard work she has done and continues to do for the Parish as the GA Coordinator (among other things). I am happy to say that she is not intending to step down from it just yet, but it would be useful to have someone who could start to work alongside her who could then take over whenever Sally does wish to pack up. I should very much like to hear from volunteers, please.

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.

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

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. I always like to have two charities – one local and one international. The international charity 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.

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."

Tailpiece: It was coming up to Christmas and Sam asked his Mum if he could have a new bike. She told him that he should pray for it, so Sam went to his room and wrote out his prayer: "Dear Jesus, I have been a very good boy and would like to have a bike for Christmas." But when he read that over he thought it lacked a little of the honesty that a prayer should have, and he decided to try again. This time he wrote "Dear Jesus, I'm a good boy most of the time and would like a bike for Christmas." He read it back and wasn't happy with that one either. He tried a third version. "Dear Jesus, I could be a good boy if I tried hard (which I would do if I had a new bike)." But he still wasn't satisfied. He went out for a walk to have a think and after a short time he passed a house with a small statue of Our Lady in the front garden. He crept in, stuffed the statue under his coat, hurried home and hid it under the bed. Then he wrote another letter. "Dear Jesus, if you want to see your Mother again, you'd better send me a new bike."

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