

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th January, 2021

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • www.sacredheartoxford.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley, 01865 770910)

Email: fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk

Sunday, 17 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Day	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Patsy O'Neill</i> <i>Vimala – Intentions</i>
Monday, 18 th January <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 19 th January <i>Feast of St. Wulstan, Bishop</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 20 th January <i>Op. Memorials of St. Fabian, or St. Sebastian</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 21 st January <i>Memorial of St. Agnes, Martyr</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Noble - Intentions</i>
Friday, 22 nd January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon, Martyr</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 23 rd January <i>Memorial of St. Nicholas Owen, Martyr</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 24 th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Brendon Kelly</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

**Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today,
Peace Sunday.** Today is a day of prayer for peace on earth.

Please pray for **Helen Towey, Winnie Gildea, Jean Bradley Fr. Patrick Joyce** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Bernard McKenna, Arthur Wall, Frs. Archie Snell, Timothy Dinan, Cecil Keane, Bernard Robertson, Gregory Winterton, CO, Edward Leicester, CO, Edward Kirner, Clement Burrett, Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, Michael Forde, Charles Ross and John Garvey, and also Jimmy Doyle, Mary Cleary, Thomas Patrick Braiden, Patrick Joseph Philbin, Patrick Whelan and Mary McGarry. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Winnie Gildea's Requiem Mass will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians at 10.00 on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately, only a very limited number may attend, but the Mass will be livestreamed and you can join us through the wonders of modern technology.

Mass at Home. You are still welcome to come to Sacred Heart for Mass, but if you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we can Zoom the Mass to you. Alternatively you could watch the Mass from Our Lady's where we are now live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Here is a prayer, **an Act of Spiritual Communion**, which you can say as you watch the Mass at home:

"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.

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.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins tomorrow and goes on until 25th January. This year the theme is based on *John 15:1-17: Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.*

Lent. Yes, I know we have only just finished Christmas, but just four weeks from Wednesday will be the start of Lent. It's not too early to start thinking what you can do to make this season of grace fruitful.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday (17th February). Do you know where the ashes come from for Ash Wednesday? They are made by burning the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday to welcome the Lord into His City. Of course, last Palm Sunday we were under lockdown and the church was closed, so we didn't have any palms. Nevertheless, I am hoping that we can make our own ashes for Ash Wednesday. If you have palms from earlier Palm Sundays that we could use for this, please bring them to church over the next few weeks.

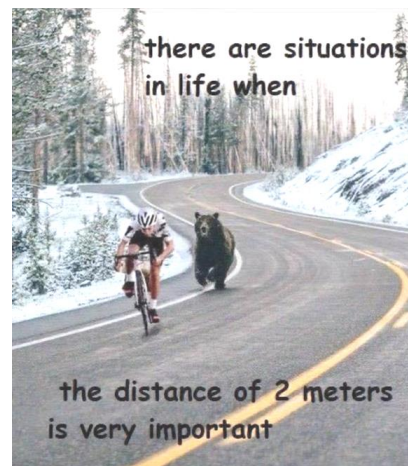
Sunday of the Word Of God. Pope Francis has decreed 24th January to be the Sunday of the Word of God. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (Pope Francis). So, ...

- 1 Bring a Bible to Mass next Sunday to be blessed.
- 2 During Mass that day I shall re-commission and ask God's blessing of our readers, whether they are able to be present physically at the Mass or not.
- 3 I encourage you to begin a journey through the whole Bible in a 7-week course written by David McLoughlin entitled *Echoes of God: Journeying with the word of God.* These weekly reflections are perfect for us to read through and chew over at home during this period of lockdown. Each week takes a fundamental core teaching of Scripture and together the sessions help us get a sense of the Scriptures as a whole; to see the unfolding of God's liberating and creative love in the history of Israel and in the Church. The materials, which are very easy and enjoyable to read, will be included in successive weekly newsheets, but you can access the materials any time at <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

Sacramental Preparation. Once again, the coronavirus COVID-19 has forced us to change our plans for the First Holy Communion celebrations. I had hoped that it would be possible for the children to receive Holy Communion for the first time, either today or 24th January. I am very sorry to say that this will no longer be possible. Going on the latest announcements I think we must now look to dates after Easter, late April or early May. Hopefully, the situation will have improved by then and, who knows, perhaps we shall even be able to have a party for the children afterwards and do the celebrations properly.

Crib Collection. Thank you for your generosity towards the Friends of the Holy Land who support Christians in the Holy Land. You donated £225.70.

COVID-19. When you come to church, please remember to wear a face-covering, to sanitise your hands on arrival and departure, to check in for the track and trace, and to keep your distance from others who are not in your "bubble."



Tailpiece: A couple were preparing for their wedding and the groom sidled up to the priest. "Father, I'll give you £100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to the part where I'm to promise to 'Love, honour and obey', I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that bit out." He passed the priest the cash and walked away satisfied. The wedding day arrived. The priest looked the young man in the eye and said, "Will you promise to obey her every command and wish, and serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life?" The groom gulped and looked around but there was no escape, and he said in a tiny voice, "Yes." Afterwards he hissed to the priest, "I thought we had a deal." The priest put the £100 into his hand and whispered back, "She made me a much better offer."

May God bless you and all those dear to you.
Fr. Harry